

We need to be aware that any message we receive on social media, tv, in the news, on the internet, in a book or a newspaper has been created for a specific reason by the maker of the message.

Whenever you get a message ask these questions to become more aware of the intentions of the message maker.

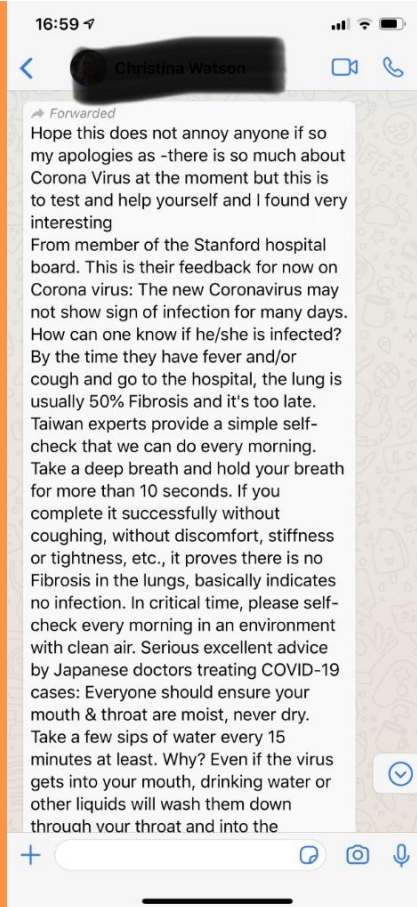
Who made this message?

What is this message about?

What is left out of this message that could be important to know?

Is this fact or opinion? Where can I check this?

When was this made?



Who could be harmed by this message?

Who could benefit from this message?

What actions does this message want me to take?

Are these actions safe for me?

Are these actions safe for others?

Is this a message that will do harm if I share it?

What we should ask about a message	Purpose of the question
Who made this message?	It is important to separate the sender of the message in social media from the person who originally created the message.
What is this message about?	This question helps to answer the next very important question.
What is left out of this message that could be important to know?	By understanding that there could be missing information you are able to appreciate that messages are created with certain intentions or agendas on the part of the creator. Knowing what is left out will help you understand what these intentions were.
Is this fact or opinion? Where can I check this?	These questions alert you to the possibility that the message is not accurate or factual and prompts you to check the information. Where can you check?
When was this made?	Knowing when the message was made allows you to judge how accurate the message is in terms of relevance to the immediate situation.
Who could be harmed by this message?	This alerts you to possible prejudices and the possibility that the maker had bad intentions.
Who could benefit from this message?	This alerts you to the possibility that the maker had a particular goal in mind in creating the message.
What actions does this message want me to take?	By being aware of any actions that the message expects, you can be more conscious of the message and its intentions.
Are these actions safe for me? Are these actions safe for others?	The aim here is to prevent you from doing something harmful or causing harm to others.
Is this a message that will do harm if I share it?	This question allows you to evaluate the message as a whole – if it is inaccurate, prejudiced or calls for actions that can cause harm they must not share it.

