



**YOUTH
RADIO**

Fact-Checking 101

(adapted from [The CUNY Graduate School of Journalism](#))

Type of fact	Example	Source	Notes
<i>Proper names and titles</i>	<i>"Barack Obama, President of the United States of America," "The New York Times"</i>	<i>Call the person/organization and ask. For organizations, you can start by looking at their official website.</i>	<i>Don't necessarily rely on LinkedIn or social media websites to provide this info -- those can be wrong!</i>
<i>Place names</i>	<i>"West Oakland," "The Dogpatch," "The Bay Area," "The South," "The 3500 block of MacArthur Blvd"</i>	<i>Look at official city websites, or ask people who live there for the names of local neighborhoods</i>	<i>Double check capitalization protocol -- "the" is sometimes capitalized for place names</i>
<i>Numbers and statistics</i>	<i>"The rate increased by 4 percentage points," "He paid \$10,000 for the car," "She finished the race in 35 minutes," "The school had a 70% graduation rate"</i>	<i>Peer-reviewed journal, official government report, primary documentation</i>	<i>If you are doing the math yourself for your story, make sure to double check it with someone else. Also, check the order of magnitude -- people mistake millions/billions a lot.</i>
<i>Contact information listed in a story</i>	<i>"Youth Radio is located at 1701 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612"</i>	<i>Ask your source</i>	<i>Double check phone numbers by calling and making sure they work.</i>
<i>Ages</i>	<i>"18-year-old Lissa Jones"</i>	<i>Ask your source in most cases. If it is vital to the story, look to public records or ask for official documentation.</i>	<i>Ask sources for their birth date, not their age. That way if a story runs at a later date, it's easy to correct.</i>

<i>References to time, distance, date, season</i>	<i>"The party was on Saturday, June 6th," "The house was down the block from the park," "They graduated last spring"</i>	<i>Google Maps, Source calendars, official season start/end dates</i>	<i>It's easy to forget that June 1st is technically Spring!</i>
<i>Physical descriptions</i>	<i>"Brett had big blue eyes and was over six feet tall"</i>	<i>Call your source and verify information. Look at any photos the reporter has taken</i>	<i>Remember to take photos as you report. Even if they're not for publication, they'll be good for physical descriptions of people and places.</i>
<i>Gender pronouns</i>	<i>"Jamie grabbed an apple and then she ate it"</i>	<i>Ask sources for preferred gender pronoun</i>	<i>Be especially in-tune when reporting a story about a gender-nonconforming person, or when a source has a gender-neutral name</i>
<i>Quotations</i>	<i>"I was bullied as a kid, and I guess it affected me, hahahaha"</i>	<i>Call source and check for context and content</i>	<i>You don't need to re-read the line to the source verbatim. Ask about general content and context.</i>
<i>Any arguments or narrative that depends on fact</i>	<i>"Abortion should be illegal because fetuses can feel pain"</i>	<i>Peer-reviewed studies, non-political/advocacy websites, original documentation</i>	<i>Question the premise of any argument in order to find truth. Look at a site or study's funding for potential conflicts of interest.</i>
<i>Superlatives</i>	<i>"only," "first," "most," "just," "never," etc.</i>	<i>Look to primary documentation (official reports, census data, government websites, peer-reviewed studies, etc)</i>	<i>If you can't verify a superlative, reword your copy.</i>