25 YEARS OF HonestReporting

FOUR PRACTICES FOR PURSUING FACTS

A Guide to Responsible Reading & Sharing of News About Israel

AN INVITATION

There is one question worth asking: What is my responsibility for the information I consume and share?

Every day we encounter hundreds of headlines, videos, posts, and opinions. Each one we forward, share, or repeat shapes how others understand reality. This power carries responsibility.

Jewish tradition teaches that seeking facts begins with accountability—verifying before we speak, questioning before we believe, and taking responsibility for our role in spreading or stopping misinformation.

These four practices help us become more discerning consumers of information and more accountable communicators throughout the year.

PRACTICE ONE

SEEK ACCURACY BEFORE CERTAINTY

Our world rewards immediate reactions. Jewish tradition encourages something different.

The first news story we read is rarely complete. Headlines simplify the story, social media rewards speed over understanding, and the information that matters most is often the information that comes later. When you see news that upsets or excites you, that's when accuracy matters most—and when we're least likely to pause.

Seeking accuracy begins with the willingness to pause before reaching conclusions. Before accepting or sharing a story, ask whether you are responding to evidence or simply reacting to emotion.

What you can do:

- Set a personal rule: Wait before sharing breaking news. Check back in 24 hours to see if the story has changed or if new information has emerged.
- When you see a headline that upsets you, read the full article before reacting.
- Check the publication date to see whether this is recent news or old news presented as new.

PRACTICE TWO

LOOK BEYOND THE HEADLINE

The way a story is presented shapes how we understand it. Sometimes bias appears in what is included. Just as often, it appears in what is left out.

A headline may emphasize one fact while ignoring another. A photograph may evoke emotion without providing context. Identical facts can create completely different impressions depending on what is mentioned, what is omitted, and who is quoted.

The entire world can believe something that is demonstrably false—history shows us this repeatedly. As a Jewish people, we know this from blood libels and other false narratives that spread despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Seeking the complete story is how we protect ourselves and others from manipulation.

What you can do:

- Use GroundNews.com to see how different outlets cover the same story—you'll see which facts each emphasizes and which are omitted.
- Check the source: Is this from a credible news organization, a social media influencer, or an unknown account? Is this reporting based on firsthand reporting, or on what someone else said?
- Ask: Who is quoted in this story? Who is not quoted? Whose perspective is missing?
- For photos and videos, look for context—when were they taken? Where? What happened before and after?

PRACTICE THREE

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE BIAS

Bias is not always obvious. It often appears through subtle choices: the words that are selected, the voices that are quoted, the photographs that are chosen, the order information is presented, and the context that is omitted. Bias can appear in what a story emphasizes and what it downplays, and in loaded language designed to provoke emotion rather than inform.

Learning to recognize these patterns helps us become more careful readers and more informed citizens—and helps us spot when we're being manipulated rather than informed. As you read or watch the news, try to detect the ways in which the news might be biased.

What you can do:

- Look at the language: Does the story use neutral words ("said," "stated") or loaded words ("claimed," "admitted")? This can shift the meaning.
- Check the sequence. Is the most damaging or most flattering information placed first?
- Reverse the players. If the same facts involved different people or nations, would they be reported the same way?
- Watch for passive voice evasion: "Mistakes were made" avoids naming who made them. Ask: Who is responsible?

PRACTICE FOUR

VERIFY BEFORE YOU AMPLIFY

Never before has it been easier to share information. Or misinformation. Every forwarded article, reposted video, and shared headline becomes part of someone else's understanding of the world. When you share something, you are endorsing it. You are saying: I have checked this, I believe this is accurate, I am willing to attach my name and credibility to it. This is a profound responsibility.

Before sharing something online or in conversation, ask: Will sharing this increase understanding or create more confusion? Am I sharing this because I know it to be true, or because it confirms what I already believe?

What you can do:

- If something makes you angry or outraged, pause—that's when we're most likely to share without thinking.
- For photos or videos, use Google Images or TinEye to find the original source and verify when and where it was taken.
- If you later learn something you shared was inaccurate, share a correction. Your credibility increases when you admit mistakes.

Check HonestReporting.com to see what it says about the story.

A COMMITMENT

May I become...

More careful before judging.

More curious before concluding.

More discerning before believing.

More present before reacting.

More responsible before sharing.

More accountable for the information I contribute to the world.

The habits I build ripple outward. Every time I read beyond the headline, pause before reacting, verify before sharing, or correct misinformation with kindness, I contribute to a culture where accuracy matters, and facts are the foundation of understanding.

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HonestReporting is a pro–Israel information engine using human analysis and AI to make the truth about Israel faster than the lies. The fight is no longer only in the press. It's online, it's algorithmic, and it's global. We are building tools, creating rapid–response frameworks, and empowering readers, students, journalists, and communities to recognize bias and push back before false narratives take hold. HonestReporting is continuously innovating to become the global source for factual information about Israel and shape how Israel is understood worldwide.

STOP SEARCHING. START KNOWING.

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