Authenticity of Sources
From bradycampaign.org: “The The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence”
“This PSA is satire,” Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign, said. “Whether the trigger is pulled by a toddler, a convicted felon, domestic abuser, or terrorist, we have a problem in America with guns too easily falling into the wrong hands.”
“Shock as ‘Harry Potter dementor’ appears in sky”

“A STRANGE human-like figure appeared in the clouds above a shopping centre in Zambia, sending some customers fleeing in terror.”
“Zambian news outlets are reporting that eyewitnesses said the figure seemed to be looking down on the shopping centre below it.”

“Many locals who witnessed the event thought that it was a manifestation.”

“One eyewitness was quoted as saying: "It was so strange."
“Spirit Man” kite designed by Martin Lester:

- We would expect to find additional photographs or videos documenting the sighting.

- Fabricated stories: “completely made up with the intention to mislead.”
Click bait--sensational headlines to drive traffic to a site (You won’t believe what happens next!!).
Satire--the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose or critique contemporary issues and politics.

Experts Predict Planet Will Run Out of Usable Band Names by 2019

THENS, Iowa — The punk and hardcore music communities are facing an international crisis, as scene experts predict the planet will run out of decent, usable band names by 2019, according to a new report in the peer-reviewed zine *Razorcake*. 
Remember:

- Fake news is not always easy to detect.
- Emotions drive our interactions with information.
- Social Media has a large impact.
  - Lots of sharing. Not so much reading (sharing headlines and not actual information).
- Winning vs “Truth”.
What can you do?

- Have a broad range of sources.
- Read. Don’t react.
- Skeptic 101: Refuse claims that have no evidence.
- Look for outside evidence.

Avoid news sources that insult or ignore alternative views. Examples include: Conservative Talk Radio (Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Michael Savage, etc.), Late Night TV Hosts (Rachel Maddow, Keith Olbermann, Trevor Noah, Stephen Colbert, Seth Meyers).

Make sure you first have a basic understanding of... government structures and how they operate, political borders and disputes around the world, the difference between the private and public sector, the difference between liberals and conservatives.

Don’t live in a bubble. You’re already in one if... you’ve blocked friends who disagree with you on social media, all the trusted people in your life are ideologically aligned, you only receive news from agreeable sources, you refuse to discuss or respect political differences.

Most TV news has a slight liberal bias, prompting Fox News to develop a strong conservative bias. Conservative talk radio has an extreme bias.

Be weary of “human interest” stories about murder, kidnapping, and crime. They negatively skew reality for the sake of higher ratings.

Diversify your news intake. Read both up-to-the-minute news and weekly/monthly publications, all from a variety of sources on the political spectrum.

Make a serious effort to understand the other side. Start by assuming the best in people. Ask questions and listen more than you talk.
Freedom shouldn’t be a privilege of the few. #sharethesafety

See photos and video from the June 22 announcement at Ronald Reagan Library >

Read the Press Release