

TO BE FOOLED – OR NOT?

*This module was developed by the European Parliament –
Spokesperson's Unit and not by the author of the other modules.*



ICE-BREAKER

RELIABLE OR NOT?

WATCH: Bizarre claims UFOs were flying past Twin Towers during 9/11 terror strikes

A BIZARRE video has alleged that UFOs were caught on camera flying past the Twin Towers during the world's worst terror strike.

By JON AUSTIN

PUBLISHED: 17:50, Thu, Mar 24, 2016 | UPDATED: 18:40, Thu, Mar 24, 2016

SHARE  TWEET    



Conspiracy theorist Phil Young claims these were UFOs filmed during 9/11

Is 5G Poisoning Us? Alleged Former Vodafone Boss Blows Whistle On 5G And COVID-19!

ICE-BREAKER

RELIABLE OR NOT?



774,844 views

Uploaded April 03, 2020

Submitted by Horus

Posted by Thrillz



EM KA

@EM_KA_17

!! My HERO of the day !!

A courage Nurse debunks the coronavirus lie. She says that they are trying to introduce a New World Order and they are using COVID-19 as a coverup. She also talks about the dangers of 5G radiation. twitter.com/Veganearther/s...

7:36 am · 6 Apr 2020 · Twitter Web App

1.9K Retweets 2K Likes

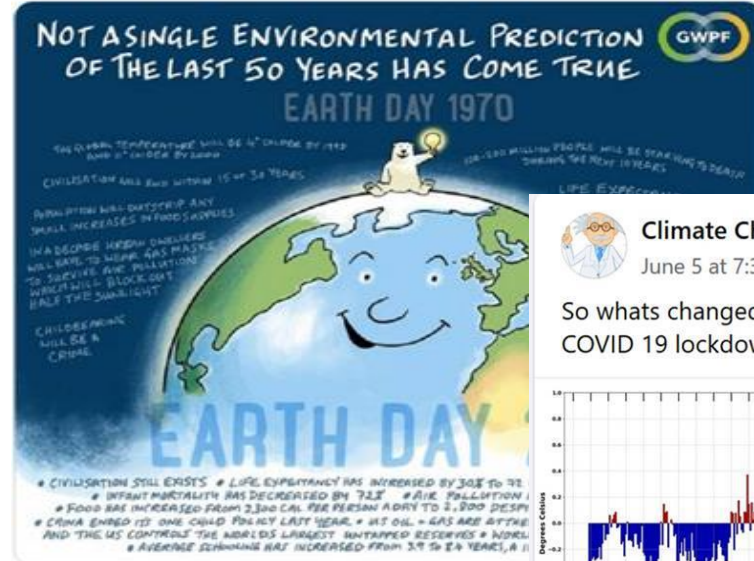
<https://www.worldstarhiphop.com/videos/video.php?v=wshhY2D99SZdmYSF4Ale>

ICE-BREAKER

RELIABLE OR NOT?

Lawrence Poslaiko- America First!
@ReallPoslaiko

Time for some Enviro-TRUTH! The radical 'Global warming' fanatics are mainly a bunch of well meaning, but misdirected folks who are being used to promote a political agenda! The real leaders of this movement want three things- POWER, COMTROL, & MONEY (yours)!



8:59 am · 27 Apr 2019 · Twitter Web Client

37 Retweets · 37 Likes

@realDonaldTrump

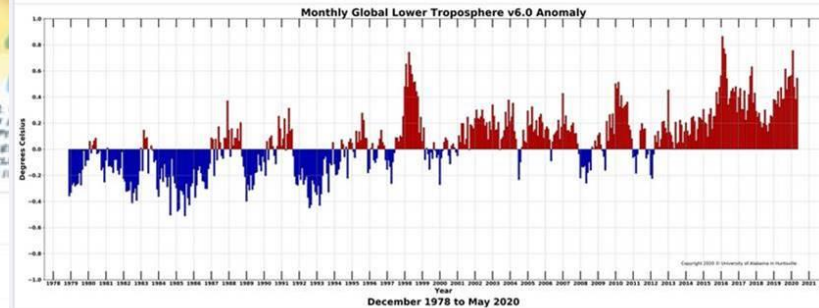
The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

