Source Reliability: Cheat Sheet

1. **How can I tell if a source is legitimate or Fake?**

* Question the topic: does this seem real?
* look at the URL ending:

.com= commercial, .org= organization, .edu= educational organization .gov= government

* Fact check: google the story – are other reliable news sources covering it?
* Image check: google image search – what can you find out about it?
* Source check: .Wikipedia search - is that news source reliable?

1. **How can I identify Bias?**

* Is this news source right, left or center? - “allsides.com”
* Who is the author/ creator of news source?
  + country?
  + organization?
* look at the word choice – descriptors, adjectives, examples
  + what message is inferred? (tone)
  + what is included? excluded?

1. **How can I tell if a source’s bias impacts reliability?**
   * look at the choice of examples: what facts are omitted? What is emphasized?
   * do they try to convince the reader with buzz words? bandwagon? fear? the slippery slope?
   * where do they get their facts? What research is this based on? -google this!