HOW TO BE A CRITICAL READER ONLINE

CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission, and its contact info. Google the site - don’t expect the site to tell you if it is trust-worthy and don’t rely on the appearance of the site.

READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?

CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick internet search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

CHECK THE DATE
Reprinting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.

IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a Librarian, professor, or consult a fact-checking site.

CHECK YOUR REACTION
Does it make you really angry or elicit other strong emotion? Be careful of sensational stories, memes, etc. that are meant to get a reaction but provide little reliable information.

TAKE TIME
Take some time to understand the information using some of these tips. Don’t just quickly scan and believe what you see without questioning it.

This infographic was created based on the International Federation of Library Associations’ “How to Spot Fake News” infographic:
https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174