BASIC QUESTIONS TO ASK about all media

Who made this?
Who is the target audience?
When was this created?
Where was this published or posted?
What is the creator's purpose?
Who paid for this? Or, who gets paid if you click on this?
Who might benefit or be harmed by this message?
What is left out of this message that might be important?
How does this make you feel? Is this credible (and what makes you think that)?

TIPS FOR SPOTTING “FAKE NEWS” & IDENTIFYING BIAS

Look for unusual URLs and site names (ending with "lo" or ".com.co") These are often trying to appear like legitimate news sites. (i.e. abcnews.com.co).

Watch for words in ALL CAPS, headlines with grammatical errors, bold claims with no sources, and sensationalist images (women in bikinis are popular clickbait on fake sites).

Check the date — Social media often revives outdated stories.

Look for photos or videos to be misidentified or dated incorrectly. Use a reverse image search engine (like TinEye or Search by Image extension in Chrome) to find an image’s actual source.

Click on the "About Us" section. Who supports the site or is associated with it? GOOGLE that group or name to learn what others are saying about them.

Use fact-checking sites (Snopes, Politifact, Factcheck) before trusting or sharing news that seems too good (or bad) to be true.

Verify! Are other credible mainstream news outlets reporting the same story? If they’re not, it doesn't mean it's not true, but it does mean you MUST dig deeper.

READ past the headline! Sometimes the story does not match the message of the headline.

If a story offers links, follow them. No links, quotes, or references? No good!

Check your emotions. Clickbait and fake news strive for extreme reactions. If the news you're reading makes you really angry or super smug, it could be a sign that you're being played.

Check multiple sources before trusting.

- compiled from lists published by Common Sense Media and OnTheMedia.org