FAKE NEWS TRIANGLE

TEXT

Does it use verifiable facts & information; sources; contain links?

How might its form – blog, tweet, editorial - affect its credibility?

Are the other items on the same website believable?

Are there spelling or grammatical errors; prejudicial words?

Does it represent multiple points of view?

Does it include responses from the people it is reporting on?

Are significant points of view omitted?

What values are promoted?

Is there a statement urging you to share this widely?

Does an image search indicate that this image is real & related?

AUDIENCE

How does this news appeal/not appeal to you?

How might your online activities have led to your awareness of this news story?

To which audiences might this story NOT appear?

Why might this news be 'trending?'

Might the fact that it is trending influence you to believe or to suspect the news?

In what different ways might people use or consume this news story? Who is sharing it? Who is responding? How?

Are your values represented? Why or why not?

Are there elements in this news that appeal to your biases? How? (Bias confirmation occurs when information confirms your worldview.)

Who would you definitely NOT share this news with? Why?
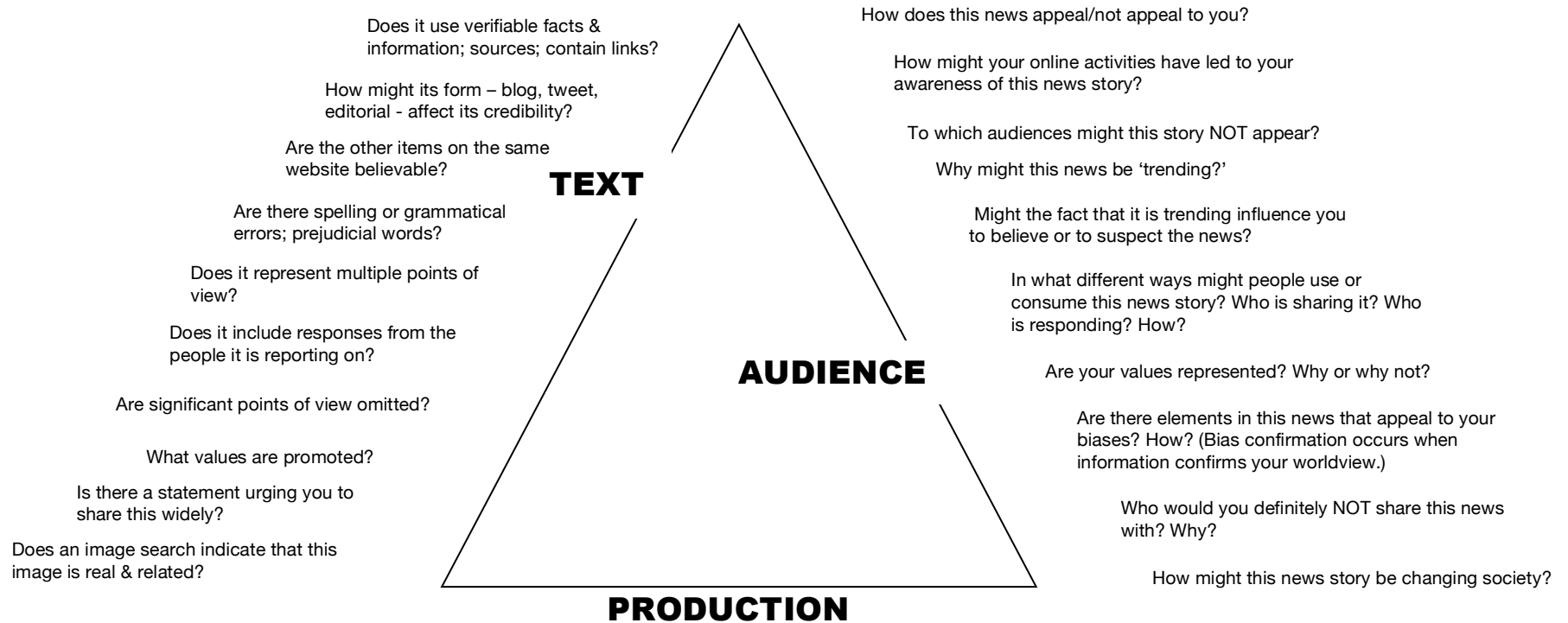
How might this news story be changing society?

PRODUCTION

Search multiple sites for this news (triangulation). Can you validate it?

