10 Tips for Spotting Fake News

Critically evaluating news sources requires the reader to get beyond the headline and examine the content within a story. Misleading headlines and taglines can steer readers toward false news and perpetuate the spread of fake information.

1. Examine the headline. Sensationalism is used to catch a reader’s attention, but it can be misleading.

2. Read the first 100-200 words of the publication. Don’t rely solely on the headline.

3. Look at the date of publication. Stories often resurface online and can provide inaccurate information since its initial publication.

4. Research the author of the article. Reputable news sources provide information about authors and their areas of expertise.

5. Examine the homepage. Fake news sites have the capability to clone websites making their false site seem legitimate. Look for an ‘off brand’ feel or content that just doesn’t look right.

6. Review the URL. The web address often holds a clue to the legitimacy of a website. Some site URLs closely mirror those of major news sites but have an extra word or slightly different domain.

7. Look for an ‘About Us’ page.

8. Check for bias in content.

9. Find a verification mark or other designation that the site is legitimate.

10. Find the original source of the content in question.