

Top 10 sites to help students check their facts

In a political climate where sharing fake news has become commonplace, it's more important than ever to rely on trustworthy and dogged fact-checking services to vet information.

While these sites always work overtime during a national election, this year the volume of work has only continued to increase since President Trump's inauguration, says Glenn Kessler, the Washington Post reporter in charge of the Fact Checker. "We're writing about a president who makes quite a number of misstatements. This has increased our workload and increased the level of interest in fact checking," he told the Associated Press.

Our job as citizens requires more than just being informed. We must also be vigilant about verifying information before posting it on social media. While taking a second look at claims made by politicians and even journalists is a start, we still can't outsource our brains and our judgment, says Tessa Jolls, president of the [Center for Media Literacy](#). "In my view, we have to look as critically at the fact-checking sites as we do the news articles themselves," she says.

A good fact-checking site uses neutral wording, provides unbiased sources to support its claims and reliable links, says Frank Baker, author of [Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom](#) and creator of the [Media Literacy Clearinghouse](#). He adds, "Readers should apply the same critical thinking/questioning to fact-check sites."

Here's a rundown of 10 of the top fact- and bias-checking sites to share with

your students.

[AllSides](#). While not a fact-checking site, AllSides curates stories from right, center and left-leaning media so that readers can easily compare how bias influences reporting on each topic.

[Fact Check](#). This nonpartisan, nonprofit project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by U.S. political players, including politicians, TV ads, debates, interviews and news releases.

[Media Matters](#). This nonprofit and self-described liberal-leaning research center monitors and corrects conservative misinformation in the media.

[NewsBusters](#). A project of the conservative Media Research Center, NewsBusters is focused on “documenting, exposing and neutralizing liberal media bias.”

[Open Secrets](#). This nonpartisan, independent and nonprofit website run by the Center for Responsive Politics tracks how much and where candidates get their money.

[Politifact](#). This Pulitzer Prize winning website rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials. Run by editors and reporters from the independent newspaper Tampa Bay Times, Politifact features the Truth-O-Meter that rates statements as “True,” “Mostly True,” “Half True,” “False,” and “Pants on Fire.”

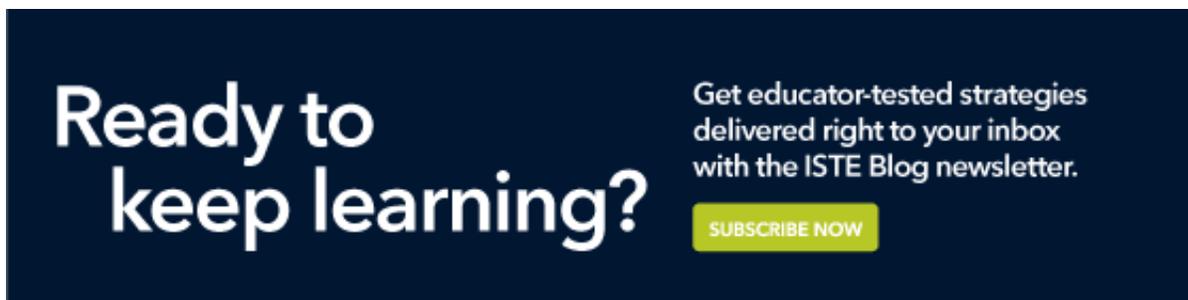
[ProPublica](#). This independent, nonprofit newsroom has won several Pulitzer Prizes, including the 2016 Prize for Explanatory Reporting. ProPublica produces investigative journalism in the public interest.

[Snopes](#). This independent, nonpartisan website run by professional

researcher and writer David Mikkelson researches urban legends and other rumors. It is often the first to set the facts straight on wild fake news claims.

[The Sunlight Foundation](#). This nonpartisan, nonprofit organization uses public policy data-based journalism to make politics more transparent and accountable.

[Washington Post Fact Checker](#). Although the Washington Post has a left-center bias, its checks are excellent and sourced. The bias shows up because they fact check conservative claims more than liberal ones.



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