

FACT-CHECKING RESOURCES

It is really hard to know if what you just read is accurate. Did the President really say that? Does a story say a source is claiming something you just can't believe? Here are five resources where you can check the facts and a few more that specialize in checking facts on internet rumors. Because just how many times are you going to mourn Andy Griffith's death on your Facebook page?

• Politifact

Perhaps the most recognized (and awarded after it won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009) of the fact-checking sites, this one has the "Truth-O-Meter," which ranks a claim as: True, Mostly True, False and the notorious Pants on Fire. It can be found at politifact.com.



• FactCheck.org

This project was started in 2003 as a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. It mainly deals with claims made in the political arena.

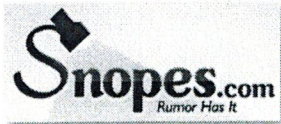


• Washington Post's Fact Checker

This is a blog that looks at claims made by politicians, political organizations and, occasionally, the media itself.

• Snopes.com

The granddaddy of fact-checking websites. Originally started to dispel urban legends touted in chat rooms long before social media, now, it is often used to beat back the most bizarre claims and outlandish memes. Also, Andy Griffith died in 2015. Don't fall for that post on Facebook the next time you see it.



See, you fell for it again. He actually died in 2012. This is why we need Snopes.

A couple more sites like Snopes that try to debunk internet rumors are **Truth or Fiction** and **Hoax Slayer**.

NPR Fact Checker

This site deals with mostly political statements, but occasionally there will be a short audio clip

explaining the fact check.

A couple sites that "specialize" in certain areas:

• **Viral Spiral**, which is part of FactCheck.org. It specializes in helping to determine if a claim is spreading false information. Often it is a question someone asks the site regarding something they saw on the internet, followed by an answer (usually refuting it).

• **FlackCheck.org**. This site deals with false claims in advertising, science and healthcare messages.

• **OpenSecrets**, part of the Center for Responsive Politics, tracks campaign spending and money spent on lobbying.

• **Sunlight Foundation**: This site uses public data to help bring more transparency to reporting.

• **Media Bias/Fact Check**: This site is a bias meter of the fact checkers. It actually focuses on the bias level on reporting and fact checking sites.

Some sites that help promote news literacy:

• **News Literacy Project**, founded a decade ago by a reporter at the Los Angeles Times. This site is dedicated to checking facts, but it has also become the go-to source for educators and those wanting to learn about what resources are needed to find a credible source and, also, to just get a good idea of how journalism works. The founder was quoted in the Washington Post as saying NLP's goal is to "see news literacy embedded in the American educational experience."

• **Poynter Institute**. An organization that has been around for more than 40 years, Poynter has a mission of making journalism better and helping the public better understand what journalists do. Its digital literacy initiative **MediaWise** is a great tool full of training on how to tell what is factual and worth your time.