

Truth or Fiction?

Evaluating Today's News and Information

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The following groupings provide help with fact checking, determining bias in the media, and obtaining voting information and politicians' records. Ultimately, it is up to each of us to use our critical thinking skills to become discriminating readers of the news and information we consume.

Fact Checking

https://apnews.com/hub/ap-fact-check	The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting founded in 1846. Its fact-checking site provides accurate, unbiased checks of news in all formats, vital to the news business of today.
https://www.factcheck.org/	FactCheck.org is a nonpartisan, nonprofit consumer advocacy site that aims to reduce deception and confusion in U.S. politics by monitoring factual accuracy in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases. It is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.
https://www.factcheck.org/sci-check/	FactCheck.org's SciCheck focuses exclusively on false and misleading scientific claims made by partisans to influence public policy. It was launched in January 2015.
https://www.factcheck.org/tag/flackcheck-org/	FactCheck.org's FlackCheck-org provides resources designed to help viewers recognize flaws in arguments in general and political ads specifically. Video resources point out deception and incivility in political rhetoric.
https://www.hoax-slayer.com/	Hoax Slayer focuses on debunking email and social media hoaxes, thwarting internet scammers and educating the public about social media and internet security issues. Independently owned and operated by Brett Christensen, Hoax Slayer is listed as an American Library Association's fact checking resource site.
https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/	The Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other data-driven social science research. It does not take policy positions.
https://www.politifact.com/	PolitiFact.com is a nonpartisan fact-checking website that was created by the <i>Tampa Bay Times</i> in 2007. In 2018, PolitiFact was acquired by the Poynter Institute, a nonprofit school for journalists. Decisions on coverage, what facts to check, and "Truth-O-Meter" ratings are determined by PolitiFact's independent journalists.

Fact Checking, continued

<p>https://www.poynter.org/ifcn/</p>	<p>The International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) is a unit of the Poynter Institute dedicated to bringing together fact-checkers worldwide. Launched in 2015, IFCN supports and promotes best practices in the field of international fact-checking. The site provides updates and a newsletter about these efforts worldwide.</p>
<p>https://www.snopes.com/</p>	<p>Snopes.com is an independent source for evidence-based reporting and fact checking. Started in 1994, it includes a “search” option. Snopes is working with Facebook to identify and label false stories flagged by readers on the social media network. It is funded by ads and contributions from readers and non-partisan organizations.</p>
<p>https://sunlightfoundation.com/</p>	<p>A national, nonpartisan, nonprofit that uses civic technologies, open data, policy analysis and journalism to make our government and politics more accountable and transparent to all.</p>
<p>https://www.truthorfiction.com</p>	<p>TruthorFiction.com is a nonpartisan website where Internet users obtain information about e-rumors, fake news, disinformation, warnings, myths, hoaxes, virus warnings, etc. that are circulated by email. It was designed for the ordinary Internet user who wants to make sure that an email story contains information, not disinformation.</p>
<p>https://www.usafacts.org</p>	<p>USA Facts is a nonpartisan, not for profit civic initiative making government data easy and accessible by providing US spending and outcomes to ground public debate in the facts. Created by Steve Ballmer, former Microsoft CEO, it partners with academia experts from the Penn Wharton School and the Stanford Institute of Economic Policy.</p>

Bias Rating of Media Sources

<p>https://www.all-sides.com/media-bias/media-bias-ratings</p>	<p>AllSides Media Bias Ratings represent the average judgment based on blind surveys of people across the political spectrum, multi-partisan analysis, and other in-depth analyses as well as tens of thousands of user ratings. These ratings are fluid and subject to change over time as new information is gathered and biases change.</p>
<p>https://media-biasfactcheck.com/</p>	<p>Media Bias/Fact Check (MBFC News) was founded in 2015. It is an independent online media outlet dedicated to educating the public on media bias and deceptive news practices. Funding comes from site advertising and individual donors. Dave Van Zandt and his team rate each outlet from 0 to 10 on the categories of biased wording and headlines, factuality and sourcing, story choices (“does the source report news from both sides”), and political affiliation. A search tool allows names of media sources to be input, after which a bias rating appears.</p>

Voting, Election and Other Information

https://ballotpedia.org/	<p>Ballotpedia is a nonprofit and nonpartisan, digital encyclopedia of American politicians and elections. Its goal is to provide accurate and objective information about politics at all levels of government. Content is neutral, accurate, and verifiable. Contributions are tax-deductible and welcomed. Ballotpedia is sponsored by the Lucy Burns Institute, a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization located in Middleton, Wisconsin.</p>
https://www.opensecrets.org/	<p>OpenSecrets.org is a nonpartisan, independent, nonprofit organization (the Center for Responsive Politics) that tracks money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. It aims to empower people with access to clear and unbiased information.</p>
https://www.vote411.org	<p>Vote411.org is a nonpartisan national website for election information. It was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund in October 2006. The website includes election-related information on voting and ballot measures and factual data on candidates in federal, state, and local races. Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed.</p>
https://indianavoters.in.gov	<p>This Indiana government site gives current and historical election results, polling locations, election security information, and more. Indiana residents can check their voting registration status and also register to vote.</p>
https://votesmart.org/	<p>VoteSmart’s mission is to provide free, factual, and unbiased information on candidates and elected officials. Information is input from public records, mostly by volunteers. Candidates and elected officials are included in the large database of information. Categories of information include biographies, voting records (searchable by topics), speeches, and candidate funding sources. VoteSmart’s financial reporting documents and board members are listed on the site. Contributions are accepted from users.</p>
https://sunlightfoundation.com/	<p>A national, nonpartisan, nonprofit that uses civic technologies, open data, policy analysis and journalism to make our government and politics more accountable and transparent to all.</p>