

Curious if the site you are viewing is legit or not? See where it falls on the Legit-O-Meter.

☆☆☆ Legit-O-Meter ☆☆☆

FAR LEGIT	LEGIT	MIDDLE	FAKE	FAR FAKE
	Ends with ".org," ".gov," or ".edu." <i>These sites tend to carry a little more credibility.</i>	Unusual URL endings (such as ".com.co"). <i>These sites might be mimicking legitimate sites or trying to appear legitimate, so watch out, as they could have false or misleading "facts."</i>		
	Has images with credits.		Images seem too good to be true or evoke a strong reaction. <i>Proceed with caution. You might be looking at a hoax. Do a reverse image search and see if you can uncover the original image.</i>	
		Says "Sponsored Content." <i>Simply means paid-for advertising.</i>	Tons of pop-ups and banner ads. <i>Be aware that what you're reading might only be clickbait.</i>	
	Headlines seem direct and to the point. <i>Be aware that what you're reading might only be clickbait.</i>	Has typos and bad grammar. <i>A clue that should leave you a little skeptical.</i>	The headlines are using words such as "epic," "amazing," "unbelievable," or "incredible." <i>Worth some hesitation if a headline is having to work overtime to grab your attention.</i>	
	Evokes a strong emotional reaction. <i>Real news stories can make you feel a gut reaction.</i>		Evokes a strong emotional reaction. <i>Non-legit stories and sources try to mess with your emotions to get you to click.</i>	
	Date is accurate, and other organizations are reporting on the same story.		Does the date seem outdated or inaccurate? <i>Tread lightly, as some social media will often resurrect outdated stories.</i>	
	"About Us" lists information about author, organization, etc. <i>Authors and contributors are credible sources.</i>	No "About Us" information? Have to register for more information? <i>Be careful. The fact that they aren't being transparent is a red flag!</i>		

☆☆ GOOD RULES OF THUMB ☆☆

- Don't jump to conclusions.**
 It's always a good idea to take a look at other sources of credible information. Are other mainstream news outlets reporting on the same story?
- Check your emotions.**
 Clickbait and fake news strive for extreme reactions.
- Keep in mind that search rankings (such as those on Google) are not based on reliability or trustworthiness.**
 Don't rely on the first thing that pops up in your search.
- Check your own biases.**
 Are you only paying attention to stories that confirm your own beliefs and ignoring information that doesn't do so?
- Don't forget, there's a lot of money to be made with fake news and stories through online advertising.**
 Remember: They're not real stories by real journalists.
- When in doubt, don't share.**
 The more you click, the more money the creators get.