

SIFT - 4 MOVES FOR CHECKING INFORMATION



FOUR MOVES & A HABIT
FROM WEBLITERACY FOR STUDENT FACT CHECKERS

Information literacy is essential to navigating and participating in digital spaces.
Use the four moves to help discern the truth when using the web.

THE HABIT: CHECK YOUR EMOTIONS

If you're having a strong emotional reaction, whether it's anger, frustration, or validation, take a moment and pause. At these times your critical perspective might be diminished when you should be fact-checking. Slow down and use your moves!

MOVE 1: CHECK FOR PREVIOUS WORK

Many provocative claims on the Internet have already been fact-checked or researched. News coverage, trusted online sites, or fact-checking sites, such as Politifact or Snopes, may have a synthesis of the evidence readily available.

MOVE 2: GO UPSTREAM TO THE SOURCE

Check the embedded web links or perform a search to find the original or search for the source of the information.

MOVE 3: READ Laterally

Not all sources are created equal. If you are unsure about the quality of your source, read laterally across other trustworthy sites to find more information about the platform or author.

MOVE 4: CIRCLE BACK

Sometimes reading laterally will suggest that a source is not accurate, is more complex than you thought, or leads to a dead end. Stop and use what you have learned to begin a better-informed search.

Logos: ADP (American Democracy Project), TDC (Texas Digital Literacy Center), and AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) are displayed at the bottom.