8:15 pm · 6 Nov 2012 · Twitter Web Client

135.7K Retweets · 68.1K Likes

Climate Change is Crap
June 5 at 7:32 PM · 🌐

So whats changed since 1998 ? Nothing much ! Co2 still rising despite COVID 19 lockdown - temps still rising & falling as it does



👍 🤔 😬 56

5 Comments 16 Shares

ICE-BREAKER

REAL OR FAKE?



Courtesy: Rio de Janeiro State Secretary of Prison Administration

Global NEWS

Brazil gang leader caught trying to escape prison disguised as daughter

60,944 views · Published on 6 Aug 2019

279 likes · 19 comments · SHARE · SAVE · ...

Global News 648K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

0:05 / 2:54

https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=O_N9SZLic2k

CLASS ACTIVITY

KNOWING WHAT HAPPENS

Where do you get the news?

(or what information sources do you know?)

CLASS ACTIVITY

THINKING ABOUT OUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Have you come across news that seems strange over the past week/month?

CLASS ACTIVITY

STRANGE IN WHAT WAY?

- a. Simply not true
- b. I completely disagree
- c. Exaggerated or twisted
- d. Too good (or too bad) to be true
- e. Contradicts everything I know on the subject
- f. Fits my wishes or beliefs a bit too easily
- g. Disgusting
- h. Joke
- i. Other

CLASS ACTIVITY

OPINION OR FACT?



A fact is something that can be checked and backed up with evidence.

An opinion is based on a belief or point of view. It is not based on verifiable evidence.

CLASS ACTIVITY

WHAT IS DIS- INFORMATION?

- **What?** False or misleading information
- **How?** Made or spread on purpose
- **Why?** To make money or deceive

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH DIS- INFORMATION?

1. Fools you into...
 - only seeing one (twisted) side of the story
 - having strong feelings for the wrong reasons
 - acting differently
 - looking stupid in front of others
2. Makes it harder to get the right information when you need it
3. Can have negative impact on society

EXAMPLE

DISINFORMATION CAN DO REAL DAMAGE IN REAL LIFE

Attacks to 5G towers as a result
of disinformation about 5G



The video player shows a scene where a fire is burning at the base of a 5G tower structure. The tower is a tall, lattice-like metal structure. In the foreground, there are several metal cages or barriers. A person is visible in the background, running away from the fire. The video player interface includes a search bar at the top, a play button, a progress bar showing 0:07 / 2:01, and social media links for @CGTNOfficial. The video title is "Conspiracy theorists set fire to 5G towers and equipment" and it has 68,209 views as of 23 Apr 2020. The video player also shows engagement metrics: 1K likes, 230 comments, and options to share, save, and more.

