

Advice Sheet: Fake news

Pathway:	Speech to Inform
Assessment Section:	Section 3: Reviewing a News Item.
Advice:	<p>In order to ensure that the article chosen is unbiased, accurate, and reliable, it is important to ensure that students can distinguish between fake news and authentic news, and that they can recognise the differences between the different kinds of fake news in circulation. For example:</p> <p>Satirical news: This pokes fun at the news by employing humour when making commentary on groups, individuals or activities. It creates a ‘version’ of reality that no one is intended to believe is real. While it usually has no intention to cause harm, it does have the potential to fool people.</p> <p>Clickbait News: Clickbait news contains misleading news headlines that are designed to draw the reader in. The headlines are designed to cause maximum provocation or curiosity, but as a result are frequently extremely exaggerated or flat out lies (often with a political agenda), and the articles themselves are often sub-standard. The problem with clickbait is that you don't always recognise it for what it is. What you get when you click on clickbait is a sensationalised, misleading story.</p> <p>Biased News: There are several different types of media bias. The most common include: bias by omission (which occurs when the media leaves out one side of a story, or one aspect of a story), and bias by selection of sources (which occurs when a media outlet leaves out sources that support an opposing point of view, often with a political agenda.).</p> <p>Made-Up News: This kind of fake news has no basis in fact at all; it is entirely fabricated. This type of news is presented as being factually accurate.</p> <p>The <i>International Federation of Library Associations</i> recommends the following precautions in determining what is/isn't fake news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the Source – Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and 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 check on the author. Are they credible? Are they real? • Check Supporting Sources – Click on any links in the story. Do they support what's been written?

- **Check the Date** – Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events, and that can be misleading.
- **Is it a Joke?** – If it's too outlandish, it might be satire. Check the site and author to be sure (And possibly the date, if it's April...)
- **Check Your Biases** – Consider whether your own beliefs could affect your judgement
- **Ask the Experts** – Ask a librarian or consult a fact-checking site.

Source: <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174> [Date accessed: 15/10/2019]

