



# COMMUNITY NOTES

A practical toolkit for  
adding context to posts



*Community Notes are not a magic eraser. They are a way to add clear, sourced context right where people are being misled. For FOA volunteers, educators, and allies, they can help slow the spread of false claims and keep Jewish history from being rewritten in the comment section.*

FOA Principle: Keep it factual, calm, and sourced. We aim to inform the silent readers, not win an argument with the loudest commenter.

## What Community Notes Are/Are Not

Community Notes are short, sourced annotations that appear under some social media posts or videos. Instead of removing content, the platform adds context so viewers can better judge accuracy.

### When they work best:

- Community Notes work best when a post makes a checkable claim, such as:
- Mislabeling historical photos or footage.
- Using a fake statistic about Jews, Zionism, or Israel.
- Spreading Holocaust denial or distortion as “just a question.”
- Recycling a known antisemitic trope as a “news update.”

### When they work poorly:

They work poorly when the post is mostly opinion, sarcasm, or pure harassment.

### What Community Notes are NOT:

They are not a replacement for reporting policy violations. If a post includes hate speech, harassment, or incitement, report it through the platform and FOA channels first.



# Platform Availability (As of December 2025)

Availability and eligibility can change, so always check the platform's official pages for the latest information.

Platform	Status	Who can write	Key constraints
 <a href="#">X</a>	Active globally	Eligible accounts that sign up and are accepted	Notes publish only with broad agreement across different perspectives; the program is open-source
 <a href="#">YouTube</a>	Experimental, note writing limited to US (English)	Eligible contributors in the US who sign up in the YouTube mobile app	600 characters; optional timestamp; notes are anonymous
 <a href="#">Meta</a> (Facebook, Instagram, Threads)	Testing in the US with gradual rollout	US-based contributors over 18 with an account older than 6 months	500 characters; must include a link; designed to publish notes only with broad agreement
 <a href="#">TikTok</a>	Testing announced April 2025; public rollout update July 2025	U.S., 18+, account ≥ 6 months, no recent guideline violations	Community context under videos; helpful notes shown more widely



# How Notes Get Published

Community Notes are designed to avoid a simple majority vote. A note is more likely to be shown when people who usually disagree still rate it as helpful. This is why neutral wording and strong sources matter.

## The Basic Workflow

1. A contributor writes a note on a specific claim in a post or video.
2. Others rate the note as Helpful or Not Helpful.
3. The platform's algorithm looks for broad agreement across different perspectives.
4. If the note meets the threshold, it may appear publicly.

## FOA Playbook: When to Write, Report, or Walk Away

Use this checklist before you start typing to decide fast and act smart:

- If the content includes slurs, harassment, or incitement: Report it first. Notes are for context, not enforcement.
- If the post makes a verifiable claim (photo, quote, statistic, historical fact), a note can help.
- If the post is pure opinion or bait: A note rarely publishes. Do not feed the troll machine.
- If the claim is niche but important (Holocaust distortion, fake IHRA quotes, misused data): Write a note, but bring top-tier sources.
- If you cannot cite a strong source quickly: Skip the note and look for a better target.

**Safety Tip:** Do not link to hate sites, denial pages, or extremist channels. Cite museums, academic institutions, official definitions, and reputable research instead.

## Write Notes That Get Rated Helpful. And Get Shown

The goal is to create a note that is rated as helpful by a wide range of people.

### The 3-Part Note Template

1. **Identify the claim:** State the specific, checkable claim in one sentence.
2. **Provide evidence:** Link to 1–3 authoritative sources that directly address that claim.
3. **Explain briefly:** Summarize what the sources show in plain, neutral language, without getting emotional or political.





## Example B - Classic Conspiracy Trope

**Claim:** A post suggests a single Jewish family controls global finance.

**Note:** “Historians note the Rothschild family’s peak influence was in 19th century European banking and they do not control modern global financial systems. Claims of Jewish control are a long-running antisemitic conspiracy theory.”  
(Source: Britannica)



## Example C - Holocaust Inversion

**Claim:** A post compares Israel or Jews to Nazis as a way to vilify or delegitimize.

**Note:** “The IHRA working definition notes that drawing comparisons between contemporary Israeli policy and Nazi policy can be antisemitic when used to demonize Jews or deny Jewish self-determination.”





