

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sifting the Signal from the Noise: Algorithmic Literacy & Source Verification for Undergraduates

Beyond surface-level fact-checking—students deconstruct algorithmic bias, lateral reading techniques, and the psychological architecture of digital echo chambers.

1. When performing 'lateral reading' to evaluate the credibility of an unfamiliar digital publication, which action is most consistent with professional fact-checking methodology?

- A. Thoroughly analyzing the 'About Us' page and mission statement of the site.
- B. Opening multiple tabs to see what professional organizations and other credible sources say about the site.
- C. Checking the site's top-level domain (TLD) to see if it ends in .org or .edu.
- D. Evaluating the visual professionalism and aesthetic quality of the website's layout.

2. The phenomenon where AI and social media algorithms insulate users from dissenting opinions by prioritizing engagement-heavy content is known as a(n) _____.

- A. Digital Panopticon
- B. Algorithmic Lag
- C. Filter Bubble
- D. Cognitive Load

3. True or False: Scholarly peer-reviewed articles are always considered 'primary sources' regardless of the discipline or the nature of the research presented.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of the following best describes the 'Sift' (SIFT) move of 'Investigating the Source' when encountering a provocative claim on social media?

- A. Directly messaging the author to ask for their credentials and institutional affiliation.
- B. Using a reverse-image search to determine if the visual evidence has been repurposed from a different event.
- C. Consulting a scholarly database to see if the author has published in high-impact factor journals.
- D. Ignoring the claim entirely if it does not originate from a traditional legacy media outlet.

5. In the context of digital deception, _____ refers to the use of AI-generated synthesis to create convincing but fake audio or video of a person saying or doing something they never did.

- A. Astroturfing
- B. Deepfakes
- C. Sock-puppeting
- D. Data Mining