



Fact-Checking ■ Questions to Ask

Read through the article. You may want to read it a second time. Mark the areas that should be checked using the following questions.

1. **Can you verify the main claim from the headline of the article?** You'll want to trace the claims back to the original sources.
2. **Is the news source high-quality and valid?** Some trusted sites are provided in the section.
3. **Is the author real (and legitimate)?** Do a quick search on the author to see if they have published anything else. One source example is [LinkedIn](#).
4. **Is the content current or old news?** Always check the month and year of the article. It isn't unusual to see old articles recirculating on social media.
5. **Are other media outlets reporting the same news?** You can easily enter the title or topic into your search bar to check.
6. **Do the quotes and images seem correct or questionable?** If questionable, do some checking. A site like [Snopes](#) can help.
7. **Is the text written with bias or is it balanced?** Check to see who funded the cited research and whether they benefit from the results. Use these sites to fact-check political articles.
 - [FactCheck.org](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics.
 - [PolitiFact.com](#) is supported by the Poynter Institute, which "champions freedom of expression, civil dialogue and compelling journalism that helps citizens participate in healthy democracies."
8. **Does the headline align with the content in the article?** While a headline is meant to grab attention, does it describe what the article is about or is it misleading?