First Draft – a project of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government – uses research-based methods to fight mis- and disinformation online. Additionally, it provides practical and ethical guidance in how to find, verify and publish content sourced from the social web.

Claire Wardle, Research Fellow at the Center, leads the work of First Draft under the auspices of the Shorenstein Center and its faculty director, Nicco Mele. Grants from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Open Society Foundation and the Ford Foundation support our work. If you or your organization is also interested in supporting First Draft’s work, please contact Eric Singerman (mailto:eric_singerman@hks.harvard.edu).
History

First Draft grew out of a collaboration between nine founding organizations in June 2015 to raise awareness, perform research, and address challenges relating to trust and truth in media in the digital age. As one of the founding organizations, Google News Lab provided assistance to develop and maintain firstdraftnews.org (https://firstdraftnews.org/), supported the creation of new content and coordinated the community of practice (https://firstdraftnews.org/community-of-practice/). In September 2016, First Draft began coordinating with a community of newsrooms, technology companies, human rights organizations and universities across the globe to help inform and scale its work, and to champion collaboration. In October 2017, First Draft moved to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where it continues its work as a project of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy.

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