



# TEN QUESTIONS FOR NEWS DETECTION

Use the questions below to assess the likelihood that a piece of information is fake news. The more red flags you circle, the more skeptical you should be!

START

1. Gauge your emotional reaction: Is it **strong**? Are you **angry**? Are you intensely **hoping** that the information turns out to be true?  YES |  NO ✓
2. Reflect on how you encountered this. Was it promoted on a website? Did it show up in a social media feed? Was it sent to you by someone you know?
3. Consider the headline or main message:
  - a. Does it use **excessive punctuation(!)** or ALL CAPS for emphasis?  YES |  NO ✓
  - b. Does it make a claim about containing a secret or telling you something that **"the media" doesn't want you to know**?  YES |  NO ✓
  - c. Don't stop at the headline! Keep exploring.
4. Is this information designed for **easy sharing**, like a **meme**?  YES |  NO ✓
5. Consider the source of the information:
  - a. Is it a well-known source?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
  - b. Is there a byline (an author's name) attached to this piece?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
  - c. Go to the website's "About" section: Does the site describe itself as a "fantasy news" or **"satirical news"** site?  YES |  NO ✓
  - d. Does the person or organization that produced the information have any editorial standards?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
  - e. Does the "contact us" section include an email address that matches the domain (not a Gmail or Yahoo email address)?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
  - f. Does a quick search for the name of the website raise any suspicions?  YES |  NO ✓
6. Does the example you're evaluating have a current date on it?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
7. Does the example cite a variety of sources, including official and expert sources? Does the information this example provides appear in reports from (other) news outlets?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
8. Does the example hyperlink to other quality sources? In other words, they haven't been altered or taken from another context?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
9. Can you confirm, using a reverse image search, that any images in your example are authentic (in other words, sources that haven't been altered or taken from another context)?  YES |  NO  YES |  NO
10. If you searched for this example on a fact-checking site such as Snopes.com, FactCheck.org or PolitiFact.com, is there a fact-check that labels it as less than true?  YES |  NO ✓



**REMEMBER:**

- It is easy to clone an existing website and create fake tweets to fool people.
- Bots are extremely active on social media and are designed to dominate conversations and spread propaganda.
- Fake news and other misinformation often use a real image from an unrelated event.
- Debunk examples of misinformation whenever you see them. It's good for democracy!