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Group Work

- https://www.operanewsapp.com/ng/en/share/detail?news_id=f2238981cb6625bd7716268f37d7c9da&news_entry_id=49af9ae4210527en_ng&open_type=transcoded&request_id=PUSH_2b1554b0-239f-4b5e-8af3-d7706122b8ea&from=mini_push

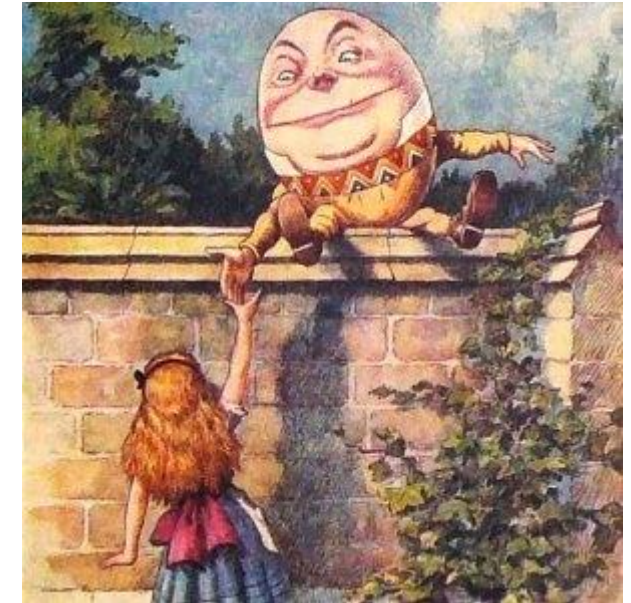# Spot the News

Consider the source

- Is the site a credible source? If you aren't sure, check the URL for anything suspicious, such as misspellings or variations of well-known reputable sites.
- Evaluate the overall look of the site and explore other pages within it to get a better feel for the site's credibility. Thoughtco.com also offers a number of *ways to determine website reliability*.
- Do a quick search of the author's name. Look for credentials and other articles written by them. If you can't find any information about the author, be wary of the source.

Examine the context

- Was the article positioned to relate to current events
    - Check the published year?
    - Check the publication or last-updated date on the article.

- If there is no publication date listed, it could be fake news.

- Furthermore, check quotes used in the article. A quick search of the direct quote can usually tell you who originally said it, when it was made and the context around it. If the context doesn't match how the quote is used in the article, the author may have a biased intent.
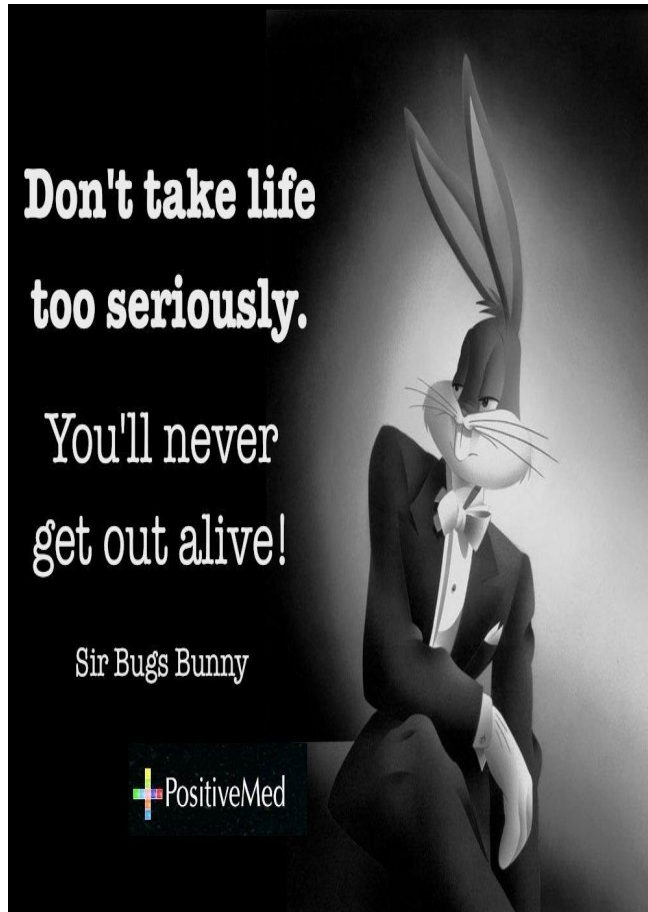
Read past the headline

- Headlines are intended to get your attention, not give you the full story.

- If a headline has upset your interest, read the rest of the article before taking it at face value. Headlines that seem a bit too outrageous are likely exaggerating the truth or are clickbait

- Before sharing or reposting an article based on the headline alone, consider the supporting content and whether or not it could be fake news to avoid becoming an unknowing distributor of bogus information.

Don't take it too seriously

- Mocking websites such as *The Onion* make no attempt at being real news. These sites commonly relate to current events and public figures, but the stories are deliberately (and often amusingly) false.

- When on such websites, you can likely tell right away that the content is meant for entertainment, not information. However, when a single article or headline from one of these sites shows up in your social media feed, it may not be as obvious

Check the Date

- As a scholar/development person, you need the most up-to-date information available, so if a website seems old, it's probably best to steer clear. One way to check: Look for a "last updated" date on the page

Avoid Anonymous Authors

- Articles or studies whose authors are named are often—though not always—more reliable than works produced anonymously.

- It makes sense: If someone is willing to put their name on something they've written, chances are they stand by the information it contains. And if you have the name of the author, you can always Google them to check their credentials.

Check your biases

- Reporters write a lot about politics, and there are plenty of political websites out there. But many of them are run by groups that have a bias in favor of one political party or philosophy. A conservative website isn't likely to report objectively on a liberal politician, and vice versa. Steer clear of sites with a political ax to grind and instead look for ones that are non-partisan.
- Bias plays a role on how we analyze new information.
- We tend to naturally seek out and agree with information that aligns with our existing beliefs.
- This bias exists no matter your political beliefs, too.
- Consider the intent of the site and the author when coming across an article that strongly reinforces any personal biases.