

Senior Truth Seeker: Step 2

Purpose: The news and information you see, hear and consume every day may be misleading and could be wrong. Investigate a speech given by a public figure and research the numbers, figures, and statistical assertions they've made and verify their truth.

Set-Up: Public figures are influential people in their industry and in the world. They could be business leaders, actors, and hold government positions. Political leaders, such as mayors, governors, congressional leaders, presidents, prime ministers, often make speeches or statements on important issues.

To get started, you will need access to the internet to find a video of a speech given by a public figure, and pen and paper for note taking and research.

Begin by investigating some public figures on a topic that has been making the headlines. Research websites on the topic, including news sites and videos of pre-recorded speeches, interviews or press conferences. You may consider watching the news as well.

After you've made your selection, jot down facts and figures being shared and note how they're used to support the speaker's views.

Next, review your notes and begin your online investigation of the data shared through other sources. What were you most surprised to learn? What sources did you turn to? Why would you trust a source over another?