

# Checking Your Sources: The Five C's of Critical Consuming

Name:

Instructions: Use the Checklist below to assess the article you selected from Newsela.com. Choose a level and select a political article if possible.

#1: **Context** - Look at the context of the article.

When was it written?

Where does it come from (look at byline)?

Could events have changed since then? How?

Where could you find new information that could change your perspective, and what types of questions about this topic might you ask to determine this new information?

#2: **Credibility** - Check the credibility of the source.

Does the site have a reputation for journalistic integrity?

Does the author cite credible sources? Or is it satirical? Is it on a list of fake news sites?

Could it be an advertisement posing as a real news story?

What could the author or the article's sponsors stand to gain by disseminating the information in this article?

#3: **Construction**. Analyze the construction of the article.

Is the tone of the article objective, or biased? What words helped you draw that conclusion? Look for "loaded words" and propaganda techniques.

If you identified a bias, what is the bias?

Does the article leave out information that's important to helping the reader draw conclusions? Write it here.

Does the author make it easy to distinguish between the facts and opinions? Or is it simply all speculation?

Name:

#4: **Corroboration:** Corroborate the information with other credible news sources.

Make sure it's not the only source making the claim. Where else have you confirmed this information?

#5: **Compare:** Compare it to other news sources to get different perspectives.

Find other credible sources from other areas of the ideological or political spectrum to provide nuance and get a bigger picture of what's actually happening. List these sources here.

Thanks to John Spencer for sharing his lesson!

Please send to the printer upon completion.