

IS IT CREDIBLE? IS IT PLAUSIBLE?

HOW TO SCIENTIFICALLY EVALUATE ONLINE EVIDENCE AND CLAIMS



STOP. STEP BACK. READ.

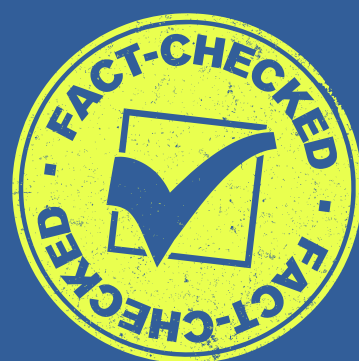
Go past the headline or post claim. Think about the **claims** the person is making and what **explanation** is being used to support those claims.

BECOME YOUR OWN FACT-CHECKER.

EVALUATE SOURCES TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE CREDIBLE.

Ask yourself, Is this explanation **plausible**, and how do I know?

- Who is the author?
- What is the purpose?
- Where was it posted?
- Where is the science from?



MAKE A JUDGEMENT.
IS THE CLAIM PLAUSIBLE?

NO? Don't share because it doesn't seem reliable
YES! Continue to the evaluation stage

EVALUATE EVIDENCE AND CONNECTION TO THE CLAIM

Consider strength of evidence in connection to a claim, but also consider how well the evidence connects to an **alternative** claim.

- What is the **quantity** and **quality** of evidence?
- Does evidence **support** the claim?
- Does it support an **alternative** claim?



REAPPRAISE.

IS THE CLAIM PLAUSIBLE?
IN LIGHT OF A COMPETING CLAIM?

MAKE A TENTATIVE JUDGEMENT.

Now that you have engaged in purposeful source and claim evaluation, you can come to a tentative judgment about the validity of the scientific information.



ONLY SHARE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ONLINE
THAT YOU HAVE VERIFIED.