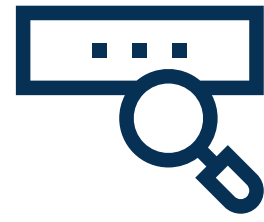# CHECK THE SOURCE!

The news can be very confusing, especially when we get information from social media and online sources. The following are some tips that parents/caregivers, mentors, and other supportive adults can use to help young people learn to be careful consumers of news and identify when information may be more opinion than fact.

BE SKEPTICAL

There is a lot of information and not all of it is good or factual. Don't assume that what you read is always real.

INVESTIGATE CREDIBILITY

Do an internet search on the author and any organizations or persons quoted. Is the source widely read? Does the author have a conflict of interest with the subject matter?
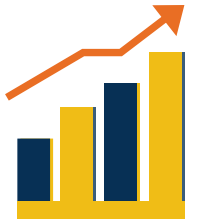
EVALUATE THE SOURCE

Websites often have easy-to-spot reliability clues. Websites that end with .gov or .edu are often more trustworthy because they are government or educational institutions.
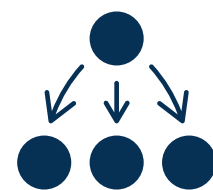
CONSULT PRIMARY SOURCES

When possible, encourage young people to read the primary source. Facts can become distorted when the story is repeated by different sources.

VERIFY THE STATS

Are the statistics representative? For example, the source may be reporting a percentage of adolescents, but the source may be a small survey of students from a single school.

CONSIDER MULTIPLE RELIABLE SOURCES

Using the prior steps, verify multiple reliable sources reporting the same information.

BURST YOUR "BUBBLE"

Social media often connects you with trends that reinforce your views rather than challenge ideas. So, make a point to read widely, including articles written by people you don't necessarily agree with.

BEWARE OF...

...vague language, capital letters, and use of memes. Some language like "most people believe..." plays on the reader's emotions without offering real information.

NEVER REVEAL PRIVATE INFO

Revealing your own private information can put you at risk for identity theft. Sites that ask for this information should not be trusted.

AVOID PERSONAL SOCIAL PAGES

Personal Blogs, Twitter handles, and Facebook are helpful to find out what people are saying about a topic but may not be sources of reliable information.

More resources at:
GPPCT.org

THE GOVERNOR'S Prevention Partnership℠