Tip Sheet from Professional Fact-Checkers

- **When you land on an unfamiliar website, open a new tab.** Figure out where the information is coming from.
  - Google the author.
  - Google the organization or its president.
  - If the article cites a source, go to the actual source to see if the claim is true.

- **It’s not about “About”**
  - If the site is trying to fool people, they can certainly make up a great “About” page.

- **Look past the order of search results**
  - Google does NOT put the most reliable results first; it puts the most linked-to results and paid ads at the top.
  - Instead, look very carefully at URLs and abstracts.
  - Scroll down to the bottom of the results page, or even to the second page.

- **Check the date**
  - The story may originally have been true, but is now falsely linked to a recent event.

- **Is this a joke?**
  - The source may be a satirical site. Go to the original, not just the Facebook post.

- **Check your biases**
  - Do you want to believe it because it confirms your feelings?

- **Consult the experts:**
  - PolitiFact.com
  - FactCheck.org
  - Snopes.com
  - The Washington Post Fact Checker