

Name\_\_\_\_\_

ENG 1103 section\_\_

*Check, Please! Starter Course*  
Worksheet for Lesson One: Introduction to SIFT

**Directions:**

1. After you complete Lesson One of *Check, Please!*, compose a short one-paragraph summary of the lesson followed by at least one additional paragraph that addresses your experience of completing the lesson.
2. Include the first and last name of the site's author and his credentials on first reference. Keep in mind that your first paragraph, your summary, offers an objective overview.
3. In the paragraph or paragraphs that follow, turn to your own experience. One way to begin the second paragraph is to consider what part of the lesson you found most useful.
4. Follow your paragraphs with a work cited entry for the site.
5. Complete the assignment on the back of this sheet and/or on additional paper, and submit it in class on the **due date noted on the course calendar**. If you use additional paper, staple this page on top of it.

**Example:**

In the first lesson of the *Check, Please!, Starter Course*, Mike Caulfield, author of the course and Director of Blended and Networked Learning at Washington State University, introduces the four-step SIFT approach to determining the reliability of a source: (1) "Stop," (2) "Investigate," (3) "Find better coverage," and (4) "Trace claims, quotes, and media to the original context."

One of the most useful practices presented in lesson one is what the author terms the "Wikipedia Trick." Deleting everything that follows a website's URL (including the slash), adding a space, typing "Wikipedia," and hitting "enter" will yield the site's Wikipedia page. The Wikipedia entry that appears at the top of the screen may indicate the source's reliability or lack thereof.

The most memorable segment of lesson one is the short, riveting video "The Miseducation of Dylann Roof," which begins with the narrator asking the question, "How does a child become a killer?" Produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center, it documents how algorithms can lead unskilled web searchers down paths of disinformation. In the worst cases, such as Roof's, algorithms can lead searchers to the extremist propaganda of radical conspiracy theorists.

Work Cited

Caulfield, Mike. *Check, Please! Starter Course*, 2021,  
<https://webliteracy.pressbooks.com/front-matter/updated-resources-for-2021/>.