

## Email Assignment

**What you're doing:** First, read the attached news story, which was forwarded by email to the Department of News Literacy by a former student. After you read the story, consider whether you should pass this story on to a friend of yours, who you know is a big fan of this celebrity.

Before deciding whether to forwarding this story, how can you determine the accuracy of this story? Go online and try to verify that this information is reliable. Write down the step-by-step approach that you took to ascertain the reliability this story. Make sure you explain in detail the exact steps that you took to verify this information and how you came to form your judgement. Then, decide whether you want to forward this to your friend or not, and explain your decision.

**Why you're doing this:** In lecture, we talked about how information on the internet can be spread rapidly from person to person via online communication, such as email or social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. This assignment is asking you to consider what steps you take to verify the news you find on the internet.

**What you should aim to get out of it:** Do you take the time to critically assess the information that you receive over the internet? How do you know what sources of information to trust? What can you do to verify information that you receive? This assignment asks you to wrestle with these questions. You should come out of this assignment with a greater self-knowledge of how you form your assessment of information you find online. A great job that shows considerable introspection about your own habits and thought patterns as your surf the net will earn 4 points.

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## Actor Jim Carey hospitalized after traffic altercation



### BREAKING NEWS - STILL DEVELOPING...

Fullerton, CA (MediaFetcher April 10, 2011) - Actor Jim Carey has been reported to be in serious condition and taken to Golden State Regional Hospital after a minor traffic accident that escalated into a physical altercation in Fullerton CA, a suburb 30 minutes south east of Los Angeles.

Witness reports indicate that Jim Carey's BMW struck a pickup truck towing landscaping equipment. Three men exited the truck and extracted him from the vehicle then began kicking and punching the actor before fleeing the scene.

*"He didn't have a chance against these men who attacked him before he said a single word to them",* replied a visibly shaken onlooker.

Jim Carey was unresponsive upon the arrival of police officers and EMT's, but appeared to be breathing according to eyewitness reports.



This story is developing as we await confirmation regarding the eyewitness details and official health status.

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