

Avoid "Fake News"

with "Four Moves & a Habit"

The Habit:



Check Your Emotions!



When you feel strong emotion—happiness, anger, pride, vindication—and that emotion pushes you to share a “fact” with others, **STOP**.

Check for Previous Work

Many provocative claims on the internet have already been fact-checked or researched. News coverage, trusted online sites, or fact-checking sites like Snopes or Politifact may give you a synthesis of the information.

Go Upstream to the Source

Sometimes the source isn't the original provider of the info. Find the original source, follow the embedded links, watch for sponsored content, do reverse image searches.

Circle Back

Sometimes these moves will suggest that a source is not accurate/credible, is more complex than you thought, or leads to a dead end. Stop and use what you learned to begin a better-informed search!

Read Laterally

Use OTHER sites to check the reputation and biases of your source (esp. author & publisher).

Sites like google, wikipedia, & mediabiasfactcheck.com are good places to read laterally.