

## Fact or Fake? News Literacy in the Post Truth Era

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News literacy is the ability to use critical thinking to judge the reliability and credibility of the news.

Having reliable info is the foundation of self-governance. Information comes to us through many sources including word of mouth, social media, newspapers, tabloids, radio and TV. Fake news has been around forever and comes in many forms for example: propaganda which is purposefully designed to mislead, slanted reports of real facts, satire which is sometimes misinterpreted as truth, or intentionally deceptive hoaxes. **We tend to interpret news as truth when it fits into our existing beliefs or theories.**

The international word of the year is post-truth, an adjective defined as a situation in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotions or beliefs. We **seek** information that supports our beliefs and **confirm** this information as facts when it aligns with our existing beliefs.

To fact check, consider the source, check the author, check the date and check our biases.