Our three-step fact-checking process is as follows:

1. **Check for previous fact-checking:** Does the article/post/website cite sources and provide links to those sources? (If not, is this an easily debunkable story included on Snopes.com, FactCheck.org, or PolitiFact.org?)

2. **Go upstream to the source:** Follow those links all the way to the *original source of information* (may be a multi-step process, if your source is citing something that’s citing something else that’s citing something else, etc.)

3. **Read laterally:** Search for information about the website on which the information was posted, using some of our advanced Google search techniques.

Each member of your group should select an article or post that you’ve seen shared online, through one of your social media accounts, a news aggregator like Google News, or wherever you regularly go to connect with stories of interest. **Individually answer the questions below.** Try to select an article/post that you’re unsure about (e.g. you probably already think a NY Times article is relatively reliable, but what about an article on Medium.com?).

**Write the title of the article and title of the website below:**

First, does this article/post indicate and link to the sources of its information throughout the article? If so, what are those sources?

Next, go upstream by following the link to one of those sources. What is the title of this new article, and what website is it published on?
Skim the new article. **Does it link to any further original sources of information?** Where does the new article appear to get its information?

Finally, **read laterally**. Try a Google search for the website that’s hosting this new article (e.g., cnn.com -site:cnn.com). **What do you learn about this website?** What are some key characteristics of this particular organization? Is it relatively trustworthy, or not? Why?

Returning to your first article, what’s your assessment? **Does this article appear to be “a true, honest reflection of a given story or situation as it is currently understood?”**

Once finished, **share your results with your group members** and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this fact-checking process.

Be prepared to **share your thoughts** with the class!