

## Handout

**Title of activity**

**Steps to Reflect on Information Disorder: A Practical Example**

### Source Assessment

*Check the source of the article. Is it from a reputable news outlet, a medical journal, or an obscure website? In this case, if the source is a well-known and credible news organization, it's more likely to be reliable.*

### Authorship

*Identify the author of the article. Do they have expertise in the subject matter? Look for any potential conflicts of interest. Are they affiliated with organizations that might have a vested interest in the topic? Investigate whether the author's credentials lend credibility to their claims.*



## Content Analysis

*Read the article carefully, paying attention to the language used. Are there sensationalist or emotionally charged words?*

*Look for specific claims or statistics. In the example provided, the claim is about vaccines causing autism. Are there credible studies cited to support this claim?*

*Examine the tone of the article. Is it balanced, or does it seem to have a predetermined agenda?*

## Cross-Referencing

*Search for other reputable sources that corroborate or refute the claims made in the article.*

*In this case, check for information from established health organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the vaccine-autism link.*

## Contextual Considerations

*Consider the broader context. Has this claim been widely debunked or discredited in the scientific community?*

*Think about the timeline. Is this a recent discovery or a long-standing consensus?*

## Critical Thinking

*Evaluate the logical coherence of the argument. Does it rely on anecdotal evidence or scientifically sound research?*

*Be aware of confirmation bias. Are you interpreting the information to confirm your preexisting beliefs?*

### Fact Checking

***Utilize fact-checking websites like Snopes, PolitiFact, or FactCheck.org to verify specific claims in the article.***

*Look for retractions or corrections if they exist, as they can indicate a more trustworthy source.*

### Media Literacy

***Consider the medium through which the information is presented. Is it a news article, an opinion piece, or a scientific study?***

*Recognize the potential for misinformation in social media shares or clickbait headlines.*

### Discussion and Sharing

*Before sharing the article or its information, think about the potential consequences. Is it responsible to share potentially false or misleading information?*

### Feedback and Reporting

*If you suspect the information is misleading or inaccurate, consider reporting it to the platform, news organization, or relevant fact-checking agencies.*