

Imagine you are on a research team and have been asked to evaluate news posts, articles, or other information on a specific topic.

Complete a SIFT analysis of at least three relevant and current sources to assess the reliability (trustworthiness) or unreliability (falseness) of the information.

Here is an example of a SIFT analysis by Isaac (MediaWise) of a Tik Tok news report by Dylan Page called *Africa Is Splitting Apart*.

pbslearningmedia.org/resource/how-sensational-claims-spread-misleading-info/video-mediawise-student-reporting-labs/

S Stop. After learning a bit about the author and their claim, Isaac stopped to research whether Africa could actually be splitting apart. With 2 million views this news report was popular.

I Investigate. The author Dylan Page claimed to be the number one news reporter on TikTok but Isaac couldn't find anything to show Dylan is a journalist or with a news outlet.

F Find. Searching the title "Africa is splitting apart" and scrolling down to find an accurate news article from USA Today (2018), Isaac learned that a large crack in the ground in western Kenya was causing people to worry about Africa splitting apart due to shifting tectonic plates. However, the article explained that this will take MILLIONS OF YEARS.

T Trace. Isaac traced back to read more in the original source and learned that seismologists are experts who study tectonic plates. A seismologist who had examined the images used in articles on *Africa Splitting Apart* explained how they were from other unrelated events and were false.

Assessment Author Dylan Page lacks credibility as a journalist as no sources could be found to confirm this claim. This suggests that the news report would not need to follow journalistic rules of fact-checking for accuracy. Page has sensationalized a truthful account with a catchy headline and omitted the important fact that it will take millions of years for Africa to potentially split apart. Also, an expert identified that images on the topic are false.
Assess this as partly reliable and partly unreliable.

Choose a research topic. Imagine you are on a research team and have been asked to evaluate news posts, articles, or other information on a specific topic that you have chosen.

Complete a SIFT analysis. Find three relevant and current sources (within the last 5 years) and complete the SIFT analysis chart below to assess the reliability (trustworthiness) or unreliability (falseness) of each of the three sources of the information.

Name of Research Topic
Source #1 - Type of information (news post/ site, article/site, etc.) - Author(s) or organization - Title/claim
Explain why this source grabbed your interest/attention. Is there anything you question?
S Stop. Open a new tab and search for information about the author or organization. Say whether they seem credible or not.
F Find. Open new tabs and search for what others say on the topic. Based on your findings explain if this is misinformation (false) and why.
I Investigate. Open new tabs and search for what others say on the topic.
T Trace. Look over the original source to see what experts you need to search for more information on the topic.
Assessment Summarize your SIFT analysis conclude by assessing reliability or unreliability.
Source #2 Follow the same steps as outline in Source #1 State Type, Author, Title/claim.
Why did this get your interest/attention? Is there anything you question?
S Stop.
F Find.
I Investigate.
T Trace.
Assessment
Source #3 Follow the same steps as outline in Source #1 above. State Type, Author, Title/claim.
Why did this get your interest/attention? Is there anything you question?
S Stop.
F Find.
I Investigate.
T Trace.
Assessment