Investigate the Issue

Search for other reliable sources before sharing.

Before sharing a controversial or emotionally charged article, post, tweet or meme you read, take a few moments to investigate the issue to ensure you are not amplifying disinformation. Here are a few simple questions to ask when investigating an issue.

What is the source?
Take a second to investigate the site’s “About” page to determine its goals and approach. You can also check for legitimate contact information.

Does it match other outlets?
Search for other legitimate sites covering the issue. Do the facts from the other sides line up?

Are the sources reliable?
Click on the sources to determine if they support the story and are legitimate.

Site not found
The website you are looking for is offline or does not exist. Check the URL.

Did the content push your buttons?
Did the content make you angry or push other emotional buttons? If so, consider the purpose of the post may have been to get you to respond emotionally before checking to see if the content was even true.

Is the author credible?
Do a quick search on the author to see if they are credible.

Disinformation Stops With You
You have the power to stop foreign influence operations. Follow these steps:

To learn more about how you can stop disinformation, visit our website at www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020.