What do searches reveal about the author's authority and believability?

Check the 'About Us' link and do a search for the website, reading others' assessments of it.
Use whois.com to discover the owner and snopes.com, politifact.com and/or wikipedia.com to assess the site's reliability.

Where else has this news story appeared?

On which platform(s) is the news posted? What might you infer about the news story's purpose from knowing this?

Use key words to infer the news story's purpose(s). Do you infer that the news story is intended to inform, to persuade, to shame, and/or to promote a specific worldview?

Who might gain—and who might suffer—from the consumption of this news? How?

See over for a comprehensive list of Questions …

TEXT:

What type of news is this? (Local, national, international etc.)Is the news dated? Is it a current date? What is its form? e.g., an official report, a blog, tweet, social media post, press release, feature, editorial/column (i.e., opinion), comment, review, or an ad disguised as news? Other?

How might its medium/form affect the credibility of this? E.g., a Tweet vs a story a mainstream newspaper website.What are its explicit messages?What are the codes and conventions used (or misused)?

Does the headline appear in FULL CAPS? Are there spelling or grammatical errors? Are there prejudicial words, e.g., 'spics' instead of 'Hispanic?' Are there dog whistle words (dog whistle words are coded terms that some groups use to refer to minority groups or issues), e.g., 'Illegal Alien,' 'Shariah Law,' 'Welfare,' 'Food Stamps,' 'Law and Order,' 'Cut Taxes,' 'Inner City,' 'police brutality,' 'anti-feminist,' or 'workers' rights.'

Does the news use stereotypes rather than representing people as fully human?

Does the news use verifiable facts and information to support and develop a point of view? Does the news cite sources? Contain links? Do the links support/ verify the news? Are the facts in the news validated or invalidated by FactCheck.org, PolitiFact.com, Snopes.com or Hoax-Slayer.com, etc.?

Does the news include rebuttals or responses from the people/institution it is reporting on? (If not, does it explain that it asked for a response but didn't get one?) Whose point of view is/are represented? Does it represent multiple points of view? Are significant points of view/voices omitted? What might be its implicit messages? What values are being promoted? Are the other items on the same website believable? Do they reveal any biases?

Is there a comments section? Do the comments challenge or support the news? Is there a statement urging you to share this widely? Are there any images, videos etc.? What part is represented in the images/video? What is omitted? How do the images support or modify/interact with the text? The headline? Does an image search (tintype.com) indicate that this image is real (not Photoshopped) and related?

AUDIENCE

Who is the target audience for this news story? How and why does this story appeal to its target audience? How do you know? (e.g, uses of language, images, website)

Why might this news be 'trending?' Does the fact that it is trending influence you to believe or to suspect the news?

How does this news appeal/not appeal to you? How does this news make you feel? Why might you have that reaction? Are there elements in the news that appeal to your biases? How? (Bias confirmation occurs when information confirms your worldview.)

Do you feel like sharing this news? Why? With whom? Who would you definitely NOT share it with? Why?

Whom does this news story include/exclude (e.g., points of view, who is interviewed, etc.)? In what different ways might people use or consume this news story? Who is sharing it? Who is responding? How?

How might your online activities have led to your awareness of this news story (through social media, sites you have visited, comments you have made, likes you have clicked, etc.)? To which audiences might this story NOT appear? Are your values represented? Why or why not? How might this news story be changing society?

How might you respond to this news?

PRODUCTION

Who created this news? What do searches reveal about the author's authority and believability?

What can you discover about the distributor's website/app? Check the 'About Us' link and do a search for the website, reading others' assessments of it. Use whois.com to discover the owner and Snopes.com, Politifact.com and/or Wikipedia.com to assess the site's reliability.

Where else has this news story appeared? Are the other apps/sites known to you? Are they reliable?

On which platform(s) is the news posted? What might you infer about the news story's purpose from knowing where it appears?

Does triangulation (searching multiple sites for the same news) result in validation or invalidation? I.e., does the news appear on many sites or just one? Are the other sites trustworthy?

Use key words to infer the news story's purpose(s).Do you infer that the news story is intended to inform, to persuade, to shame, and/or to promote a specific worldview?

How might knowing the author's and producer's biases and purposes change your understanding of this news story? Who might gain—and who might suffer—from the consumption of this news? How?

For further information about Fake News and The Association for Media Literacy, go to **aml.ca**