

Name: _____

News You Can Use?

Directions: The article “A Healthy Skepticism” (page 26) gives you tools for judging how trustworthy health news is. To test the tools, find an article in a newspaper or magazine, or on the Internet, about a health-related study. Evaluate it by answering the questions in Part 1, and give your impressions in Part 2.

Part 1

1. What was the study about, and what were its results?

2. Where did you find news about the study?

3. What was studied: people, animals, or bacteria? If people, which group(s)? How many participants were studied?

4. What was the study method: a randomized trial, a survey, or some other format?

5. Who funded the study: the government, a university, a nonprofit group, or a business?

For studies of pharmaceuticals/medical devices:

6. Did the study focus on one product or compare multiple products?

7. What side effects were noticed, and how severe and common were they? Do you think the side effects outweigh any benefit from the treatment?

Part 2

After analyzing the study, consider these issues:

1. Did the news report give you enough information to answer the questions above? If not, what information was missing?

2. Based on the information provided, how reliable do you think the study is? Why?