YouTube BE Search

Follow us on @CGTNOfficial 0:07 / 2:01 cgtn.com

Conspiracy theorists set fire to 5G towers and equipment

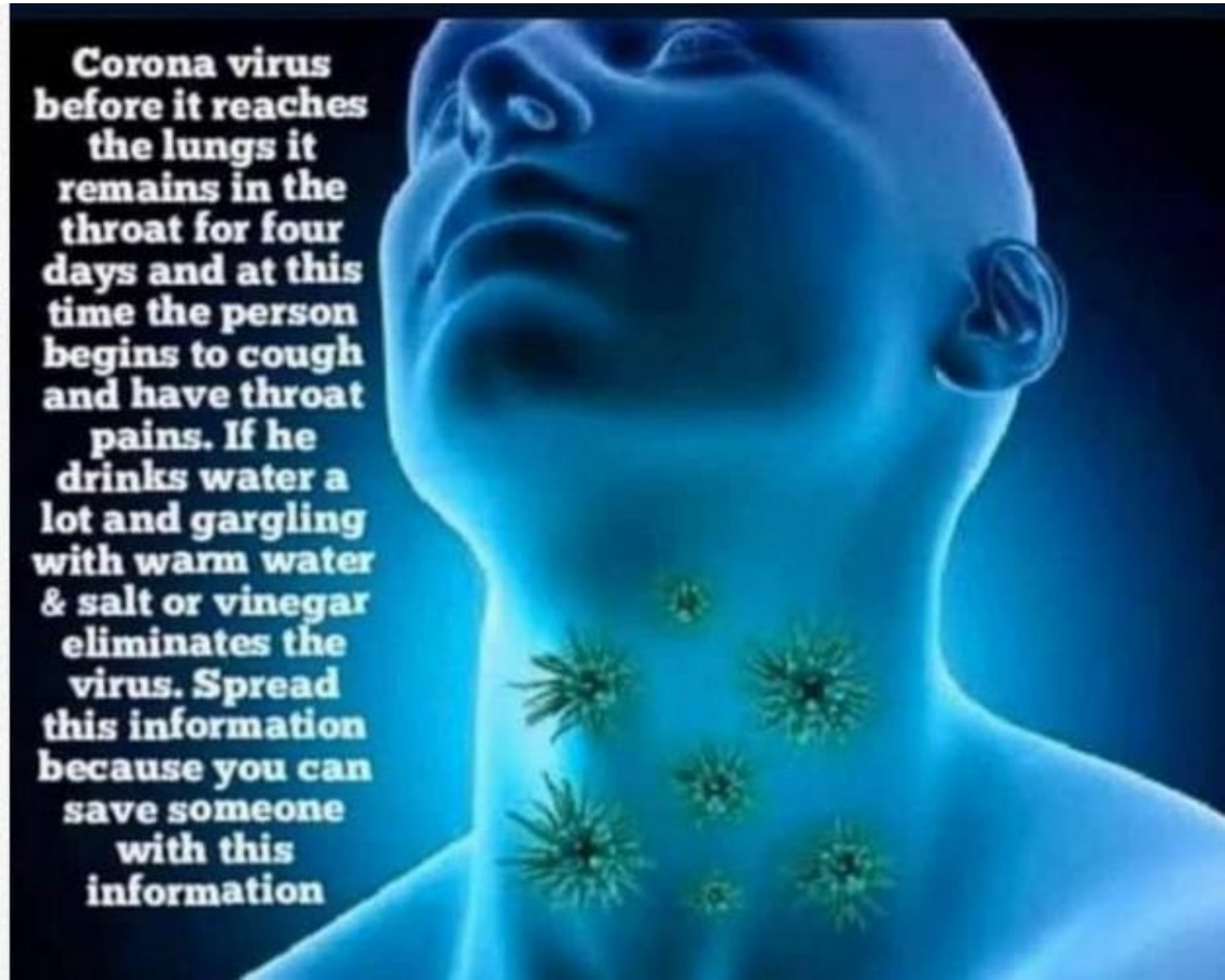
68,209 views • 23 Apr 2020 1K 230 SHARE SAVE ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5_gzTI9ADg_

EXAMPLE

DISINFORMATION CAN PUT PEOPLE'S LIFE AT DANGER

Like this viral picture has done.



Corona virus before it reaches the lungs it remains in the throat for four days and at this time the person begins to cough and have throat pains. If he drinks water a lot and gargling with warm water & salt or vinegar eliminates the virus. **Spread this information because you can save someone with this information**

WHO CAN BE FOOLED BY DIS- INFORMATION?

EVERYONE!

All age groups, genders, backgrounds,
regardless of education levels.

We are easier to fool when:

- strong feelings involved (love, fear, hope)
- message comes from someone we trust
- message is in line with our existing beliefs

FINAL PRESENTATION

WHO SHOULD FIGHT DIS- INFORMATION?

EVERYONE...

