

FACT CHECK

False information and what to do about it



Three different kinds of false information:

Sharing a story on Facebook that you later learn is false is an example of spreading ***misinformation***.

Misinformation

Information that is false, but not created with the intention of causing harm.

FACT CHECK! Consider the following questions in your search for the truth:

- Is the claim believable or realistic?
- Is this a well-known news organization or website?

Disinformation

Information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organization or country.

Sharing a story on Facebook that you know is false is an example of spreading ***disinformation***.

FACT CHECK:

- Do they include sources for their information?
- Is the same information available from another trusted news outlet?
- Is the author real and reliable?

Mal-information can come in the form of harassment or hate speech, and target people because of their history or group (i.e., race or religion).

Malinformation

Information that is based on reality and used to inflict harm on a person, organization, or country.

FACT CHECK:

- Did it happen recently? (Check for a date)
- Does it appeal to your emotions?
- Is bias clouding your judgement?

What can be done?

- Fact check claims you see on social media or in online articles to verify whether or not they are true.
 - Use reputable sources to fact-check information.

Associated Press, PBS, and BBC are reputable news organizations you can use to fact check. CDC, Vaccinate Your Family, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are reputable organizations you can use to fact check immunization information.