Assess your source with the fake news checklist below. The more “No’s” you select, the more likely it is that the article is fake news.

1. **Is the article professional looking?**
   Assess the design of the article. Is it easy to read? Do images match the story? Is it poorly written? These are indicators that the article is not professional journalism.

2. **Is the news outlet well known and trustworthy?**
e.g. *The Globe and Mail* and *CBC* are respected news outlets. Look up any news that you don’t know. Hint: try mediabiasfactcheck.com.

3. **Does the “About Us” section seem credible?**
   Trusted news sources have an “About Us” section with detailed information about the news outlet, policies, and contact information.

4. **Does the article have a trusted author?**
   Fake news often does not list an author or the author may not exist. If the author is included search the author’s name to see what else s/he has written and if s/he is well known.

5. **Does the article present a balanced view of the main issue?**
   Fake news may present a single side of an issue and use emotional language to support the claim.

6. **Has the article been written well?**
   If the article has typos, poor grammar, or unprofessional writing it is an indicator that it comes from a low quality news source.

7. **Have you examined your biases on the issue?**
   You are more likely to believe fake news if it confirms pre-existing beliefs. This is called confirmation bias.

8. **Are the sources credible and attributed (cited) properly?**
   Quality news will quote experts and provide names, titles, and credentials. Fake news will elude to “experts” without naming names.

9. **Can you find other articles to corroborate the claims?**
   If the article is citing another study, check the claims in the original study. If you don’t trust the information, check other trusted sources to corroborate.

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Adapted from: