

Are You Savvy? Try Your News Literacy Skills Here.



Using the questions to the right as a guide, analyze this piece. Remember, it doesn't matter whether you agree or disagree with the writer's position. You're trying to determine the validity and reliability of the information presented.

No statehood for Washington DC

"51st state? Why on earth would a tiny city of about 700,000 be allowed to be a state? Would they be allowed two senators like Hawai'i?

The Constitution says Washington DC is a federal jurisdiction and cannot become a state. Washington DC has too much power now! Adding statehood will give them more. Why are our own Senators Hirono and Schatz in favor of this? Don't we have enough problems at home to be wasting time giving DC more power?"

Source: Garden Island News, February 15, 2021

1. Is this piece: News? Opinion? Entertainment? Something else?
2. Does the writer present any facts? How would you check the reliability of these items? Is the population of D.C. under 700,000? What other facts are there?
3. Is the writer justified in the claim that having 700,000 people is too small to be a state? How would you verify that no state currently has a small population like this?
4. Consider the logic of the writer's claim about the "power" in Washington, D.C. What is the "source" of her perceived power? Is this a logical conclusion?
5. What does the writer want you to do or feel as a result of this piece?
6. Would you feel comfortable passing this piece along to your contacts? Why?

We'd love to know your answers. Drop us an email at pr@lwv-larimercounty.org. We may even share your comments on this page, so be sure to include your name and contact information.