PBS NEWSHOUR
STUDENT REPORTING LABS

How do I debunk science reporting in the news?

List Becky and Nsikan's 6 tips for being a smart science news consumer.
Tips are spread throughout the video, keep track of them here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

What are some of the reasons Nsikan was skeptical of the article he read about the millennial horns study?

Name **at least two issues** Nsikan found when he looked further into the millennial horns study.

Niskan stated that if the subjects of a study are both **representative** and **random**, then the things scientists learn about them can be generalized to make claims about a bigger group. What does it mean for a group of subjects to be:

a. **Representative**

b. **Random**

Nsikan said it's important to look for the **source data**. What is that and why is it so important?

Why is it a problem that one of the scientists conducting this study about posture also sells posture pillows?

This problem is called a **conflict of interest**. Based on this example, define a conflict of interest in your own words.

<u>Further thinking:</u>

This story went viral partly because cellphone use is a topic that interests almost everyone. What are some topics that affect your life enough to click on a science article about them?

How can you make sure you're not being fooled by bad science reporting on these topics? **Pick two** of Becky and Nsikan's tips and explain how you might use them in real life.

Why do you think so many media outlets reported on the millennial horns study instead of digging deeper and realizing that it wasn't reliable like Nsikan did? Do you think "viral" social media culture has to do with it?