

Top Six **RED FLAGS** that a “News Story” Is:

Unreliable
Disreputable

Embarrassing for you to share

Your logic should tell
you:



It explicitly states that it is telling the truth, and/or everyone else is lying to you

“We know the truth!”
“What the (media/government/corporations) are hiding from you!”
“This is definitely true”

If they have to preface it by swearing it’s true, it’s probably not.



It contains short, conclusory opinion statements

“It’s all hogwash.”
“The media has it all wrong.”

Good journalists typically don’t write like this.



It is organized as a list of questions or hypotheses

“Why wasn’t this...?”
“It doesn’t add up that...”
“It’s really unlikely that X happened...”

This is literally the opposite of news, which is answers, not questions.



It puts the burden on YOU to answer the questions

“If you can’t answer these questions...”
“Do you REALLY know what happened?”

??? I thought you were supposed to be the journalist here.



It asks you to prove a negative, which is often impossible

“No one has proven that the government WASN’T involved!”
“They SAY it was X, but how do you know it wasn’t Y?”

Pro tip: Don’t try this argument in court.



It suggests an insidious plot by “someone” (“the media,” “elites,” “corporations,” “the government”) but doesn’t say exactly what the plot IS or provide any evidence for it

“No one knows how deep this goes...”
“There’s no telling who’s behind all of this...”

Cool story, bro.