

Is this source reliable or fake? 10 questions to reconsider



[Download the infographic in PDF](#)

The internet contains a wealth of information. But how do you know which sources you can and cannot trust? These tips should help you along.

IS THIS SOURCE RELIABLE OR FAKE? 10 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER
The internet contains a wealth of information. But how do you know which sources you can and cannot trust? These tips should help you along.

1. WHO IS THE AUTHOR?
Is the name of the author mentioned? Is the author real? Are they known for (un)reliable publications? Do they write for well-known websites/papers?
TIP Try to find more information about the author.

2. WHO PUBLISHED THE ARTICLE?
A news medium? Is the news medium trustworthy? A person on social media? What audience are they trying to reach?
TIP Read information about the topic from other sources. Do they say the same things?

3. WHO IS THE DATE?
When was the article written? Is the information current? Sometimes a new date is put on an old article, and the information is changed.
TIP Locate the original article.

4. WHICH SOURCES DID THE AUTHOR USE?
Where did the information come from? From a news medium, organisation, interview or report? What do they want to achieve with the article?
TIP Check the sources. Sometimes source information may be wrong, or the source material may have been adapted.

5. IS THE TITLE NEUTRAL?
The title doesn't always reflect what's in the article. Titles are meant to draw attention. Did you know that...
- titles online are often written to get more clicks?
- titles often use quotes?
TIP Always read beyond the title.

6. WHY DOES THE AUTHOR WRITE THIS?
What is the author's intention? Is it an advert? Is it an opinion? Is it meant to make you laugh?
TIP Search for elements that tell you why the author wrote the piece.

7. DO THE LINKS CHECK OUT?
Many articles contain links to other websites, organisations or information. But that doesn't mean they are real, or say what the article says they say.
TIP Check the links.

8. WHY AM I SEEING THIS?
Did you know that sometimes you are specifically targeted with a post? That can be a result of what you search for online, who your friends or what your preferences are.
TIP Regularly clear your browser history and your cookies. Follow a variety of media and people for a well-balanced world view.

9. WHAT ARE MY PRECONCEPTIONS?
Everyone carries preconceptions. You will often have a preference for someone's work or opinions. Your personal opinions or striking images may influence your judgement.
TIP Talk to friends, adults or experts about your ideas.

10. HOW IS THE INFORMATION PRESENTED?
Some warning signs: edited images, spelling mistakes, lots of capitals and exclamation marks are suspicious.
TIP Look at images critically.

TOP TIP Think critically and gather information from a variety of sources to stay well-informed.

This checklist is based on the "Nieuws in de Klas Nederland" checklist and was compiled in collaboration with StampMedia.

The authors are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any damage directly or indirectly caused by the following of guidelines in this publication.

mediawijjs imec STAMP MEDIA Vlaanderen EMELS Co-funded by the Erasmus Programme of the European Union

This resource was created as part of the project: [EMELS](#)

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Information about the resource

Publisher: Mediawijs (imec) as part of EMELS project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union

Rights: Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike

This resource is attached to Media Literacy Standard for youth Workers. To find out more about the Standard go to <http://emels.eu>.

Resource prepared using [MIL/PEER](#) editing platform.

Source available at <http://milpeer.eu/documents/391/>