

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## RumorGuard Report: DON'T BE FOOLED

### Directions:

1. Choose a rumor from [RumorGuard](#) that interests you.
2. Use this sheet to take notes on the rumor and reflect on how journalists fact-checked it.
3. Explain how the techniques used to analyze this rumor could be used to debunk other viral falsehoods you might encounter to help you avoid being fooled online.

Title of RumorGuard entry:	
Date published:	
Link to entry:	

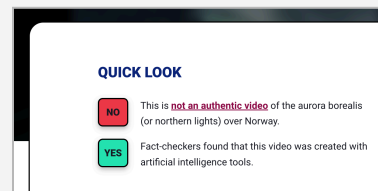
### 1. The social media post

Look at the image of the viral rumor at the top of the entry. What is its central claim? Describe anything else you notice about the post.

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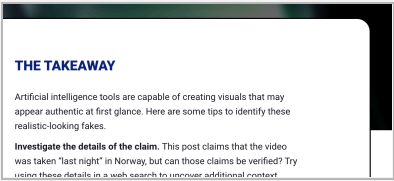
### 2. "Quick Look"

The RumorGuard entry includes several YES and NO statements describing what is true and false about this social media post. Read this section. Then explain why the central claim of this post (from question 1) is not true.



3. “The Takeaway”

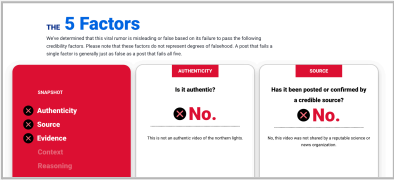
In your own words, what does “The Takeaway” say?



Look at the social media post again, keeping “The Takeaway” in mind. Do you notice anything now that you didn’t the first time? Why do you think some people believed this rumor?

4. “The Five Factors”

Challenge! Without looking at “The 5 Factors” in the entry, can you figure out which of NLP’s five factors apply to this example? Put a check mark next to the factors that you think reflect why this example isn’t true and explain your choices in the boxes below. Remember, only some of these factors apply to most examples.



<input type="checkbox"/> Authenticity	<input type="checkbox"/> Source	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Context	<input type="checkbox"/> Reasoning
<b>Explain why.</b> Were any aspects of the claim manipulated, fabricated, or inauthentic?	<b>Explain why.</b> Has it been posted or confirmed by a credible source?	<b>Explain why.</b> Why was the evidence offered in the viral post insufficient? What evidence was used to debunk this claim?	<b>Explain why.</b> Was the claim presented in a misleading context?	<b>Explain why.</b> Was the claim based on solid reasoning?

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## 5. “The Techniques”

Each relevant factor includes a link to a helpful resource in “The Techniques” section. List the name of one resource from this section below.

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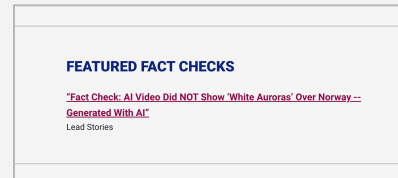


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## 6. “Featured Fact Checks”

Explore one of the fact-check articles listed at the bottom of the page. Professional fact-checkers don’t just declare rumors true or false, they explain exactly how they determined this. What steps did the fact-checker take to investigate this claim? Did they talk to an expert? Use an AI detection tool? Do a reverse image search?

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Describe one step they took that you think is most important below:

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## 7. Be the fact-checker

Reflect on everything you've discovered about this RumorGuard entry. What aspects of it can help you recognize similar falsehoods in the future? For example, does it use a common misinformation tactic, such as presenting something in a false context? Was it posted by a parody account? Does it feature a doctored photo? An AI-generated image?

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What steps could you take to debunk similar rumors in the future?

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### 8. Why it matters

Have you encountered similar rumors online? Why does it matter whether people believe this falsehood? What impact could it have on individuals? What broader impact could it have if a lot of people believe it?

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**Extend:** Now that you've analyzed a RumorGuard entry, use what you've learned to examine a fact-check article from a standards-based fact-checking organization. Complete [this handout](#) (also available as [a PDF](#)) and reflect on how you can fact-check suspicious claims online.