**Evaluate a News Story**

**Part 1:**

**Find a news story to evaluate. You have three options:**

1. Go to your Twitter account and select an online news story that appears in your feed
2. Go to your Facebook account and select an online news story that appears in your feed
3. Select one of the articles below:
   1. [Tech disorder? Smartphones linked to bizarre horn-like skull bumps](https://web.archive.org/web/20190621005509/https:/www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/tech-disorder-smartphones-linked-bizarre-horn-skull-bumps-n1019736)
   2. [Top US Admiral Fired For Questioning Obama Purchase Of Mansion In Dubai](http://www.whatdoesitmean.com/index1979.htm)
   3. [New $20 Bill Featuring Robert E. Lee to Make Early Debut in Southern U.S.](http://realnewsrightnow.com/2017/09/new-20-bill-featuring-robert-e-lee-make-early-debut-southern-u-s/)
   4. [DeVos Says Trump’s 40% Approval Rating Means More Than Half of Country Supports Him](file:///\\virt-files-01\users\JEFFRMIC\GE203\2019%20Fall\Class%204\a.%09https:\www.newyorker.com\humor\borowitz-report\devos-says-trumps-forty-per-cent-approval-rating-means-more-than-half-of-country-supports-him)
   5. [Fake Bully Victim Keaton Jones Beat & Robbed At School](https://www.huzlers.uk/fake-bully-victim-keaton-jones-beat-and-robbed-at-school-after-arriving-w-gucci-belt-jordans-hoverboard-he-bought-w-gofundme-money/)

**Please note**: you are not evaluating a webpage, like you did for the Class 2 Web Evaluation assignment. You are specifically looking for a news story, essentially an article that discusses current or recent news. It will likely be part of a larger website that contains a collection of news stories. The larger website should look like an online newspaper, with a variety of headlines, articles, links, and other newsy items.

**If you’re not sure if you news story you find is appropriate for this assignment, please send it to me to review.**

**Part 2: Evaluate the News Story**

Read the news story and answer these questions about it:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GENERAL** | |
| I found my article via: **(identify one)** | 1. Twitter 2. Facebook 3. This assignment |
| **URL** of the News story/article you’re evaluating | URL: |
| What was **your first response** to the article? Curiosity? Disbelief? Anger? Something else? Does it speak to a personal belief or bias? Why did you respond this way? Be specific. |  |
| Are there ads? |  |
| If so, are the ads provocative or click-bait (content, especially that of a sensational or provocative nature, whose main purpose is to attract attention and draw visitors to a particular web page.)? |  |
| Is the article satire or a joke? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CURRENCY** | |
| **What is the date of the article**? Is the information in the article current? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AUTHORITY** | |
| **Who is the author of the article?** Use Google, Wikipedia, About Us, etc. to investigate. What did you find out about him/her/them? |  |
| **Who is responsible for the site on which the article appears?** Investigate the owner/sponsor. Use Google, Wikipedia, About Us, etc. to verify. Who are they? What did you find out about them? |  |
| **Is there a Contact page/info for the site?** If so, does the contact information appear to be legitimate? If not, what does that tell you about the authority of this site? |  |
| **Go to the article’s home page** (the main page of the online newspaper the article is in). List the titles of two other articles posted on that page. | 1.  2. |
| **Briefly scan both articles**. What are your first impressions of the articles? Do they influence how you feel about the article you selected and its Authority? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACCURACY** | |
| **Go back to the article you selected in Part 1. Read beyond the headline.** Does the content of the article support what the headline says? |  |
| **Does the article use sources to support its claims**? Do the sources actually exist? (Click/investigate one or two of them to find out.) |  |
| **Search the web for another article on the topic**, one from a site you know is reputable (e.g. NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Time Magazine, NPR, CNN, etc.). What is the URL of the article? What does that article say about your topic? If you cannot find a reputable article on your topic, what does that tell you? | URL: |
| In searching for a reputable article**, did you learn anything from the results of your search**? That is, did the links you retrieved reveal anything about your article? |  |
| **Fact check the article** by checking ONE of these: [snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com/), [politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com/), or [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org/). What did you learn about your article when you checked? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PURPOSE** | |
| **What is the purpose of your article**? What is the purpose of the organization sponsoring the website on which your article appears? Is the information provided in the article and on the site biased? Objective? Fact? Opinion? |  |

**Part 3: Reflect on your evaluation**

Take a moment to **check your own bias** and honestly consider the information in the original article you found, along with all the information you discovered when you investigated the article.

What are your conclusions about the accuracy and reliability of the article you started with in this assignment? Does it pass the CRAAP test? Would you feel good sharing it with a friend as accurate information? Would you use it as a source in a paper?