News Literacy

SMART CHECK

Evaluate Your News

**Source**
- Where does the story come from?
- Is it a reputable news outlet?
- If the source is unclear, be skeptical about the story.
- Make sure it’s a source you can trust—e.g. a newspaper with good fact checking.

**Motive**—Why do they say so?
- Do they have a special interest or point of view that may cause them to slant information to suit their beliefs or causes?
- Biased sources can be accurate, but you need to check them carefully.

**Authority**
- Who is the author of the story? What are her/his credentials?
- Is the person reporting the story an eyewitness? Eyewitnesses can be wrong.
- Make sure it’s a source you can trust—e.g. an expert on the subject.

**Review**—Go over the story carefully
- Does it make sense? Is it logically consistent?
- Be wary of hearsay, rumors, and conspiracy theories.
- Are there notable errors in facts or conclusions?
- Make a list of questionable facts. Question the story.

**Two-Source Test**
- Talk to others or tune into other newscasts to see if they are also reporting the same story.
- Research the subject in journals and newspapers, interview others, and search online.
- Does the two-source test confirm or contradict the story?