How to Avoid Fake News

1. What type of information is it?
   Opinion or fact? A response to someone’s posting or an advertisement? Does it have a political slant or viewpoint? Who produced or sponsored the information? Did it come in a tweet or was it posted on Facebook? **Don’t trust a photograph. Search on Google Images to find where it came from. Check out videos, too.**

2. Who shared/published it and where did you find it?
   Look for unusual endings or characters in the url of websites: “nytimes.com.co”; “newslo”; “com.de; USAToday.com.co **Watch out for bad web designs, cluttered screens, misspelled words, and use of all capital letters.**

3. Who or what are the sources and how do they know this information?
   News content often cites sources for their information. Is an organization or public official being cited? Is it a document or report? Are the sources experts? Are they providing opinion or fact? **Find the original source.**

4. Is there evidence or proof provided by the source?
   Can this evidence be verified by other sources? Is it specific and easy to find? The more evidence you have, the more likely the information can be trusted. Make sure the information is not fake or exaggerated or taken out of context. **Does it sound unbelievable or outrageous? Other reputable sites should be reporting the same information.**

5. Is there a main point to the information and is this point supported by the evidence?
   Most news has some kind of main point and a conclusion that is based on the main point. Does this main point make sense and is the conclusion supported by evidence? The conclusion and the evidence need to be connected and not just a coincidence. It’s also good if other viewpoints or possible conclusions are mentioned. This shows less bias and more objectivity. **Does the headline match the article? Are quotes in context?**

6. Is anything missing in the information?
   If it seems that important information is missing from the story or the story is not clear or easily understood, do more digging and learn more about the story. If some information is missing, but the story explains why, it still might be ok.

7. Should you be more aware of what is in the news?
   If you knew more about what is happening in the world, would it improve your ability to evaluate information? Don’t just read sources that match what you already think or believe. **Check news sites that you don’t agree with to increase your knowledge and objectivity.**
Types of Misinformation Sites

- Legitimate satire sites (The Onion)
- Legitimate news organizations that don’t fact-check or have made a mistake in haste or with misinformed sources
- Political sites that distort information or use it out of context
- Fake news sites with click-bait stories (usually to generate advertising revenue)
- Self-published/uploaded information with no evidence or verification of source

Use these sites to fact-check

http://www.snopes.com/
http://factcheck.org/
https://www.truthorfiction.com/
http://www.politifact.com/
https://www.propublica.org/