

HOW TO CHECK IF ONLINE NEWS IS THE **REAL** DEAL...

REAL – REFLECT ON THE STORY AND ASK: COULD THIS BE REAL?

EVIDENCE

INVESTIGATE THE INFORMATION

WEB PAGES

SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE

WHAT IS THE SITE? HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT?
DOES THE URL LOOK CORRECT?

DATE/TIME/PICTURES

DOES THE TIMELINE MAKE SENSE?
DO THE PICTURES MAKE SENSE?

AUTHOR

WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE PIECE? IS IT
A JOURNALIST?
IS IT SOMEONE RELIABLE?

BEYOND THE HEADLINE

WHAT DOES THE BODY OF THE PIECE SAY?
ARE THERE ANY TYPOS/SPELLING
MISTAKES/ERRORS?

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT

DOES THE NAME AND HANDLE LOOK
RIGHT? HAVE YOU HEARD OF THEM?
DO YOU KNOW THEM?

AUTHOR

WHO WROTE THIS AND WHO
SENT/SHARED IT? IS IT SOMEONE RELIABLE?
DO THEY HAVE A BIG FOLLOWING? WHO ARE
THEIR FOLLOWERS?

LANGUAGE AND STYLE

DOES IT SOUND LIKE PREVIOUS POSTINGS?
IS THIS SOMETHING THEY ARE LIKELY TO SAY?
IS IT WRITTEN IN THE STYLE YOU
WOULD EXPECT?

INTERACTION WITH POSTS

ARE FOLLOWERS EXPRESSING SURPRISE
OR DISBELIEF? ARE THEY REACTING AS YOU
WOULD EXPECT?

ADD IT ALL UP – WHEN YOU ADD UP ALL THE EVIDENCE, DOES IT MAKE
SENSE GIVEN WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT?

LOOK AROUND – HAS THE STORY BEEN REPORTED ANYWHERE ELSE?