**Putting S.I.F.T. To Work**

This Worksheet is based on Mike Caulfield’s S.I.F.T. Method. So students will first need to have a familiarity with that. I highly recommend the “S.I.F.T. For Teachers” video playlist on his YouTube channel and/or his website.

This activity would probably take most of a class period. Could also be done online via a Discussion.

1. ***Select one of the following trending stories:***

*Ideally, you could list a few sources/links. They could be a combination of current (or recent) 'news' stories and SM posts (ie. from TikTok, Twitter and/or Facebook). Helpful ideas could come from: NewsLit's "The Sift", something Caulfield has done recently, or things you've seen yourself. Re: SM posts: one thing you'd want to consider is whether or not a student would have to have an account on that platform in order to amply investigate; you'd want to make sure that S.I.F.T. could be carried out by only utilizing the open web. for at least some of the sources you include. For anything that would require a student to already be on the platform, you'd probably want to state that up front. (For example, a lot of students might already be on TikTok and not minding getting on TikTok to explore something.)*

1. ***You will now put that story/claim/SM post through S.I.F.T. by answering the following questions for each element of S.I.F.T.***

**S**TOP

* Which story/social media post/claim/source did you chose?
* What emotion(s) did you feel when you first read the story/claim/post?
* Are you familiar with the source of the information? (Yes or No)
* Does the source/website have an About Us or some other easy way of finding out about them? (Yes or No)

**I**NVESTIGATE

* What does Wikipedia have to say about the website/group/organization/author? *(Remember: You are not using Wikipedia to investigate the****claim****or****information****itself - only the****group/organization/author****that's responsible for the claim/information.)*  
  Favorable/reputable? Or not?   
  Is the website/group/organization/author involved in a lot of controversy?   
  If it is a group or organization, how many members does it have? How long has it been around/how well-established is it?
* What can you find out about the group/organization/author from Google News?  
  *Go to google.com, click the 9-dot "checkerboard" icon in upper right, select News. Keep in mind: you don't need to read in detail every news story that pops up, just skim enough to get a sense of being able to answer the questions below.*  
  Favorable/reputable? Or not?   
  Is the group/organization/author mired in controversy?  
  Do you come across any stories that provide information about the website/group/organization/author?

**F**IND Better Coverage

* What do Google and Google News have to say about the claim/information presented?  
  Copy the headline or a claim or a key piece of information presented by the source and paste it into Google and Google News. *(Or you can simply select/highlight the headline/claim/key info, then right-click on it, then select "Search Google for...")*
* Are other places/outlets covering it? Several? Only a few? None? What might that say about the veracity (truthfulness) of the the claim/information?
* If other places/outlets are covering it, are you familiar with them? Do they seem 'fringe' (ie. extreme groups) or more mainstream and/or reputable? *(For a little help with this feel free to check them out on*[**mediabiasfactcheck.com** (Links to an external site.)*(Links to an external site.)*](https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/)*or*[**adfontesmedia.com (Links to an external site.)**](https://adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/)*.)*
* If other places/outlets are covering it, are they interpreting/reporting the story in the same way?

**T**RACE claim back to original source/context

* This step will be very similar to step 1 above in **F**ind. Copy the headline or a claim or a key piece of information presented by the source and paste it into Google and Google News. *(Or you can simply select/highlight the headline/claim/key info, then right-click on it, then select "Search Google for...")*
* What is the earliest date you're seeing this information appear online?   
  Where does it first appear? What website, source or outlet seemed to have first published it?  
  Do they seem trustworthy and credible? What can you find out about them?
* If an image is an integral part of the claim/information you're investigating, then do a Reverse Image Search and look through the results.   
  *Easiest way to do this is: right-click on the image then select "Search Google for image".*  
  *You can also right-click the image, open image in a new tab, copy the image's url, go to Google Images, click the camera icon, paste the image url into the search box.  
  You can also download the image, go to Google Images, click the camera icon, then upload the image.*
* What is the earliest date you're seeing this image appear online? Are there discrepancies between when the image is claimed to have first surfaced versus when it actually did? What does that tell you about the veracity of the image?