Journalists and influencers

Politicians

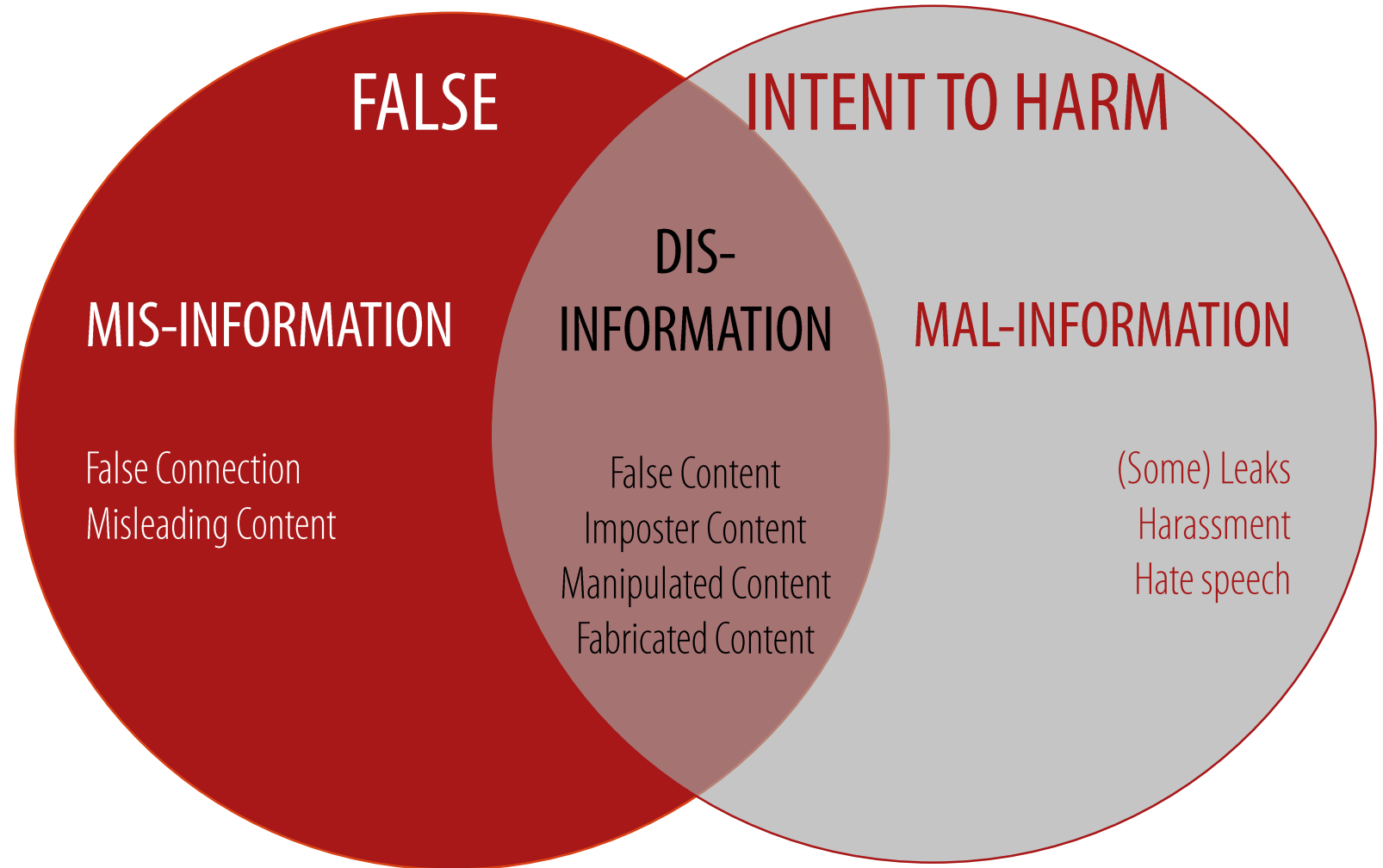
Media and social media companies

Educators

... YOU too!

- Be alert and verify strange news
- Think before you share news
- Talk to friends who may have been fooled

FAKE NEWS, WHAT IS IT ABOUT?



