

Examples: Lateral Reading Using Wikipedia

Slide 1: Let's say we're studying the affects of AI and come across this article ("A.I. Is Poised to Rewrite History. Literally." by *The New York Times*). The title sounds intriguing, but we need to check the reliability of the source before believing what it says. First, click on your search bar.

Slide 2: In your search bar, delete everything after the domain of the site or after the first forward slash and then type in "Wikipedia" and search.

Slide 3: Click on the Wikipedia page article to read more about the website.

Slide 4: Read through the Wikipedia page looking for clues for the site's reliability. Ask yourself what Wikipedia says about the site is what you assumed it was.

In this example, Wikipedia says that The New York Times is a long-standing newspaper, first published in 1851.

The page may also have other clues like "newspaper of record" or "highest number for any newspaper in the U.S." This kind of background helps confirm that The New York Times is a major media organization, with a reputation built over time.

Slide 5: Here's another example. Say you're reading a story on a website you've never heard of before ("AI Systems Have Learned How to Lie and Deceive" by *The People's Voice*). The headline may seem questionable, or it may seem plausible, but before reacting to the content, we need to learn more about the source. You repeat the same steps. Start by clicking on the search bar.

Slide 6: In your search bar, delete everything after the domain of the site or after the first forward slash and then type in "Wikipedia" and search.

Slide 7: Click on the Wikipedia page article to read more about the website.

Slide 8: Read through the Wikipedia page looking for clues for the site's reliability. Ask yourself what Wikipedia says about the site is what you assumed it was.

In some cases, such as this one, you may find that the site is known for spreading false or misleading information. Wikipedia might even refer to it as a "fake news" site or say it has a history of publishing conspiracy theories.

Keep in mind: no single detail can confirm whether a source is good or bad. Instead, we gather multiple pieces of information that help us form a well-rounded judgment.