Information: Fake or Trustworthy

JIM RETTIG & CANDICE BENJES-SMALL
CHRISTOPHER WREN ASSOCIATION COURSE
Let’s play!

Factitious
"Check snopes.com or Google before you share a quote or a story to make sure it's accurate. Just because it supports your position doesn't mean it's true. Just take 30 seconds. You're already on the internet." - Theodore Roosevelt
Samuel: And thank you to Kim, for the new vocabulary word.

Scott: I only believe quotes attributed to myself"-Abraham Lincoln

[User]: Did Teddy really say this? Of course he didn’t but it is still good advice and he would have said it if he was president today.

[User]: Edited
Think back to a time you fell for a fake story? Why do you think you believed it?
Letter a friend of mine’s daughter received from school today. Her Wonder Woman lunchbox features a violent super hero that does not comply with the school’s dress code. Pictures of the lunchbox are also attached.
Dear Daniel and Sarah,

We noticed that Laura has a Wonder Woman lunchbox that features a super hero image. In keeping with the dress code of the school, we must ask that she not bring this to school.

The dress code we have established requests that the children not bring violent images into the building in any fashion – on their clothing (including shoes and socks), backpacks and lunchboxes. We have defined “violent characters” as those who solve problems using violence. Super heroes certainly fall into this category.

Please refer to the dress code section of the School Handbook.

Your cooperation with our dress code will be appreciated.
School Reportedly Bans Girl's 'Wonder Woman' Lunchbox
Questions

Where was this?
Are letters from school normally addressed to parents by first name?
How common are metal lunchboxes these days?
Could the Reddit user be gaming the system?
Follow up

Reddit account has since been deleted
Not one media outlet fact-checked the story
CRITICAL THINKING
THE OTHER NATIONAL DEFICIT
Information overload
Guess my rule!

2  4  6  8
Confirmation bias

Once we have formed a view, we embrace information that confirms that view while ignoring, or rejecting, information that casts doubt on it.

Confirmation bias suggests that we don’t perceive circumstances objectively. We pick out those bits of data that make us feel good because they confirm our prejudices.

- https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/science-choice/201504/what-is-confirmation-bias
Expert Political Judgment: How Good Is It? How Can We Know?
Philip E. Tetlock

Winner of the 2006 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order
Winner of the 2006 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award, American Political Science Association
Winner of the 2006 Robert E. Lane Award, Political Psychology Section of the American Political Science Association

Paperback | 2006 | $35.00 | ($21.00) | £24.95 | ISBN: 9780691128719
352 pp. | 6 x 9 | 39 line illus. 7 tables.
Add to Shopping Cart
Did you fact check this before reposting it?

I don’t need to. It agrees with my preconceived views and biases so it must be true!
Myrtle Beach Man Who Shot At Hurricane Florence Dies After Bullet Ricochets

By Amanda Hamilton  On Sep 13, 2018

A 33-year old man from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has been confirmed as one of the first fatalities of Hurricane Florence after he ignored warnings and fired a weapon into the storm.

According to a source who responded to the scene the 33-year old is believed to have fired a large calibre weapon earlier this afternoon, however, the bullet ricocheted and ended up entering the man’s head. It’s believed he died instantly.

The incident comes after a Facebook event called “Shooting guns at Hurricane Florence to scare it away” went viral with over 22,000 South Carolina natives marking their interest in attending on Facebook. While the majority of them appear to have heeded the warnings not to actually shoot at the hurricane, the 33-year old Florence man who remains to be formally named was not among them.
as if we needed another reason...

“I never understood why people like dogs. Dogs are disgusting.”
-Donald Trump
After years of 'crisis actor' smears, Sandy Hook conspiracy targets ask Facebook for 'seat at the table'

“It feels like Facebook is waiting for someone to die before something gets done,” said Nelba Márquez-Greene, mother of a child killed in Sandy Hook.

Harry Potter Books Spark Rise In Satanism Among Children

7/26/00 12:49pm • SEE MORE: ENTERTAINMENT

LOCK HAVEN, PA—Ashley Daniels is as close as you can get to your typical 9-year-old American girl. A third-grader at Lock Haven Elementary School, she loves rollerblading, her pet hamsters Benny and Oreo, Britney Spears, and, of course, Harry Potter. Having breezed through the most recent Potter opus in just four days, Ashley is among the millions of children who have made Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire the fastest-selling book in publishing history.

And, like many of her school friends, Ashley was captivated enough by the strange occult doings at the Hogwarts School Of Witchcraft And Wizardry to pursue the Left-Hand Path, determined to become as adept at the black arts as Harry and his pals.

