



A How-To Guide

Fake news is the 21st century's newest form of propaganda. It is the use of journalism to spread misinformation to the public, usually politically motivated. It relies heavily on the internet, most importantly social media in order to spread. Commonly, it uses shocking headlines that can be shared easily through Facebook or Twitter. Besides spreading propaganda, fake news possesses a serious threat to legitimate news. It makes the general public untrusting of journalists reporting actual news.

There are seven different types of fake news, according to journalism resource site *First Draft News*.

1. Satire
2. False connection
3. Misleading Content
4. False Content
5. Imposter Content
6. Manipulated Content
7. Fabricated Content

When reading a story, consider:



The Source

Do you recognize the site? Does it have a .com or .org web address? Does the site look like the traditional news site?

The Author

Is an author attributed? Are they verified on Twitter? Do they have other stories? Have you read anything else from them?

The Bias

Does the article lean heavily towards one viewpoint? Is it overtly left or right wing? Is your judgment clouded by your beliefs?

The Headline

Is the headline too good to be true? What is the whole story? Is there even a story beyond the headline?

The Support

Is there more than one site reporting that story? Does the story itself contain sources to back it up?

The Point

Is the article from a satire news site? Is it designed to be shared on Facebook blindly?