

NEWS LITERACY

Journalists strive for truth and accuracy, fairness and balance, accountability, independence and to serve humanity.

Pew Research Center indicates most American adults feel they are confident in their ability to identify fake news. Research shows

81% of American adults

feel that they are at least somewhat confident in their ability to identify fake news.

But for all of this confidence,

23% say they have shared fake news,
whether knowingly or unknowingly.*

Take the time to educate yourself so you can recognize real versus fake news. To fully evaluate a story's validity, one must follow five steps to analyze the story.

STEP FOUR

Look for evidence that supports the details or claims that are made in the article. Confirm that the details or claims are verifiable by other sources.

For example, review "Prescription drug database inches closer to reality after Missouri Senate Oks limited version," on STLtoday.com on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

1. What evidence is provided to support the details or claims that are made?

This article explains the efforts of several state Representatives and Senators to prevent or enact the establishment of a prescription drug database in Missouri. Facts are stated, reasons for positions taken are outlined and the how the various plans would be executed is explained. The amount of evidence provided supports the details and claims made.

2. Are the details or claims verifiable by other sources?

The article provides links to sites not affiliated with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. These sources and other Internet searches allow readers to vet the information for themselves. Performing this vetting indicates the details and claims are verifiable.

FEATURE 4 OF 5

Visit **STLtoday.com/Truth**

to access this article.

* PEW RESEARCH CENTER DEC. 2016