

NAME _____

DATE _____

News or Fake News?

Directions

Use the checklist below to **evaluate** the credibility of information you find online.

Internet Investigator Checklist

✓ **Read closely.** *Does it make sense? Is it believable?*

Identify the main idea by analyzing the text features and webpage, and by reading the text. Take note of anything that is surprising, hard to believe or that gives you a strong emotional reaction.

✓ **Analyse the source.** *Does it come from a credible, unbiased source?*

Find out information about the site owner and author by exploring the site and searching the web.

✓ **Look for corroboration.** *Do other credible sources say the same thing?*

See if the main idea and key points of the article are also reported by other credible sites.

Example	Read closely	Analyse the source	Look for corroboration
1. Gender neutral uniform sparks protest at Lewes Priory School	<p>In September 2019 about 150 parents and pupils protested outside Lewes Priory School over gender neutral uniforms. The main reasons cited for protesting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infringement on rights: the belief that pupils should be given the right to choose whether they wear trousers or skirts. • financial: the decision means that parents have to purchase trousers, while skirts will be thrown out, which is wasteful and not environmentally friendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBC is the largest news gathering operation in the world (Wikipedia). • BBC is independent and impartial ("About us" section of the BBC website.) • The BBC is funded by the licence fee, which is paid for by UK households (The Guardian). 	<p>Several other outlets reported this story, including the Daily Express and The Guardian.</p>

How credible is it? (Circle one)

Fake news 

Questionable 

Credible news 

Explain your answer:



NEWS & MEDIA LITERACY

We are critical
thinkers & creators.

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
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This story seems credible. It doesn't seem outlandish or unbelievable, and it comes from a credible news source, which is impartial as it's paid for by the licence fee and is therefore non-commercial.

The reporting style does not seem biased or based on opinion and is corroborated by other credible news sources.

	Example	Read closely	Analyse the source	Look for corroboration
2.	Gender neutral uniforms make sense - but the skirt ban at Lewes Priory School is unnecessary	<p>I'm a huge fan of gender neutral uniforms and schools allowing girls to wear trousers. But I can't say I'm a fan of the way in which it's been implemented at Priory School in Lewes.</p> <p>when it comes to unisex uniforms, truly gender neutral policies have been previously introduced in far less divisive ways.</p>	<p>The article is written by Yomi Adegoke who writes opinion pieces about race, popular culture and feminism (The Guardian). She has been listed as one of the most influential people in London by the Evening Standard and was also named a "frontline pioneer" bringing the fight to a "new generation", by the publication. (Harper Collins)</p>	<p>Many of the facts used in the article are linked to external sources, which corroborate them. There are articles that have a different or more neutral stance as this is written in the style of an opinion piece.</p>

How credible is it? (Circle one) Fake news  **Questionable**  Credible news 

Explain your answer:

The article generally uses credible information to support its key points.

The author may be biased on this issue because she is drawing on personal experiences and also has a reputation of being outspoken on issues, including feminism.

It is important to consider that this is an opinion piece and to check additional sources for the full picture on this topic.



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	Example	Read closely	Analyse the source	Look for corroboration
3.	TEACHER SKIRT BAN: Uniform policy is just the start of the attack on traditional values	The management of the Priory school in Lewes, Surrey, sent a message to parents and students confirming that the school will be changing its dress code for teachers (banning skirts).	The <i>Lewes Liberty Weekly Digest</i> does not seem credible because it can't be found doing a Google search and doesn't have any other articles. The author also doesn't come up in searches and the tone in which it is written seems biased as there is a call to action to write to the governing board and local councillors.	There are no other sources reporting any of the key points of this story - i.e. teachers being banned from wearing skirts.

How credible is it? (Circle one)

Fake news Questionable Credible news 

Explain your answer:

This story seems like fake news. It contains factual errors (Lewes Priory School is not in Surrey or Kent), and it would be surprising if it were true. The source website and author can't be found in Google searches, and the key points cannot be corroborated by other sources - e.g. the UK does not currently recognise a third or non-binary gender category in law.

