

**DRAFT**

# Should I Spread This Story?

Start spreading the news! Or maybe don't. Follow this chart to determine the **BEST** way to use **YOUR POWER** to shape the flow of information.

**START HERE!**

**Is it REAL?**  
Can you find:  
> Strong **EVIDENCE**?  
> Reliable **SOURCES**?  
> **CONNECTIONS** to/from other sites?  
> A legitimate **PURPOSE**?

**NO**

**Could it do HARM?**  
Could it:  
> Put someone in **DANGER**?  
> Wrongfully hurt a **REPUTATION**?  
> **SERIOUSLY DECEIVE** someone?

**YES**

**NO**

**TROLL ALERT**  
Steer clear of fake stories that can lead to damage, danger or deception.

**CAUTION**  
Be clear that it's not factual so other people will know what they're looking at.

**CAUTION**  
Be clear that this source is an opinion, and don't expect everyone to agree.

**YES**

**Is it NEWS or OPINION?**  
Does it primarily:  
> Present **INFORMATION** about an event or issue? It's **NEWS**.  
> Take a **STANCE** or make an **ARGUMENT** about an event or issue? It's **OPINION**.

**NEWS**

**OPINION**

**Is it POOR QUALITY?**  
Do you see:  
> Factual or stylistic **ERRORS**?  
> **HOLES** in the story?  
> Too much **HYPE**, no substance?

**YES**

**NO**

**Is it supported by FACTS?**  
Do you see **FACTUAL EVIDENCE** such as:  
> Verifiable **STATISTICS** from studies or surveys?  
> Historical or other **EXAMPLES**?  
> Other evidence of **RESEARCH**?

**YES**

**NO**

**TROLL ALERT**  
Don't trust a sloppy source. Look for better quality information.

**Is it BIASED?**  
Does it push one perspective using:  
> **SELECTIVE** or **TWISTED** facts?  
> Its choice of **WORDS** or **IMAGES**?  
> The **CONTEXT** of the information?

**NO**

**YES**

**Could it do HARM?**  
Could it:  
> Put someone in **DANGER**?  
> Wrongfully hurt a **REPUTATION**?  
> **SERIOUSLY DECEIVE** someone?

**NO**

**YES**

**GOOD TO GO**  
Well-reported information is essential to understanding our world.

**Could it do HARM?**  
Could it:  
> Put someone in **DANGER**?  
> Wrongfully hurt a **REPUTATION**?  
> **SERIOUSLY DECEIVE** someone?

**NO**

**YES**

**CAUTION**  
Identify the perspective, be clear why you are passing it on, and remain open to other ideas.

**TROLL ALERT**  
Steer clear of unsupported opinions that can lead to damage, danger or deception.

**CAUTION**  
Label the bias, be clear why you are passing it on, and consider other sources.

**TROLL ALERT**  
Steer clear of biased stories that can lead to damage, danger or deception.

**DRAFT**  
More fake news resources to come in fall 2017.