**7 Steps to Fact Checking**

**Group exercise sheet**

*Directions:*

*In groups of 2-3, read the political story assigned by your teacher. You will likely need to read it a couple times to really get a handle on the topic and what the issue is. Then, follow the 7 steps to fact-checking outlined below, completing the activity for each step on a separate piece of paper. Use the points checklist provided to ensure you’re meeting all criteria for the assignment.*

***Step 1: Choose the right fact.***

Based off what you learned in the slideshow about this step, underline one fact that you could (and will) fact check, and explain why this is an appropriate fact to explore. Then, also underline something that you would not fact check, and explain why this would not be an appropriate statement to explore further.

***Step 2: Prepare yourself.***

Describe what sources of information, databases, or other knowledge you might need in order to appropriately fact check the first statement you underlined in step 1.

***Step 3: Decide on a ratings system.***

Brainstorm and then describe the best way to share this fact check with your readers. Will you write a story? Will you tweet about it? Will you develop a rating system and print it with that information?

***Step 4: Use the tools.***

Now, fact check! Use whatever tools are at your disposable (the internet, encyclopedias, etc.) to determine the accuracy of the statement you first underlined in step 1.

***Step 5: Do some social media prep work.***

Brainstorm and describe how you might use social media (twitter, facebook, instagram) to publicize your fact check and your findings.

***Step 6: Be transparent.***

As a group, brainstorm and describe your response to this question: Why is it important that fact-checkers remain impartial as they do their work?

***Step 7: Pay attention to the aftermath.***

Imagine that a reader emails you and accuses you of attacking a political candidate simply because you chose to fact-check one of the candidate’s debate statements. Brainstorm and describe how you might respond to this criticism.