Detecting Fake News

• Install an app like Web of Trust (https://www.mywot.com/) into your browser or factcheck it yourself using non-partisan sites like FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, & PolitiFact.com
• Read beyond the headline or photograph
• Examine your source: remember that blog posts, tweets, FB status updates, etc. are NOT vetted news sources
• Examine the URL
• Be wary of confirmation bias (believing something is true because it confirms one's existing beliefs or theories)
• Finally, ask yourself these important questions before sharing:
  o Who wrote this? What are the author’s qualifications? What are the author’s potential biases?
  o Who published this? Is this from a respected news source? Is it an opinion/editorial piece or a report?
  o When was it published?
  o What sources does the article use to support its claim? Are they reliable sources of information in this context?
  o Who is interviewed, and why? Are they reliable sources of information in this context?
  o Are there multiple sources used? Are all of these sources from the same author/news site?
  o Is any other site reporting this news? If so, how does their coverage line up with your source’s coverage?

NEWS YOU CAN USE

• BBC, PBS News Hour
• Networks like NBC, ABC and CBS can be trusted in their sources THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN COVERAGE*
• Ditto on CNN.
• Fox News strongly favors conservative and liberal perspectives and should be watched with that in mind
• Online: be careful! (see “Detecting Fake News” list)

*NOTE THAT TALK SHOWS WITH “EXPERTS” THAT ARE BROADCAST ON THESE CHANNELS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS OPINION AND NOT AS NEWS OR FACTS