KNOWING WHAT IS TRUE AND FALSE

Which ways are there to check whether a news story is true or not?

Some ideas:

- Read the whole article – do the content and the headline match?
- Search the story on the internet – do other sources corroborate?
- Do you know what kind of sources they are?
- Verify the date and author
- Check if pictures look strange

FINAL PRESENTATION

THE SAD BUT TRUE STORY OF PENKA THE COW

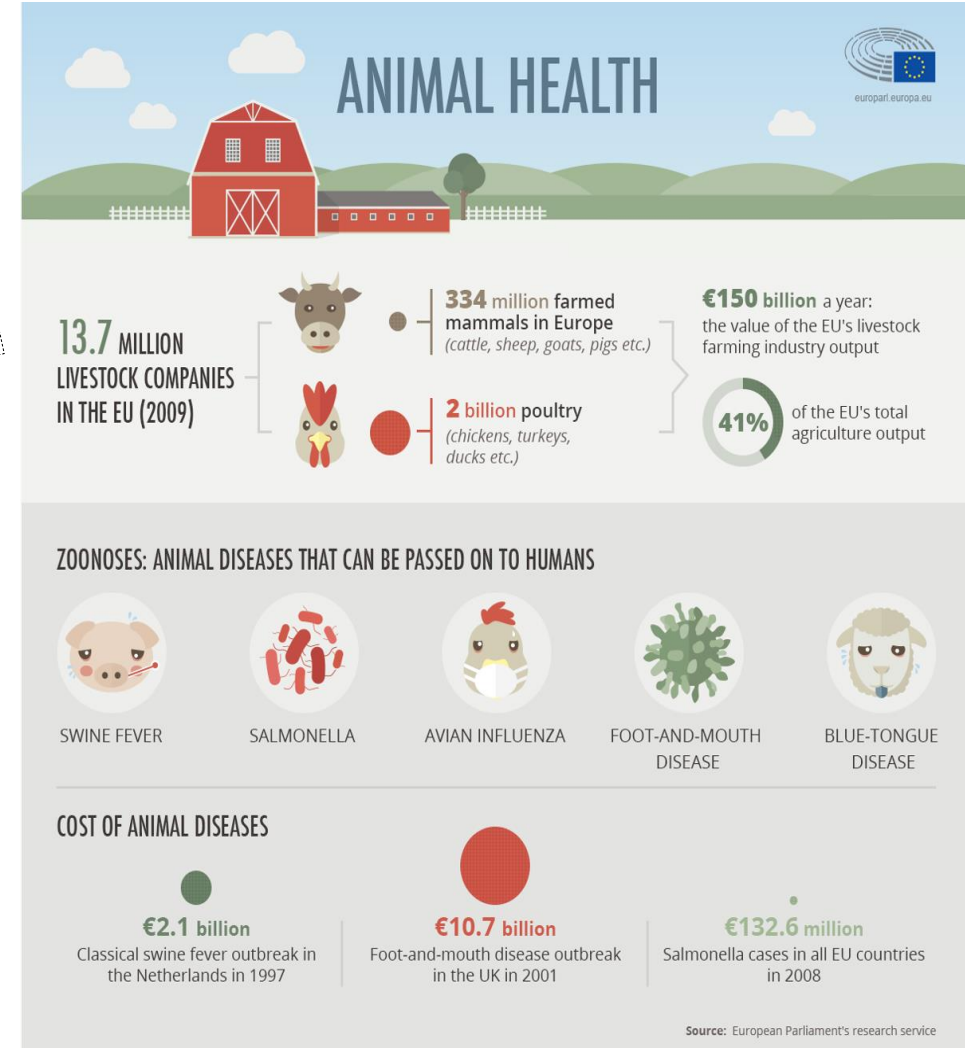
Often it is not about the facts but how you tell a story.

