



# Fact-Checking the News

Unsure if a news story is real or fake? Use one of the following tools to check the facts.

## **B.S. Detector**

<http://bsdetector.tech/>

B.S. Detector is a browser extension for Chrome and Firefox that checks websites and Facebook news stories against the OpenSources database (<http://www.opensources.co/>). If you visit a website or a story shows up in your Facebook newsfeed from a site that OpenSources lists as biased, satirical, or not credible, the B.S. Detector extension will provide a visual warning in red. Note that the warning only appears for sources listed in the OpenSources database; just because you don't see a warning, you should not assume that the source is credible.

## **FactCheck.org**

<http://www.factcheck.org/>

This nonpartisan project of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center aims "to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics" using the techniques of journalism and scholarship.

## **PolitiFact.com**

<http://www.politifact.com/>

<http://www.politifact.com/subjects/fake-news/>

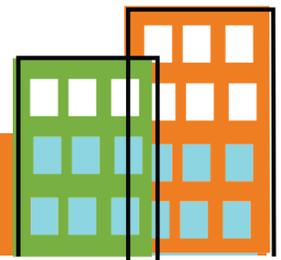
A nonpartisan website run by editors and reporters from the independent newspaper the *Tampa Bay Times*, PolitiFact researches and rates statements made by politicians, rating them from true to false. PolitiFact also runs PunditFact, which fact checks stories on blogs, TV, and other media at: <http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/>

## **Snopes.com**

<http://www.snopes.com/>

In the past, Snopes.com has served as one of the oldest and most respected Internet resources "for urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation." More recently, the site has also begun fact-checking political stories. Snopes.com is an independent organization funded through ads.

The Civic Lab at JCIPL offers information, activities, and discussion on issues facing our community.





### ***The Washington Post* Fact Checker**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker>

This regular column published by *The Washington Post* aims to “‘truth squad’ the statements of political figures regarding issues of great importance, be they national, international or local.” Statements are researched and rated (on a scale of 1-4 Pinnochios). *The Post* is a member of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) at the Poynter Institute, which “is committed to promoting excellence in fact-checking.”

## Fact-Checking Images

Images can be faked just as easily as written text. Try conducting a reverse image search to see where an image originated.

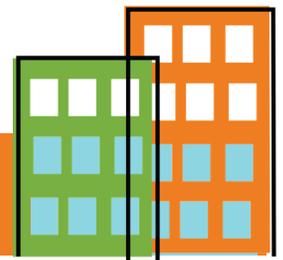
### **Reverse Google Image Search from Desktop**

1. On any website, right-click an image and select **Copy image address** or **Copy image location**.
2. On [images.google.com](https://images.google.com) or any Images results page, click **Search by image** 
3. Click **Paste image URL**. Paste the URL you copied into the box.
4. Click **Search by image**.

### **TinEye**

<https://tineye.com>

To conduct a reverse image search on TinEye, upload an image or search by URL. You can also simply drag and drop your images to start your search.





CIVIC  
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< CUT OUT AND TAPE NEAR YOUR COMPUTER OR TV

## 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

### Fact-Checking Activity

For each activity you submit, you'll be entered to win a \$75 gift certificate to Amazon.com. Submit your activities in the entry box in the main library by Sept. 30, 2018. JCPL employees and their families are ineligible to win prizes.

Did an outbreak of a deadly HR3211 virus kill 16 people in Louisville, Kentucky? Use one of the websites listed on this handout to determine whether this story is true or false.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_ Website used: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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