

Editor Fact-Checking Checklist

- Does the story include solid sourcing for sweeping statements? (ex: “Scientists say...”)
- Does the story focus on scientific findings that counter the majority of existing relevant studies? If so, are the claims put in the appropriate context?
- Does the story include solid, corroborated evidence for any suggestion or outright claim that someone committed a crime or an ethical breach?
- Does the story present appropriate context and caveats for medical devices, diets, or any other product or practice that, if wrong or overstated, could harm a reader?
- Does the story have false balance? (Ex: Does the story give climate denial the same amount of space as legitimate climate science?)
- Does the story rely too heavily on a single source? (Ex: Only one eye-witness for a crime or other charged scene, or only one study to support a sweeping scientific claim)
- Does the story acknowledge real or perceived conflicts-of-interest, where appropriate? For both the sources cited in the story and the journalist writing the story?
- Did someone on your team check the basic facts (spelling, ages, pronouns, geography, etc.)?