

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 ONE

Identify who wrote this article, where it was first published and the targeted audience.

For example, review "For some families, pain at finding vandalized headstones at University City cemetery," on STLtoday.com on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

1. WHO WROTE THIS ARTICLE?

Ashley Lisenby is a digital and breaking news reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. A regular reader should readily recognize her name. A new reader would be able to do an internet search and find links to many of her stories.

2. WHERE WAS THE ARTICLE FIRST PUBLISHED?

This is a follow up to a story that has been covered by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for several days. The story was first published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. This timeline indicates that the information is up-to-date.

3. WHO IS THE TARGETED AUDIENCE?

This story is for the general St. Louis and national audiences. It is written in easily understood language.

FEATURE 1 OF 5

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to access this article.

* PEW RESEARCH CENTER DEC. 2016