Today’s news: REAL or FAKE?

Students who meet the ISTE Standards for Students are able to critically select, evaluate and synthesize digital resources. That means understanding the difference between real & fake news.

Here’s how to tell them apart:

- **REAL**
  - Comes from a respected news outlet
    - If you’re not sure, verify the story on:
      - Snopes.com
      - FactCheck.org
      - PolitiFact.com
  - URL matches the news source
    - Sites ending in .gov or .edu are the most trustworthy.
  - URL is strange or doesn’t match the news outlet
    - Avoid sites ending in lo or .co.
    - Carefully scrutinize sites ending in .com.
  - Has a current date
    - See if other news outlets have picked up the story.
  - Backs up claims with links to credible sources
    - Click the links to make sense.
  - Has a byline naming the person who wrote the article
    - Google the author to learn more.

- **FAKE**
  - Comes from an unfamiliar website
    - Check the home and about pages.
    - Look for signs of:
      - Satire (“for entertainment only”)
      - Bias (has a political agenda)
  - URL matches an unfamiliar website
    - Avoid sites ending in .co or .lo.
  - URL is strange or doesn’t match the news outlet
    - Carefully scrutinize websites ending in .com.
  - May have an old date or there’s no other coverage
    - Outdated news stories can be misleading.
  - Headline is outrageous or doesn’t match article
    - Be skeptical of over-the-top or emotional headlines.
  - Headline is outrageous or doesn’t match article
    - Be skeptical of over-the-top or emotional headlines.
  - Doesn’t list an author, so you can’t investigate them
    - Credible news sources provide contact information.
  - Fails to provide any proof of claims
    - Don’t trust info if you can’t trace back to its source.

Help your students gain media literacy skills with resources from the ISTE Blog.

- Go to iste.org/subscribe to get the latest articles delivered to your inbox.
- Dive into the ISTE Standards for Students at iste.org/StandardsForStudents

© 2017 International Society for Technology in Education. Statistics sourced from Stanford History Education Group.