

Lesson 3: The credibility of sources

Year 7 and 8 – Using Media – Gaining support for a cause

78.6% of statistics are made up

Q1. Do you think that this is true?

Q2. How could you find out if it was true or not?

Who thought that this was a real news story?

Fifteen sheep have been registered at a French primary school as part of a novel bid to save classes at risk of closure.

Jules-Ferry in Crets en Belledonne, a small town of less than 4,000 people at the foot of the Alps, had been told that it would have to scale back its lessons because of falling pupil numbers.

There are only 261 children at the school — but now they have been joined by more than a dozen sheep in a symbolic move to tackle what parents have described as a "miserable situation".

The farm animals were provided by a local herder, Michel Girerd, who with the help of his dog escorted the new pupils along to the school to see them officially signed up with their birth certificates.

Among the names added to the register during a ceremony watched by parents, teachers and children were Baa-bete and Saute-Mouton.

IT WAS REAL

How could you tell?

How to tell

1. The hyperlinks at the end of the document took you to an article provided by Sky News.

Are they a trustworthy news outlet?



sky news

Sheep registered as pupils in bid to save classes at French Alps primary school

Falling pupil numbers have put the future of some classes at a French school at risk, so parents have thought outside the box.

© Wednesday 8 May 2019 10:11, UK

FRANCE

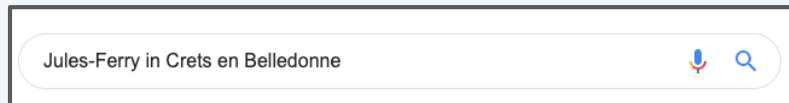


How to tell

1. The hyperlinks at the end of the document took you to an article provided by Sky News.

Are they a trustworthy news outlet?

2. Was it a real school?



How to tell

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Are they a trustworthy news outlet?



2. Was it a real school?



3. Did anyone else report on the story?



Jules-Ferry in Crêts en Belledonne 🔍

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[Sheep registered as pupils at French school in desperate bid to stop ...](#)
<https://www.independent.co.uk/News/World/Europe>

5 days ago - Jules-Ferry in Crêts en Belledonne, a village of fewer than 4,000 people at the foot of the French Alps, was told one of its 11 classes would be closed after student numbers fell from 266 to 261.

[VIDÉO - Quinze moutons inscrits à l'école de Crêts-en-Belledonne ...](#)
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[65 moutons arrivent à l'école Jules Ferry de Crêts en Belledonne pour ...](#)
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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-48199839>

5 days ago - Jules Ferry school in Crêts-en-Belledonne, a village in the Alps northeast of Grenoble, had seen its student numbers fall from 266 to 261.

[PressReader - The Independent: 2019-05-09 - Ewe must be the new ...](#)
<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-independent-1029/20190509/281934544386068>

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[Farmer enrolls 15 sheep at a French primary school to boost pupil ...](#)
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/News>

5 days ago - Jules-Ferry in the French Alpine town of Crêts en Belledonne, population 4,000, had been told that it would have to scale back the number of ...

Lesson 3: The credibility of sources

In this lesson, you will:

- Check digital content for credibility/trustworthiness
- Use techniques to be able to check if a source is trustworthy

Who can add information to web pages?

- A Anyone who wants to
- B Only people who have been approved by an authorised person, such as the government or an internet service provider
- C Anyone, as long as they have the technical knowhow, e.g. being able to program websites and knowing how to set up a web server

Who can add information to web pages?

A Anyone who wants to

What implications does this have for the credibility of information that you might come across on the internet?

Who can add information to web pages?

A Anyone who wants to

Anyone can contribute to Wikipedia. How can you check if a Wikipedia article is trustworthy?

Techniques to use when evaluating the trustworthiness of a source

- 1 Check the **author** and the **source**

“My study found that people who live in Western Australia are twice as happy as those who live in Eastern Australia.”

Professor Bruce
University of East Broughton

Techniques to use when evaluating the trustworthiness of a source

- 1 Check the **author** and the **source**
- 2 Why do you think the article was written?

“Computer programmers have found the secret to the National Lottery and want you to know how to win every time. Enter your email address below and we will send you more details.”

Techniques to use when evaluating the trustworthiness of a source

- 1 Check the **author** and the **source**
- 2 **Why** do you think the article was written?
- 3 Check **when** the article was written

“A public survey suggests that 90% of people believe that the Sun revolves around the Earth.”

Philolaus 390 BC

Techniques to use when evaluating the trustworthiness of a source

1 Check the **author** and the **source**

2 Why do you think the article was written?

3 Check **when** the article was written

4 Check the facts

Jules-Ferry in Crêts en Belledonne

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Fake news or real news?

Your turn

- You have 10 minutes to write a news article.
- Pick a topic that interests you and that you may already have some knowledge about (think about something that you are studying in other subjects, such as History or Geography).
- Decide whether to make it a real or fake news article.
- Write a paragraph or two on your topic and try to hide two clues that would indicate whether the article is real or fake.



Swap and share

- Share your document with a classmate.
- Your task is to try to identify the clues that have been hidden in the article.
- Highlight and add a comment where you think that there is evidence that indicates whether or not the article is real.



Gaining support for a cause

The aim of the next three lessons is for you to write a blog post that will help you gain support for a cause of your choice



What cause would you like to gain support for?

Spend 5 minutes thinking of ideas and discussing them with your classmates



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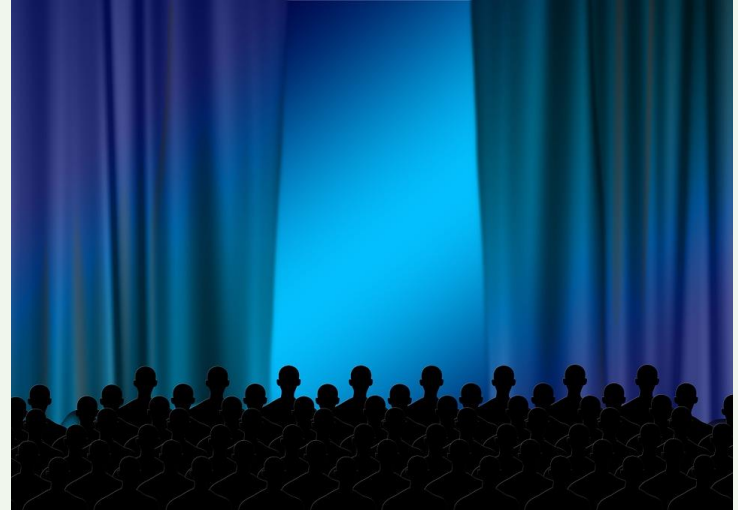
Suggestions:

- Recycling
- Reducing the speed limit on a road near you
- A charity
- A community project or local service that is in danger of closing



Homework: Consider your audience

- Highlight or circle all of the characteristics of an audience that you think would be interested in the cause that you wish to gain support for
- Identify three additional audience categories



Due: Next lesson

Next lesson

In this lesson, you...

Checked digital content for credibility/trustworthiness

Used techniques to check if a source is trustworthy

Started thinking of ideas for your project

Next lesson, you will...

Learn about how to find useful information on the internet and use it to help support your cause