# Identifying the Truth

**1. Check the Source**

If it is a news story or article, examine the source, is it reputable? Does the article list its sources? Who is the author? Is the author credible? What evidence is provided and is it cited?

**2. Check the Date**

Old information that is not relevant can be taken out of context and misconstrued. Be sure to check the date of the original content and be sure if there is a clipped passage, what is the full context of that passage?

**3. Check Your Own Bias**

We are more likely to spread disinformation if it confirms our own beliefs. Ask yourself some hard questions think about if your convictions and beliefs may be clouding your judgement.

**4. Check the Creator**

Even if it is just someone's opinion... if you don't know that person in real life, before you go spreading their message confirm that person is real and who they are projecting themselves to be. Confirm the account of the author has been around a while and look at their other posts, if it is a new account with no details on the person and little content it is likely a spam account and best not to spread that content.

**5. Is it Satire?**

There are a lot of satirical news sites that can definitely be fun for a laugh, and sometimes they can cross into a gray area. If you are going to share a satirical piece of content make sure you are doing so understanding that it is satire and not truth.

**6. Read More**

Go beyond the headline, headlines are meant to grab the short attention spans of today's public, and often do not represent the full story. Be sure to read beyond just the headline to get the full picture of what is being discussed.

**7. Ask for Help**

Public libraries are a great resource. If you are feeling overwhelmed or like you are unsure how to navigate our current media landscape, visit your local library and have a chat with a librarian. Your local librarian can help you dig into sources and better understand the different types of media and how to best interact with them.

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[Source: oceanoforganizing.com]