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# Think Like a NewsGuardian:

## Source & Claim Evaluation Exercises

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This exercise is intended to be completed by students after being introduced to NewsGuard. Students may complete this worksheet on their own or by working in pairs or small groups. To see how student evaluations compare to those of NewsGuard, download the browser extension and check each site's rating. Feel free to use the four suggested websites below or select your own favorite sources.

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### Transparency Exercise:

Select one of the following four sites and evaluate its **transparency** using NewsGuard's transparency criteria:

- **Health.com**
- **HomeNaturalCures.com**
- **MedicalNewsToday.com**
- **DoctorDavidFriedman.com**

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1. Does the site disclose its ownership and source(s) of financing? Explain your reasoning.

2. Does the site clearly label advertising? Explain your reasoning.

3. Does the site reveal who is in charge of content (such as its editor), including any possible conflicts of interest? Explain your reasoning.
  
4. Does the site provide the names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information? Explain your reasoning.

**Discussion Question:** Pick one of these four **transparency** criteria listed above and explain why it is important.

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## Credibility Exercise:

Using the same website you evaluated in the transparency exercise, evaluate its **credibility** using NewsGuard's credibility criteria:

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1. Has the site repeatedly published false content?

2. Does the site gather and present information responsibly?

3. Does the site regularly correct or clarify errors?

4. Does the site handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly?

5. Does the site avoid deceptive headlines?

**Discussion Question:** Pick one of these five **credibility** criteria listed above and explain why it is important.

## Claim Evaluation Extension Activity (optional):

Pretend that your friend sent you this message: **“Good news! Baking soda has been found to be an effective treatment for cancer!”**

Your task is to figure out: **Is this true?**

To investigate this claim, find three credible sources that discuss the topic. Explain what each source says and explain why you think it is a trustworthy source.

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### **Source 1 Name:**

Why is this source credible?

What does the source say?

### **Source 2 Name:**

Why is this source credible?

What does the source say?

**Source 3 (name):**

Why is this source credible?

What does the source say?

**Conclusion: What do you think – is baking soda a treatment for cancer?**