'How Penka the cow, sentenced to death by Brussels for straying from Bulgaria into Serbia sums up all that is wrong with the EU'

'EU madness: Penka the cow faces death sentence for straying outside the bloc without paperwork'



'Activists battle to prevent pregnant cow from being executed for "illegally" crossing into the EU'



THE FACT-CHECKING COMPASS

1. CHECK THE CONTENT

Are the facts and figures accurate? Is the article biased? A credible media outlet keeps one-sided opinions where they belong — in op-eds, not in news articles.

2. CHECK THE OUTLET

Do you know it? Does the URL look strange? Check the 'about' section. Who is behind it? Who is funding it? Double-check what other (trustworthy) sources say.

3. CHECK THE AUTHOR

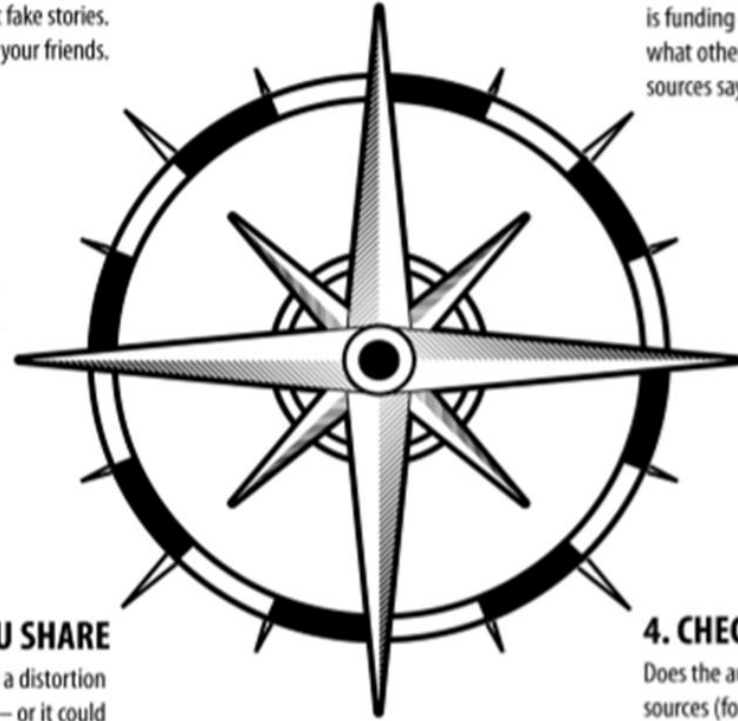
Does this person even exist? A well-respected journalist always has a track record. If the author has made up his or her name (or does not mention it), the rest is also likely to be fake.

4. CHECK THE SOURCES

Does the author use reliable sources (for example, well-established and respected media outlets)? Are the quoted experts real specialists? If the story uses anonymous (or no) sources, it could be fake.

5. CHECK THE PICTURES

Images are powerful, and it is easy to manipulate them. An image search can show if it has been used before in a different context. The InVID plugin⁽¹⁾ can help you detect manipulation of videos or pictures.



8. JOIN THE MYTH-BUSTERS⁽²⁾

Keep on top of the latest tricks and narratives used by those spreading disinformation. Report fake stories. Tell your friends.

7. QUESTION YOUR OWN BIASES

Sometimes a story is just too good or entertaining to be true. Take a deep breath, compare with reliable sources and keep a cool head.

6. THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

The story could be a distortion of real or old events — or it could be satire. The headline could be designed to spark strong emotions. If an event is real, reliable media will cover it.

EU MEASURES AGAINST DIS- INFORMATION

- “EU vs Disinfo” – special team for disinformation abroad
- Improve ways to identify disinformation quickly
- Warn citizens about risks of disinformation
- Put pressure on social media companies so that they also do their part
- Support fact-checkers and journalists inside and outside the EU

FOLLOW FACT-CHECKERS

- Lists of fact-checking organisations in your country are updated through the [Poynter Institute](#) and [Facebook](#)
- EU's own [anti-disinformation group](#) and "[think before you share](#)" campaign

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CONTACT

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This module was developed by the European Parliament – Spokesperson's Unit and not by the author of the other modules. © European Parliament 2020.

