

The Fact-Check Checklist

A one-page classroom guide to teaching students how to verify what they see online

Secondary school
classroom or display

"Check your sources" isn't a skill on its own, these are the habits that make it one. Print this for your classroom wall, or hand it out before your next media literacy lesson.

1 Read laterally

Before trusting a page, leave it. Open new tabs to check what others say about the source.

- ☐ Search the website or author's name
- ☐ Add the word "bias" or "credibility"
- ☐ Check if a fact-checker has covered it

2 Go upstream

Trace the claim, quote or stat back to where it first came from.

- ☐ Is this the original, or a repost?
- ☐ Search for the original study or story
- ☐ Check what's been left out along the way

3 Check the reaction

Strong emotions are a red flag, not a green light.

- ☐ Notice anger, fear or validation
- ☐ Pause before sharing or believing
- ☐ Ask what the post wants me to feel

4 Circle back

If the trail goes cold, don't guess, restart smarter.

- ☐ Try new search terms
- ☐ Use what you've learned so far
- ☐ Still unsure? Treat it as unverified

Questions to ask any claim

- ? Who benefits if I believe this?
- ? What's missing from this version?
- ? Would I still believe it if it said the opposite?
- ? Do I actually know who's behind this?

Fact-checking sites to know

- **Full Fact** — UK's independent fact-checking charity
- **BBC Verify** — the BBC's verification team
- **Logically Facts** — UK-based, viral & global claims
- **Snopes** — long-running, strong on viral folklore

Want the full lesson plans?

Be Internet Citizens gives you free, ready-to-use lessons on disinformation and critical thinking for students aged 13–15, built on these exact methods.

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