



IS THIS AN Official SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT?

Before following, Digital Detectives ask...

PLATFORM



Does the platform provide a way to create verified or "official" accounts?

Some platforms allow users to verify their accounts as official. Once that process is complete, a logo (like a blue checkmark) will appear next to the name. Although these can sometimes be faked, they are a clue that the account might be official.

NAME



Does the username or handle seem suspicious?

Numbers, ALL CAPS, underlined spaces, or other special characters (like @ or %) can be clues to indicate that an account is not verified or "official." While this alone doesn't mean the account can't be trusted, wile usernames may represent a red flag.

BIO



Are there details in the biography that are credibility red flags?

A lack of verifiable information (like a link to an official website) is a clue that an account might be suspicious. Additionally, some creators of hoax accounts will use bio sections or "about me" information to reveal the truth about their account.

FOLLOWERS



Is this account followed by (or does it follow) other suspicious accounts?

If an account is connected with other creators of false information, that's a signal to avoid following them or sharing information they post. Additionally, if an account is NOT followed by other officials that you'd expect to see in their network, that too is a red flag.