

# Credible journalism is based on facts. Period.

*Investigative Steps to Discern Fact From Fiction*

## STEP 1

**Study** the purpose of the article. Does it focus on the facts or does it support a hidden motive?

## STEP 2

**Analyze** how the story is presented. News should be objective and professionally written, not emotionally charged.

## STEP 3

**Look up** the author. Is he or she a professional journalist or someone whose job it is to push an agenda?

## STEP 4

**Assess** whether a story sounds too extreme. Exaggeration is not the sign of good journalism.

## STEP 5

**Be suspicious** of stories that sound too simple. Life is rarely black and white, and real news rarely is, either.

## STEP 6

**Explore** different sources of professional journalism. The more high-quality news you get, the more informed you will be and the easier it will be to tell fact from fiction.