"I used to believe in what they taught us at Sunday School," said Ashley, conjuring up an ancient spell to summon Cerebus, the three-headed hound of hell. "But the Harry Potter books showed me that magic is real, something I can learn and use right
Lesson Learned: Check your passion
Fauxtography

“Fauxtography refers to fraudulent photography, where photographs are manipulated through photoshop or manipulated by other means to change the information they convey. Fauxtography is often used to manipulate the viewer and promote a particular agenda.”

https://www.techopedia.com/definition/28099/fauxtography
livingthelifeof_blackgirlmagic Ummmm thats the US Army football team. So are they unpatriotic too. Just asking for a friend? 😐😐😐😐😐
A week after Florence, FEMA is still having to debunk rumors and hoax stories

By Christina Maxouris and Saeed Ahmed, CNN

Updated 12:58 PM ET, Wed September 19, 2018
Hurricane Florence Rumor Control

- **Rumor:** The Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant is in danger due to nearby flooding.

- **Rumor:** There are reports that residents in the Carolinas are being told they can buy a flood insurance policy now, and that it will cover the flood water damage caused by Hurricane Florence.

- **Rumor:** There are reports that all emergency shelters and hotels are required to accommodate pets for people who have evacuated.

- **Rumor:** Service animals are not allowed in shelters.
BREAKING NEWS
FLORENCE NOW CONTAINS SHARKS
NEW REPORTS FROM NOAA AIRCRAFT SHOW SHARKS HAVE BEEN LIFTED INTO HURRICANE
This isn’t a river. It’s Interstate 40 in North Carolina.
The victims nobody talks about... (Hurricane Florence in North Carolina)
Fact checking images

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5e9wTdAulA
Sticky stories, videos, images
People

Martha Stewart

Ready for Jail?

Martha Stewart summons her strength, slims down and launches her comeback. But can she handle life on the inside?

KIRSTEN & JAKE
SPLIT!

Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s
FIERY CRASH

JENNIFER LOPEZ
A Sneak Peek
R.I.P
1981-2016
Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter

CNN Celebrity Live NEWS: Beyoncé Found Dead After the Dinner With Jay Z and Nicki Minaj. Did She Committed Suicide?
Conspiracy Theories

Did Vince Foster Shoot Himself ‘Three Times in the Back of the Head’ to Avoid Testifying Against Hillary Clinton?

20 September 2018 - An old conspiracy theory about the 1993 suicide of Clinton associate Vincent Foster, whose death was investigated long ago by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, was dredged up again in September 2018.
Ideological Placement of Each Source’s Audience

Average ideological placement on a 10-point scale of ideological consistency of those who got news from each source in the past week...

American Trends Panel (wave 1). Survey conducted March 19–April 29, 2014. N=222. Based on all web respondents. Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see About the Survey for more details.) ThinkProgress, Daily Kos, Mother Jones, and The Ed Schultz Show are not included in this graphic because audience sample sizes are too small to analyze.
“Social media fueled ‘fake news’ because content designed to be shared by friends is not necessarily content designed to deliver accurate information. After all, how many times have you shared something that you’ve never bothered to read?”

-Evan Speigel, CEO of Snapchat
Wall Street Journal Blue Feed, Red Feed

http://graphics.wsj.com/blue-feed-red-feed/
Assessing Local Journalism:

News Deserts, Journalism Divides, and the Determinants of the Robustness of Local News

PHILIP M. NAPOLI, MATTHEW WEBER, KATIE MCCOLLOUGH & QUN WANG

AUGUST, 2018
Suggestions

Read widely
Support local media
Before you share...verify
Critically read the story
What’s wrong with this story?

First State in America Moves To BAN Donald Trump From Entering, More To Follow (DETAILS)

Arapahoe County, CO – October 11, 2016

After Trump’s campaign staff removed a Muslim woman who was peacefully protesting at a Trump rally in Rock Hill, South Carolina, state Rep. John King (D) jumped ship on the Trump train, and said he was “not welcome” in the state.

King declared he was “sick to his stomach” over the way Trump’s cohorts treated the woman. And with good reason!

He told The Herald that he will file a House Resolution that states Trump isn’t welcome in the state of South Carolina.
Good Journalism

Produce, not just plagiarize
Verify facts
Take care not to oversimplify or sensationalize
Trustworthy sources
IMVAIN

Independent vs. Self-interested
Multiple vs. Single source
Verifies vs. Asserts
Authoritative/Informed vs. Uninformed
Names vs. Unnamed
http://drc.centerfornewsliteracy.org/resource/deconstructing-viral-video-skydiving-without-parachute
Independent vs. Self-interested

This Really Happened at our California Park.

GO BIG

SECTOR AREA 51
Multiple vs. Single source
Verify vs. Assert
Named Sources vs. Anonymous
Consider...

Was this video convincing at first? Why or why not?
What role did social media play?
Elements of Journalism

First obligation is to the truth
First loyalty is to citizens
Discipline of verification
Journalists must be independent
Serve as monitor of power
Citizens have rights and responsibilities too
Citizens’ rights and responsibilities

Need to own our biases and break through them
Sharing or liking a story may affect others—perhaps negatively
Next session...

What are some systematic approaches to help us evaluate information?
Helpful readings for this session

https://firstdraftnews.org/coe-report/
https://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org/

Images from snopes.com, Google images