

CARS CHECKLIST

CREDIBILITY

The Aim: Find a source that is proven to be credible and reliable, producing quality information.

1. What do you know about the poster?

- a. Is the account under their real name? Yes No Not Sure
- b. How long is their digital shadow?
 - i. Did they just join Twitter yesterday? Yes No Not Sure
 - ii. Are there other posts by this source? Yes No Not Sure
- c. Is the author an authority or expert on this subject? Yes No Not Sure
- d. How do you know this? Education Credentials Experience Past Content
- e. What makes this source believable? _____
- f. How does the author know what is claimed? _____
- g. What sorts of reviews exist on the person? Positive Negative No Digital Trace

2. What is the quality of the source?

- a. Are there spelling or grammatical errors in their posts? Yes No
- b. Are there dead links or other formatting errors? Yes No

3. Who does the person work for?

- a. Is content sponsored? Yes No
- b. Is their employer an authority on the subject? Yes No
- c. How do you know this? Professional Association Experience Peer Review
- d. What sorts of reviews exist on their employer? Positive Negative No Digital Trace



Be vigilant about the tone of articles and posts. If it is overly assertive, it is not likely to be a good source.

ACCURACY

The Aim: Find a source that is proven to be current, relevant and accurate.

1. How timely is the information posted?

a. When was the information published? _____

b. When was the last time the person posted before this?

c. Is the information still relevant?

Yes No Not Sure



To check when a webpage was last updated in Firefox go to the Tools tab in the menu bar and select Page Info

2. How accurate is the post?

a. Can the information be corroborated with other sources? Yes No Not Sure

b. Does the source contradict itself? Yes No Not Sure

c. Does the source make vague assertions? Yes No Not Sure

d. Can you find information with a different viewpoint? Yes No Not Sure



Prefer sources that use specific language over those that use general or sweeping terms (e.g. always, never, every etc.)

REASONABLENESS

The Aim: Find an honest source free of bias.

1. Who is the intended audience of this post?

a. Can you identify for whom this post was made? Yes No Not Sure

b. If yes, who is the audience? _____

c. Is there a motive for the post? Yes No Not Sure

d. If yes, what is the motive? _____

e. If this person has a following, who are they and what does it tell you about the person?

2. Do this person's posts express opposing opinions? Yes No Not Sure
3. Are opposing arguments all presented in a fair and balanced way? Yes No Not Sure
4. Does this person use emotional language? Yes No Not Sure
5. Are the claims made by the source exaggerated or unsourced? Yes No Not Sure
6. Is there any conflict of interest? Yes No Not Sure

SUPPORT

The Aim: Find a source backed up by other reliable sources

1. Does the source cite or mention others? Yes No Not Sure
 - a. Where did the source find its information? _____
 - b. Is there a link to more information? Yes No Not Sure
 - c. Can the source be verified? Yes No Not Sure
 - i. If yes, what tools did you use to verify the post?
Suncalc Google Maps Wolfram Alpha Other: _____
 - d. Can the source be contacted? Yes No Not Sure
2. Are other mentioned unidentified or labeled as anonymous? Yes No Not Sure
3. Are you able to independently verify the source's claims (i.e. can you triangulate the claims with two or more sources beyond what the source provides?) Yes No Not Sure



Would you stake your journalistic reputation on this source? How will the subject's life be affected by your reporting - especially if you are wrong?