

## BIAS AND FACT CHECKING

The World Wide Web offers the vast availability of information at our fingertips. To ensure you are getting the most accurate information from online sources, it is important to monitor for signs of manipulation. Sources may alter or misrepresent information to support a particular cause or agenda.

### Definitions

**Bias:** prejudice in favour of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair

**Misinformation:** False or inaccurate information, especially that which is deliberately intended to deceive

**Disinformation:** False information which is intended to discretely mislead and change public opinion

### What to do



Question what you're looking at. Is this a credible source? Is this a joke? Are there supporting sources? What's the whole story?



Take steps to check the author, check the date, and check your biases.



Verify the information is accurate. Consult a fact-checking site, or access resources like your local librarian.

### Helpful resources

- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions: How to Spot Fake News ([ifla.org/publications/node/11174](https://ifla.org/publications/node/11174))
- The Poynter Institute rates news outlets on their bias and their political content ([Poynter.org](https://Poynter.org))



# 7 types of mis- and disinformation

## Satire or parody

The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule (to criticize human follies or vices), particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

## Misleading content

Framing an issue to meet a biased end goal; making claims not backed up by fact or misrepresenting information.

## Imposter content

Trusted sources are impersonated to falsely lend credibility to a message.

## Fabricated content

False content intended to deceive or cause harm.

## Manipulated content

Content is altered in some way to fit a particular narrative.

- **False connection:** Content creates a connection between two unrelated things.
- **False context:** Content is authentic/unmanipulated, however it is presented with unrelated information, creating a misleading association.

## Stop the spread of mis- and disinformation using the DIRT technique



### D - Don't share

Don't share content that you know to be mis- or disinformation.



### I - Illustrate the misinformation

Use fact checking tools to contest validity of the content that has been shared. Be mindful while using this technique on social media with community members, as this may create debate. When contesting an argument, make sure the information has been debunked with one of the fact checking websites listed.



### R - Report it

There are multiple platforms where mis- or disinformation can be reported. Some of these steps are covered at the 16-minute mark of our Bias and Fact-Checking session video, available at [Northumberland.ca/Bias](http://Northumberland.ca/Bias).



### T - Triumph

Triumph above it by not being one of the people that shares mis- or disinformation, or anything with extreme bias.



# RESOURCES



## Canadian fact checking sites

- [Mediasmarts.ca](https://www.mediasmarts.ca)  
Canada's definitive online resource for all things Digital Media related, including a great section on breaking the fake
- [Factscan.ca](https://www.factscan.ca)  
Canada's independent, transparent and non-partisan political fact-checker
- [Thewalrus-factchecking.com](https://www.thewalrus-factchecking.com)  
A registered charity that publishes independent, fact-based journalism
- [CanadaFactCheck.ca](https://www.canadafactcheck.ca)  
An independent news platform dedicated to transparency, democratic reform, government accountability and corporate responsibility.
- [Factcheck.afp.com/afp-canada](https://factcheck.afp.com/afp-canada)  
A regional fact checking website

## Fact checking sites

- [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com)  
Widely considered to be the number one fact checking site in the world
- [Factcheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org)  
One of the best all around websites for fighting mis and dis-information
- [Politifact.com](https://www.politifact.com)  
Winner of a Pulitzer Prize
- [Flackcheck.org](https://www.flackcheck.org)  
Follows the money in politics
- [Opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org)  
Nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit, the Center for Responsive Politics is the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy
- [Washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/)  
This site accompanies a Sunday printed news column to check the statements of political figures regarding issues of great importance (be they national, international or local)
- [Reporterslab.org/fact-checking](https://www.reporterslab.org/fact-checking)  
Provides a comprehensive list of over 300 fact checking sites listed by region in North American and around the world.
- [Toolbox.google.com/factcheck](https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck)  
Google's fact checking tool

## Fake news information

- How to spot fake news  
[Facebook.com/help/188118808357379](https://www.facebook.com/help/188118808357379)
- List of fake news sites  
[Wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_fake\\_news\\_websites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_fake_news_websites)
- Presentation on mis- and disinformation on Twitter during the 2016 election  
[Knightfoundation.org/features/misinfo](https://knightfoundation.org/features/misinfo)

## Games

- [Factcheck.org/newsfeed-defenders](https://factcheck.org/newsfeed-defenders)
- [Fakeittomakeitgame.com](https://fakeittomakeitgame.com)
- [Getbadnews.com](https://getbadnews.com)

## Get involved

### How to be a better fact-checker

[bit.ly/BeABetterFactChecker](https://bit.ly/BeABetterFactChecker)

### International Fact-Checking Network

[Youtu.be/OVrx\\_2OYuTg](https://youtu.be/OVrx_2OYuTg)

## Media bias charts

- [Poynter.org/mediawise](https://poynter.org/mediawise)
- [Mediasmarts.ca](https://mediasmarts.ca)
- [Adfontesmedia.com](https://adfontesmedia.com)

## Media Bias/Fact Check Extension for Chrome

[bit.ly/3qT9i1U](https://bit.ly/3qT9i1U)

## Presentation resources

### Bias and Fact Checking presentation video

[Northumberland.ca/Bias](https://northumberland.ca/Bias)

### Presenters

The Northumberland County Digital Literacy Program is brought to you by:

- **Northumberland County:** [Northumberland.ca/DigitalLiteracy](https://northumberland.ca/DigitalLiteracy)
- **Tech'd Out Technology Services:** [mytechhelp.ca](https://mytechhelp.ca) | [dave@mytechhelp.ca](mailto:dave@mytechhelp.ca)

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