

Title: Research Participants Needed: Collecting People's Questions When Evaluating Online News

This email is being sent on behalf of the researchers.

Hello,

My name is Dake Zhang and I am a PhD student working under the supervision of Professor Mark D. Smucker at the School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo. I am conducting a research study to collect people's questions when evaluating the trustworthiness of online news.

We are currently seeking volunteers to participate in this study. Participants will be asked to complete a demographic questionnaire and then perform the following tasks.

- Stage 1 (about 1 hour): Participants will receive training on how to evaluate the trustworthiness of online news and then produce 10 questions to support the trustworthiness evaluation of one news article. Researchers will evaluate the produced questions to determine who will be selected to participate in stage 2.
- Stage 2 (each session about 1.5 hours): In each session, participants will read 5 news articles and write down questions that can help evaluate their trustworthiness. Participants are encouraged to complete as many sessions as they like up to a maximum of 10.

The study will be conducted in person. In appreciation of your time, you will receive a remuneration of \$15 (in the form of an Amazon eGift Card) for Stage 1 and \$25 for each session in Stage 2.

To be selected for this study, you should be able to comprehensively read, describe, critically analyze, and ask questions about text documents in English, and have a knowledge of major news events in mainstream media to perform the given tasks. If you are interested in this study, please fill out the screening and selection questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/PQG4f1p5Hor7mdP97>. We will reach out to let you know whether you are selected or not. Please note that participation in this study is voluntary. You may skip any questions in the questionnaire that you do not wish to answer, however neglecting to answer a question may lead to not being selected to participate in the study. If you are deemed ineligible or not selected to participate in this study, all information collected about you will be immediately deleted and destroyed.

This study has been reviewed and received clearance from a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board.

Sincerely,  
Dake