

Evaluating the “News”

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Parlay

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Why learn to evaluate the news?

There's a lot of misleading news stories in the world today. Many people only ever read a single tweet or the headline of an article, but this is not enough. We have to dig deeper! Information travels and changes fast in the internet age. That's why it's never been more important for us to be able to think critically about the information that we read.

Your Goal:

To always be on the look-out for untrustworthy information, and to make sure your research comes from credible sources.



Use these helpful tricks so that you don't fall into any traps!

Read past the headline!

The headline is designed specifically to catch your attention, but it does not tell the whole story.

Is it an editorial or a news story?

An editorial includes the author's opinions on the subject.

A news story simply reports what happened.

When was it published?

Make sure it has a recent publication date.

If it's old, do some more research to make sure it's still appropriate.

Who published it?

Websites that end with .gov, .edu, .org are a good place to start.

Big news companies like CNN and CBC have a whole team of factcheckers, so they are usually a safe bet.

Use websites like www.snopes.com to do your own 'fact checking'.



Who wrote it?

Is the author a researcher or expert?

Have they written any books?

Do they write for any well known news sites or publications?

Is there no author listed on the article?

Unless you're using an encyclopedia, that's usually not a good sign.

Look at the links and sources.

If there are no sources, it's possible that the author made stuff up.

If the source is a BuzzFeed article, look somewhere else.

Is anyone else reporting this story?

It's always a good idea to search for different articles about the same topic from credible new sources.

Make sure the facts line up - even if the information is presented differently.

Nice!

Now you have some good strategies for identifying credible news sources. Don't forget to try this simple technique in your next Parlay RoundTable!

