

EXERCISE 2: SAME BUT DIFFERENT

You need to use a computer to complete these tasks.

- In pairs or groups, think of a story that you have heard of recently. It could be the latest from the White House, more talk on Brexit, the controversial match between 2 premiership teams, or something else that you have heard or seen that interests you. Make sure it's a national or international story that you believe to be true.
- Now see if you can find reports of your story from different sources. Include News broadcasters and agencies, search engines, social media and online newspaper sites.
- How do the stories differ?
- What parts of the story are the same?
- What about images?
- Look at the dates of the reports – are some written or updated later than others?
- Have you found any that seem dubious or have information in them that others don't have? Have they got a scoop - or have they made a mistake or are they making a joke? Perhaps they are reporting rumour? Is any of it "fake news"?
- Discuss your findings with each other and see which reports you feel are the most trustworthy.
- Now repeat the process with two more stories.
- What have you discovered about reporting techniques?
- How do social media sites differ from news agencies?
- Do they use the same images and the same interviews, quotes, eye witnesses?
- Have your opinions changed about where you might go to look for reliable information?