BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER’S HANDBOOK
FAKE NEWS EDITION

1. Big red flags for fake news: ALL CAPS, or obviously photoshopped pics.
2. A glut of pop-ups and banner ads? Good sign the story is pure clickbait.
3. Check the domain! Fake sites often add “.co” to trusted brands to steal their luster. (Think: “abcnews.com.co”)
4. If you land on an unknown site, check its “About” page. Then, Google it with the word “fake” and see what comes up.
5. If a story offers links, follow them. (Garbage leads to worse garbage.) No links, quotes, or references? Another telltale sign.
6. Verify an unlikely story by finding a reputable outlet reporting the same thing.
7. Check the date. Social media often resurrects outdated stories.
8. Read past headlines. Often they bear no resemblance to what lies beneath.
9. Photos may be misidentified and dated. Use a reverse image search engine like TinEye to see where an image really comes from.
10. Gut check. If a story makes you angry, it’s probably designed that way.
11. Finally, if you’re not sure it’s true, don’t share it! Don’t Share. It.

ON[THE MEDIA] ONTHEMEDIA.ORG
The Ultimate Cheatsheet for Critical Thinking

Want to exercise critical thinking skills? Ask these questions whenever you discover or discuss new information. These are broad and versatile questions that have limitless applications!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>... benefits from this?</th>
<th>... is this harmful to?</th>
<th>... makes decisions about this?</th>
<th>... is most directly affected?</th>
<th>... have you also heard discuss this?</th>
<th>... would be the best person to consult?</th>
<th>... will be the key people in this?</th>
<th>... deserves recognition for this?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>... are the strengths/weaknesses?</td>
<td>... is another perspective?</td>
<td>... is another alternative?</td>
<td>... would be a counter-argument?</td>
<td>... is the best/worst case scenario?</td>
<td>... is most/least important?</td>
<td>... can we do to make a positive change?</td>
<td>... is getting in the way of our action?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>... would we see this in the real world?</td>
<td>... are there similar concepts/situations?</td>
<td>... is there the most need for this?</td>
<td>... in the world would this be a problem?</td>
<td>... can we get more information?</td>
<td>... do we go for help with this?</td>
<td>... will this idea take us?</td>
<td>... are the areas for improvement?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>... is this acceptable/unacceptable?</td>
<td>... would this benefit our society?</td>
<td>... would this cause a problem?</td>
<td>... is the best time to take action?</td>
<td>... will we know we’ve succeeded?</td>
<td>... has this played a part in our history?</td>
<td>... can we expect this to change?</td>
<td>... should we ask for help with this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>... is this a problem/challenge?</td>
<td>... is it relevant to me/others?</td>
<td>... is this the best/worst scenario?</td>
<td>... are people influenced by this?</td>
<td>... should people know about this?</td>
<td>... has it been this way for so long?</td>
<td>... have we allowed this to happen?</td>
<td>... is there a need for this today?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td>... is this similar to _____?</td>
<td>... does this disrupt things?</td>
<td>... do we know the truth about this?</td>
<td>... will we approach this safely?</td>
<td>... does this benefit us/others?</td>
<td>... does this harm us/others?</td>
<td>... do we see this in the future?</td>
<td>... can we change this for our good?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

globaldigitalcitizen.org
HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?

CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

CHECK THE DATE
Reposting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.

IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.