# How to Join (Step-by-Step)

## [X \(Community Notes\)](#)

1. Join through the official [sign-up page for Community Notes](#) on X.
2. Confirm eligibility (account in good standing, required phone verification).
3. Complete the sign-up flow.
4. **Tip:** Start by rating notes for your first few sessions. It helps you learn what makes a note “helpful” (tight claim match, strong sources, neutral tone) and builds a track record before you try writing.

## [Meta \(Facebook / Instagram / Threads\)](#)

1. Check eligibility: typically 18+, account older than 6 months, in good standing, with two-factor authentication enabled.
2. Enroll from Meta’s official Community Notes page.
3. Once enrolled, you can rate and (when available) write notes.

## [YouTube](#)

1. Open the YouTube mobile app → Profile → Settings → General → Help inform viewers.
2. If eligible, you’ll see “Add note” on eligible videos.
3. **Tip:** Treat YouTube notes like mini footnotes—one claim, one correction, strong sources.

## [TikTok \(Footnotes\)](#)

Confirm eligibility: typically U.S. resident, 18+, account older than 6 months, and no recent violations.

Apply or accept the in-app pilot invitation when it appears.

Contribute by rating first; write when the tool becomes available.

# Your First Week: Rating and Troubleshooting

## How to Rate Notes

You are not voting for a side; you are evaluating the note’s quality.

- **Rate Helpful when:** The note corrects one checkable claim, uses reputable sources, and is calm and non-accusatory.
- **Rate Not Helpful when:** The note attacks the poster, uses weak/partisan sources, makes broad political arguments, or repeats hateful language.



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## Fast Fact-Check

1. Identify the claim the note corrects.
2. Check the sources: do they directly prove/disprove the claim?
3. Tone check: would a neutral user still call this helpful?
4. Rate decisively.

## Why Your Note Did Not Appear

If your note isn't published, it likely failed to achieve broad consensus.

- **Is the tone inflammatory?** Remove “you/they are...” language.
- **Are the sources strong enough?** Ensure the link goes to a specific page on a recommended site.
- **Is it too complex?** Focus on correcting one single, verifiable fact.

# Source Library and Resources

## Before you use any source

Even reputable institutions, journals, and major news outlets can publish errors, rely on weak originals, or present a one-sided framing. Treat every link as a claim that needs a quick check.

## Fast Source Safety Check

- **Primary beats secondary:** Prefer original documents, official datasets, direct transcripts, court filings, or full reports over summaries.
- **Does it address the exact claim?** If the source is only “related,” it's probably not strong enough.
- **Transparency:** Clear author, date, method, and citations. If it's vague, be cautious.
- **Corroboration:** One source is rarely enough for contentious topics. Look for **2 independent** reputable sources saying the same thing.
- **Watch for opinion vs reporting:** Analysis and op-eds can be useful context, but they are weaker as proof.
- **Validity and updates:** Older pages, breaking news, or uncorrected stories can mislead. Check for corrections or updated versions.
- **Screenshot trap:** If the “source” is a screenshot of a headline or chart, find the original.

## Recommended Source Shelf

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
- Yad Vashem
- IHRA working definition of antisemitism
- FOA resources, ADL, AJC, CST-UK (for trope explanations and incident reporting)



- Government statistics (e.g., FBI hate crime data)
- Peer-reviewed journal articles and university research centers (prefer those with clear methods and citations)
- Encyclopedia Britannica
- Major news outlets (prefer straight reporting, and cross-check when disputed)

### **Avoid *Wikipedia* as a primary source for controversial claims**

#### **Additional Sources to Avoid**

- Partisan commentary sites or influencer threads
- Anonymous blogs or unverified websites
- Direct links to denial content or extremist propaganda