

FACT-UP: Fact Check, Research, and Think Critically like a Radical Librarian

Presented by [Radical Reference](#) volunteers
[Jenna Freedman](#) and [Lana Thelen](#)
at the [Women and Media Conference](#), 2008
<http://radicalreference.info/fact-up/wam>

What is fact checking?

Someone *other than the reporter filing the story* verifies all factual material prior to publication. Benefits:

- Truth
- Secure in case of legal action
- More potential stories
- Sources trust you
- Help shape a story
- Identify leaps
- Improve writer's research

What are the facts one should check in the following paragraph?

The Supremes gave a break to Derrick Kimbrough, a Marine veteran of the Persian Gulf War who was charged with using a gun in conjunction with distributing crack. ... The eminent Judge Jack Weinstein resigned from the bench in 1993 in order to avoid having to impose such sentences.

Schneider, Ann M. "A Crack Opens in Drug Law Sentencing," *The Independent*. January 12, 2008. Accessed March 26, 2008.
<http://www.independent.org/2008/01/23/a-crack-opens-in-drug-law-sentencing>

Other stuff we want you to know/think about

- Wikipedia
- Evaluating resources
 - Authority: author/credibility/accuracy
 - Purpose/audience
 - Scope (depth/breadth)
 - Currency (update frequency)
 - External links
 - Uniqueness
 - Availability (free or registration required?)
 - Advertising?
 - Context

Some of our favorite resources

- General Statistics
- GLBTQ
- International
- Pay equity/labor
- Rape/sexual assault
- Reproduction

Ask for help

- Your public or academic library
- Radical Reference: <http://radicalreference.info>
 - Local collectives
- Jenna Freedman, Barnard College
jenna@stealthisemail.com
- Lana Thelen, Perkins Braille and Talking Books Library
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