



FINDING RELIABLE INFORMATION

Artists are looking for science to inform their practice, especially in the community. News articles about current studies may be helpful in disseminating information, but when making decisions that impact one's own health and that of others, it is important to make sure the information is fact-checked and verifiable.

When reading an article, ask:

- What is the date of the article?
- Does it report on the most recent information available?
- Does the headline seem sensationalized?
- Does the headline accurately reflect the point of the entire article?
- Does the information align with current public health guidelines?
- Can you confirm the information with a secondary, verifiable source?
- Have you seen the same information reported elsewhere?
- Does the article contain links to the original study?
If so, follow the link and take a look at the study for yourself. Even if you are not accustomed to reading scientific publications, you can glean information from the first paragraph, or Abstract, and the summary paragraphs toward the end. Even without analyzing the actual data yourself, you can decide if the authors' conclusions make sense and match the news article and headline.
- Is the study peer reviewed?
Before publication, every aspect of the study is rigorously reviewed by other scientists. An article may be published in advance of formal peer review, especially in today's urgent climate, so it is important to note this distinction.
- Is the study published by a reputable source? Generally, sites ending in .gov or .edu are more reliable than those ending in .com.

This 2015 infographic, [A Rough Guide to Spotting Bad Science](#), may be useful.