

Get the facts

It can be difficult to know how to get the right information about what's going on in the world. There are different opinions, misleading headlines, and fake news stories, as well as troll accounts and bots.

Here are some **top tips** on how to navigate all this info, so that you can get the facts!

1. Think about the source

- a. If it's a social media account, look at the source. What does the person or company behind the account stand for or do? Why do they want to share this view?
- b. If it's a newspaper/online article, research the author and the website: do they represent a political standpoint? Are they trying to sell a product? What might they gain if others agree with them?

2. Read carefully

- a. Remember that headlines are designed to get attention and get clicks. You'll need to read the whole article to work out what is actually being said.
- b. Read the 'supporting sources' included in the article, e.g. links to studies. Do they actually support what the article claims?

3. Do some fact checking

- a. You can use sites to check the facts you're reading. Here are some examples of fact checking sites:

- UK fact checking: <https://fullfact.org/>
- Media fact and bias check: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>
- US fact checking: <https://www.factcheck.org/>

4. Don't get caught out

- a. Check the date the article was published. Sometimes old news stories are reposted if they seem relevant, but that doesn't always mean they apply to a current issue.
- b. Check your own opinions — might your own beliefs and political opinions be affecting your judgement?
- c. Check it's not a joke! If it seems over the top, it might be satire. Be particularly vigilant on April Fools' Day!

5. Keep up with the news!

- a. Keep up with the news to know about issues arising or being uncovered, and what's going on in the world.

Activity

This activity is a taster activity for you to test how to spot an unreliable source.

The example posts are not real posts but have been based on online content.

Do the activity in pairs or small groups.

Spot the Difference

1. Below is a pair of social media posts about the climate school strikes. Get a pen and circle the differences between the two posts about the climate school strikes.
2. How many differences have you found?
3. Which post do you think is the most reliable, and why? You can use the top tips to help you make your decision.



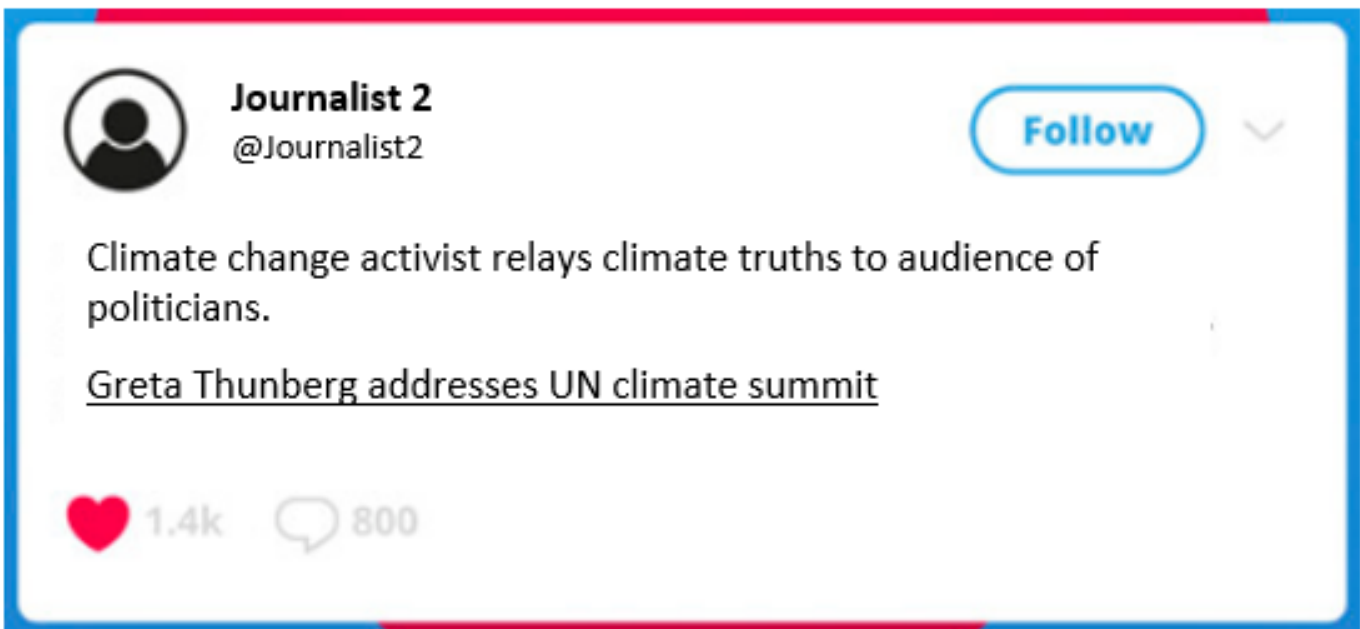
Journalist 1
@Journalist1

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16-year-old girl preaches at room full of politicians about why she's refusing to go to school.

[Greta Thunberg addresses UN climate summit](#)

1.4k 800



Journalist 2
@Journalist2

[Follow](#)

Climate change activist relays climate truths to audience of politicians.

[Greta Thunberg addresses UN climate summit](#)


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Extension

Repeat this activity for the two topics below.

Topic Two: A woman is given a prison sentence





Journalist 3
@Journalist3

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Small group of protestors gather at court as woman who stabbed MP is handed a 15-year sentence.

Protests at Old Bailey for MP stabbing sentencing

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Journalist 4
@Journalist4

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Mob of fanatics leave court raging even though attempted murderer got only a short 15-year sentence.

Protests at Old Bailey for MP stabbing sentencing

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**Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru**
Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

Topic 3: Fewer people from the European Union work in the National Health Service than in previous years.




Journalist 5
@Journalist5

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European staff making up more than half of NHS workforce leaving due to Brexit.
Decline in EU NHS workers continues



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Journalist 6
@Journalist6

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Brexit will create thousands of NHS job opportunities when it drives out European workforce.
Decline in EU NHS workers continues

 1.4k  800

Enjoyed this activity? Check out an example of negative media portrayal [here](#), and learn how to analyse media articles [here](#) in our tackling Islamophobia resources.