Fact checking at *The Nation*

Fact checking is crucial to *The Nation*. Not only does it ensure that the pieces in our magazine are accurate, fact checking offers interns what we believe to be the most comprehensive introduction into the editorial process.

We take a lot of pride in the quality of our fact checking. We don't mind being criticized for our politics, but we mind very much being called on errors (which are rare), and we hate running correction boxes. While you learn a lot about fact checking by doing it, our interns' first week on the job is reserved for orientation, during which we teach them the ins and outs of fact checking. Whether it is confirming the spelling of someone's name, the exact wording of a quote (right down to the punctuation!), or the countless other facts we check in each piece, we trust our interns to defend the integrity of each piece that runs in our magazine.

Below is an example sentence broken down into components for fact checking.

> "The late Zuleika Dobson, CEO of Beerbohm Industries—worth $17.5 million—was the author of the 900-page, 1987 novel *My Life as a Pigwig*. In her introduction she said, "It's not fair that CEOs get picked on.""

What do you check?
- That she is indeed "the late."
- The spelling of her first name, last name, and the company.
- That C.E.O. is her correct title, rather than president or something else.
- That she was worth $17.5 million. Or was the company worth that? The fact is vague. Was she worth this at her death? According to whom? Make a note for clarification.
- That the last numbered page is 900.
- The year the book was published. Make sure it was the first year it was printed, not a second or paperback edition.
- That it's a novel, not an autobiography or something else.
- That she was the author, not a co-author or editor.
- The title of the book. Did it have a subtitle?
- Did she write the introduction, and is this where the quote is from?
- Is part of the quote missing? Are the words and punctuation copied exactly?