

Andrew Sullivan  
Media Literacy Artist Statement

My media literacy tool is a fully functional quiz that one can take to check the reliability of their media source. Based on the 8 Trust Indicator Article from the Trust Project, I have created about 30 questions (that can either be answered upon reading the article at hand or doing a small amount of research) that allows a consumer to understand whether they should trust the source/media that they are using to get information. After you finish the quiz, the score you receive will determine the quality of your source based on a grade percentage (calculate the percentage of your score and whatever that percentage would be on a normal grading scale is your grade). An 'A' grade is an extremely quality source. 'B' is pretty good, 'C' is below standard and anything lower is totally unacceptable. Quiz takers are also able to review their answers, where they will find added information on each question, explaining the importance of the aspect being questioned. The way that this would contribute to the public is two fold. First, it would allow consumers the ability to check whether a news source they like is as good as they think, or find out if a news source that they are iffy on should be deemed poor or of good quality. More importantly, the quiz is in itself a lesson on the 8 Trust Indicators. I asked questions deliberately and gave information after the quiz, so consumers would understand what to look for in a good article, and after taking the quiz once or twice, should be able to analyze and recognize a good or bad source independently. News producers would be aware of this tool that discourages poor media and will be more likely to create better news, as their usual tricks of illusion will be apparent through the quiz questions. The Trust Project states that "we rely on the journalist to give us accurate information about what happened" since the general public is seldom around to witness such events (Trust Project). That is why media literacy is so important. The news is an essential part of our world. Without it, we are truly uneducated, unprepared and frankly unsafe. The damages given from false or misleading news is devastating, and it is not hard to find examples to prove this. The more savvy our population can become at consuming quality news and media, the more successful and happy we will be. My Media Trustworthiness Test is one step towards training the public to consume media smartly, and gives them a helping hand to reference when they are unsure.