

GUIDE TO FACT CHECKING

The internet is a fantastic place for doing research and keeping apprised of the latest developments in world news. However, it's also easier than ever to get duped by illegitimate news sources, and spread panic by sharing an article that might not even be true.

1

READ THE ARTICLE. READ IT AGAIN. COMPARE IT TO THE HEADLINE FOR ACCURACY OF WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THE ARTICLE.

Check for inflammatory language or innuendo.

2

SEE WHAT MAJOR NATIONAL PAPERS ARE REPORTING.

If it's a story that seems like it's of national or international importance, they're probably on it. If it's a story of local interest, see what local papers are reporting. Their reporting is going to be the basis for a national reporter's work.

3

LOOK INTO THE SOURCES THAT FREQUENTLY REPORT ON THE SUBJECT YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT.

For Israel-related matters, the *Times of Israel*, the *Jerusalem Post*, *Haaretz*, *Tablet*, *The Tower*, *Y-Net*, *Al-Monitor*, *JNS*, and the *JTA* are all legitimate sources of information (albeit all with specific points of views on their editorial boards).

4

ACKNOWLEDGE THE BIAS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE PAPERS YOU'RE CITING.

The *Wall Street Journal* and the *Economist* lean center right, while the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* lean center left, for example. You should keep in mind that these sources do get it wrong sometimes and that it's important to follow up particularly on more controversial stories and headlines.

5

TRY TO TRIAGE YOUR SOURCES.

If at least two other reputable sources are reporting along similar lines, it's likely a reliable story.

6

CHECK YOUR GUT REACTION.

If it's along the lines of "OMG YASSSSSS" or "There's no way this can possibly be true," dig a little deeper before clicking the share button.

7

MAKE SURE THE SOURCES YOU'RE CHECKING ARE WELL KNOWN AND ESTABLISHED.

The New York Times, Washington Post, the Atlantic, CNN, the Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, the Economist, the Christian Science Monitor, Pro Publica, and many others are legitimate sources of news.

8

CHECK THE ARTICLE FOR THE AUTHOR AND SOURCES.

Ask yourself: Did he or she cite sources? Does this author or publication have a track record of producing reliable reporting? Does the author have knowledge in this field, degrees, publications, years of experience in the field, etc.? Check to see how much original research was done for the piece.

9

CONSULT WITH EXPERTS IN THE FIELD YOU'RE FACT CHECKING.

For Israel-related matters. StandWithUs' research department is an excellent resource. You can also check CAMERA, Honest Reporting, CIF Watch, UK Media Watch, Palestinian Media Watch, and MEMRI for context and information.

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CHECK SNOPE, FACTCHECK.ORG, AND POLITIFACT.

If you're looking into a story about American politics, you're likely not the only person with questions.



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