



3 Ethics Activities

SOCIAL MEDIA FACT or *Fiction?*

VERIFYING
Responsible
Reporting
By PATTY ANN





Written & Illustrated by Patty Ann

Social Media Icons are Open Source

Published by Patty Ann
Copyright 2018/2024 Patty Ann

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the author-publisher.

Inquiries and questions can be directed to PattyAnn.net.

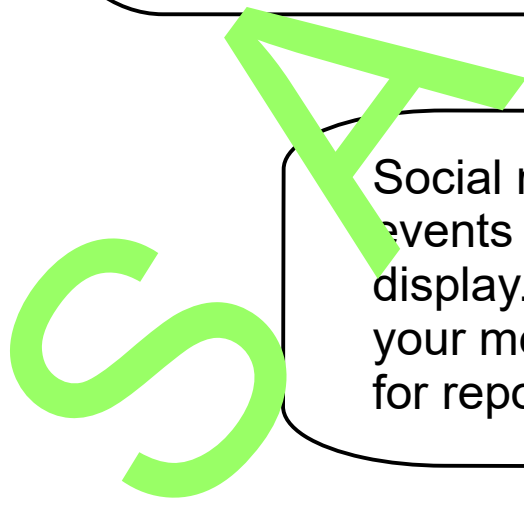
Common Types of Social Media Defined

Typical social medias are thought to be Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Forums, Blogs, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn, Tumblr, Snapchat, and You Tube.

But there are lots of other types of communication, such as Texting, Websites, Magazine & Books, Advertisements, Newspapers, Business Cards, Pamphlets, Billboards and anything you see in print and pictures ANYWHERE.

Any pictures and/or words seen openly in any form and that communicates a message is social media!

Social media is a method of reporting events and generally open to public display. When creating media to carry your message there is a responsibility for reporting. Let's talk about this next...





Let's take a look
at social media
reporting QUALITIES.
What does responsible
reporting mean?

Honesty Equal Integrity!

Use a reliable source for information. Such as: YOUR first hand experience & factual events that can be verified. Do NOT use hearsay or third party info.

Bias reporting is common because a writer is typically passionate about what they see, know, hear and feel about their subject. However, a person's bias should be supported by factual evidence, not subject to emotional whims.

Factual reporting includes messages that inform, instruct, educate, presents an idea, persuades and/or causes a person to take action, such as vote, take a survey, or donate to a cause.

Factual information provides complete details, such as the time, date, place, people/organization, and type of event. (The who, what, when, where and how.)

Verify sources! Cross reference and check facts of posts on Facebook and elsewhere on the internet. A good resource is [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com) to find the truth of posts you suspect are a fraud. All legitimate nonprofit businesses can be verified through [GuideStars](https://www.guidestars.com).

Credibility of information is a must when reporting something that is NOT first hand knowledge. Be sure to cross reference check personal and/or institutional claims, verify organizations, individuals and groups who rally you to take an action on their- or your- or another's behalf.

The internet is your host for fact finding. Quality sources will provide you instantly with who they are-or what they represent; what their message is-; how to contact them directly and where you can verify them online. Honest companies have legitimate websites and if selling a product or service provides an https web page with secure payment processing.

The Social Media Responsible Reporting Fact Finding Checklist Will Help You Verify the Truth!



Verify YES	Verify NO	FACT or FICTION CHECKLIST
		Was this post based on facts? (Check all categories that apply below.)
		~ Informational
		~ Instructional or Educational
		~ Persuasion / Take Action
		~ Presenting an Idea or Awareness
		~ Opinion expressed
		~ Other: Specify if apparent. If you do not know what the message is relaying check NO.
		Information posted by a third party or intermediary?
		The stated content reported the date and/or time.
		Reported exact physical location or virtually (on a website).
		Reported organization, group or person/people involved.
		Website or post gave legitimate website and contact info.
		Website provided a secure web page for purchases/donations.
		Verified posted facts passed with Snopes.com or GuideStar.org
		Your cross reference checks verified the post.
		Do you believe this post, website or information is legitimate? (Gray boxes checked are signs of UN-responsible reporting.)

SAMPLE



Activity 1 > Facebook Post – Is It Legitimate?

Choose a post off Facebook that comes from a group or organization. Use the checklist to verify whether the contents of the post (including the pictures) are true.

Answer the following questions:

What was the first tip off or hunch you had that the post was true, or false?

Did you find the Facebook post to be valid?

Name other references that you checked out besides [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com) to come to your conclusion?

Share the post link with your group of peers, or with a partner. Get their input before sharing what you found to be true in your fact finding mission. Compare notes!



Activity 2 > NonProfit Groups/Website; Is it Legal?

Choose a lesser known nonprofit group and/or website. Many nonprofits post on Facebook, or use another social media venue to advertise, and/or make claims. Typically these agencies sell items/services, or ask for donations for a cause. Use the checklist to verify whether the contents of the nonprofit you chose is for real.

Answer the following questions:

Did this website have a clear mission statement or goal? What was it?

Check out your selected nonprofit on [GuideStar.org](https://www.guidestar.org). All legal nonprofits are registered with the IRS and therefore will show up on [GuideStar.org](https://www.guidestar.org). Did your selected nonprofit register on this site?

Share your nonprofit posts, or website link, with your group of peers, or with a partner. Show them how to look up a nonprofit group status on [GuideStar.org](https://www.guidestar.org).

Name other references you checked to validate this nonprofit group. Are they legitimate-, valid as claimed- or fake? State what you found to be true.



Activity 3 > YouTube – See It to Believe It, or NOT?

Choose a questionable YouTube video off Facebook or from another source that displays a variety of videos that may show outrageous, or erroneous, claims.

Use the checklist to verify whether the content of the video posted are true.

Answer the following questions:

What was the reason or claim that convinced you the video posted was false?

Name other references that you checked out besides **Snope.com** to come to your conclusion?

Share your selected video with your classmates. Do not say anything prior to their viewing. Let your peers watch and come to their own consensus, BEFORE sharing what you found out.

Remember, even some outrageous videos can be true!
Your mission is to have fun on this fact finding mission!

Thank YOU for Enjoying
This Ethics Activity
And Supporting

PATTY ANN.NET
PET PROJECT



3 Ethics Activities

SOCIAL
MEDIA
FACT or Fiction?

VERIFYING
Responsible
Reporting
By PATTY ANN

*Leaving Your Rating & Comments on
This Resource is Very Appreciated!*

*For More Engaging Resources
Visit: PattyAnn.net*