

DID YOU KNOW?
About 93% of adults get at least some of their news from online sources.

Be an informed reader

Evaluating the news for accuracy is an important life skill.

Reading about events in the news is a great way to learn about the world around you. As you read, it's important to evaluate the content for accuracy. This is known as practicing news literacy, which is the ability to think critically about the news so you can understand what information is factual and what is not. Here are some steps to follow when evaluating information.

Identify what you're reading

First, think about what type of information you're reading. A news article should present both sides of a story, with sources or quotes from people that back up those statements. This type of story differs from an opinion article, which is typically when one person gives their point of view on a topic.



Check multiple sources.

Analyze a story's purpose

The purpose of a news article is to give readers the facts about a story. It is not trying to convince you to believe something. This makes the story credible. If both sides of a story are presented, you know the writer is not trying to keep information from you or influence you. Other types of articles may try to get you to believe something, such as why you should support a cause or position. That doesn't mean you shouldn't read them. They can be interesting and provide perspectives you may not have considered. What's important is knowing a story's purpose, which can help you interpret it.

Compare articles

If you're reading a news story but are wondering if it's presenting facts accurately, you can try to do some "lateral reading." This is when you read about the same topic from a different news source. Are those stories similar with the same facts presented? Or does one story leave out some facts or tell only one side? You'll have to read closely, since each news source may cover a subject in a slightly different way and still be accurate. By reading a few different articles you should get a fair idea of what happened.

Do a quick search

To verify that a source is reputable, you can find out more about it. A media outlet will likely have an "about us" or "mission statement" on its website, which should include the organization's purpose and guidelines on fairness and accuracy. You can find out more about news literacy at newslit.org.

Fake wildlife videos



Videos of wildlife made with artificial intelligence (AI) are popular on social media and can be very convincing. They can also hurt animals in several ways.

For example, fake videos can spread misinformation. They may depict wildlife (like the lion cub above) as gentle, which could lead to dangerous encounters between humans and animals. They can also cause a species to appear more abundant than it is, harming conservation efforts.

You can look for clues that a video may be fake. The color or movements of the animal may look unnatural, or features may appear then disappear in the background. The scenarios in the video may be unlikely, like a monkey hugging a human.