

FALSE INFORMATION

Digital technology provides opportunities for everyone to create and spread content easily. While we may have a quick access to a wealth of information on the internet, we should pause and think: how valid is the information that we are getting? False information can cause people to make bad decisions or at a higher level, cause chaos in the society. Fortunately, here are S.U.R.E. and A.A.C.C.O. ways to help us to evaluate the information we receive online:

Evaluating Information (S.U.R.E.)

Source : Is the source of information trustworthy?

Understand : Know what you are reading. Look for facts rather than opinions.

Research : Compare the information with multiple sources.

Evaluate : Look from multiple angles. There are at least two sides to a story.

Examine the Source of Information (A.A.C.C.O.)

Accuracy : Look for factual information and if the information based on personal opinions or experiences only

Authority : Check out the author's background to see if they are qualified to produce such information

Coverage : Know what topics are covered and if they are in-depth or brief

Currency : Find out when the source was published and if it has been updated recently

Objective : Ponder on the reason that the author wrote the information and what they had hoped to achieve

What You Can Do

Avoid spreading false information / news. Not only that it would prevent others from believing false information, but you are also preventing yourself from being called a liar.

Be an upstander, not a bystander. Report to the site admin about the false information or state in the comment section the truth about the information if you know of it. It would also be helpful if you can share any fact-checking link in the comment to help others to fact check the information.

Educate your friends and family. Discuss with them about the dangers of false information and ask them to share the examples of those that they have encountered online. Make sure you also tell them about S.U.R.E and A.A.C.C.O.