

Name: _____

S.I.F.T. Worksheet

The SIFT method is a media evaluation strategy developed by Mike Caulfield, a digital literacy expert. This method will help you determine whether a source is credible, reliable, and unbiased.

Provide a citation (title, author, and location) for your source here:

What type of source is it? Circle: **Social Media** **Magazine** **Newspaper** **Book** **Website** **Other?**

1. STOP

What is your initial reaction to the headline? Does it make you feel anything? Is the headline emotionally charged?	Explain:
Do you already know who this author or publisher is? Do they have a reputation?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:
Do you already know anything about this topic?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:

2. Investigate the source

Who is the author/creator? Do they publish under their full, real name?	Explain:
Is this person qualified to write on this topic? Can you find their educational background, work experience, or other things they've written? Do they seem biased?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:
What group or organization published the source? How did you find the source?	Explain:

Check Google, Wikipedia, the Library of Congress, and other places to discover the reputation of the publisher. Is it possible that the publisher has a specific viewpoint they want to push?	Explain:
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3. Find better coverage

Google the topic/event. Are other reputable sources writing on this topic? What are they saying? Ground News and AllSides are both good websites for finding diverse coverage.	Explain:
Try a fact-checking site, like Snopes or factcheck.org. Do fact-checkers match the author's claims?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:
Is there a reasonable consensus on the topic? Does the author of this source agree or disagree with what other sources are saying?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:

4. Trace back to the original source

Does the author provide links, quotes, or citations? Investigate each one. Does the author accurately represent what their sources are saying?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain:
Is there more context to the issue that the author didn't cover? Does the context change your interpretation of the topic?	Explain:
Can you follow links back to the earliest source that wrote on this topic? Is it reputable?	☐ Yes ☐ No Explain: