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Top Ten 2020 Skills Project

SKILL 2 – CRITICAL THINKING
FAKE NEWS



2. Critical Thinking

**A LIE CAN TRAVEL HALF WAY
AROUND THE WORLD WHILE THE
TRUTH IS PUTTING ON ITS SHOES.**

Charles Spurgeon



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SKILL 2 – CRITICAL THINKING

FAKE NEWS

- **Aim** - Be aware of «fake news» and how they impacts us, also how not to get lost in all information we have around us.
- **Objective 1.** – What are «FAKE NEWS»? What kind of FAKE NEWS exist ?
- **Objective 2.** –Does FAKE NEWS affect life?
- **Objective 3.-** What can you do? How to spot fake news?

- **Contents** - Definition of fake news, types of fake news, insight into fake news recognition. Examples, how fake news impacts us.



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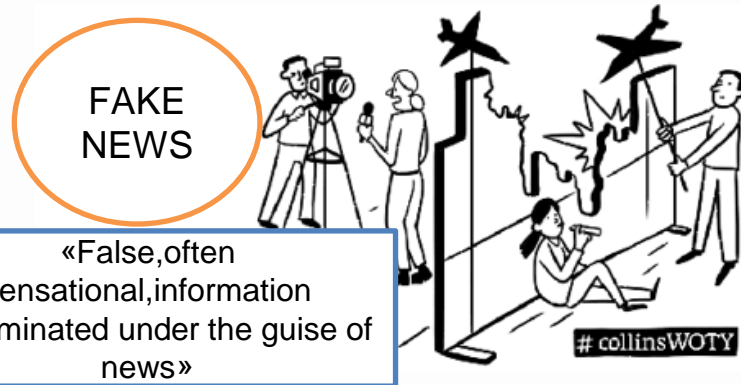
FAKE NEWS

What is «fake news»?

- fake news - **false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke:**

«There is concern about the power of fake news to affect election results.»

Synonyms and related words: True, real, false, and unreal news.

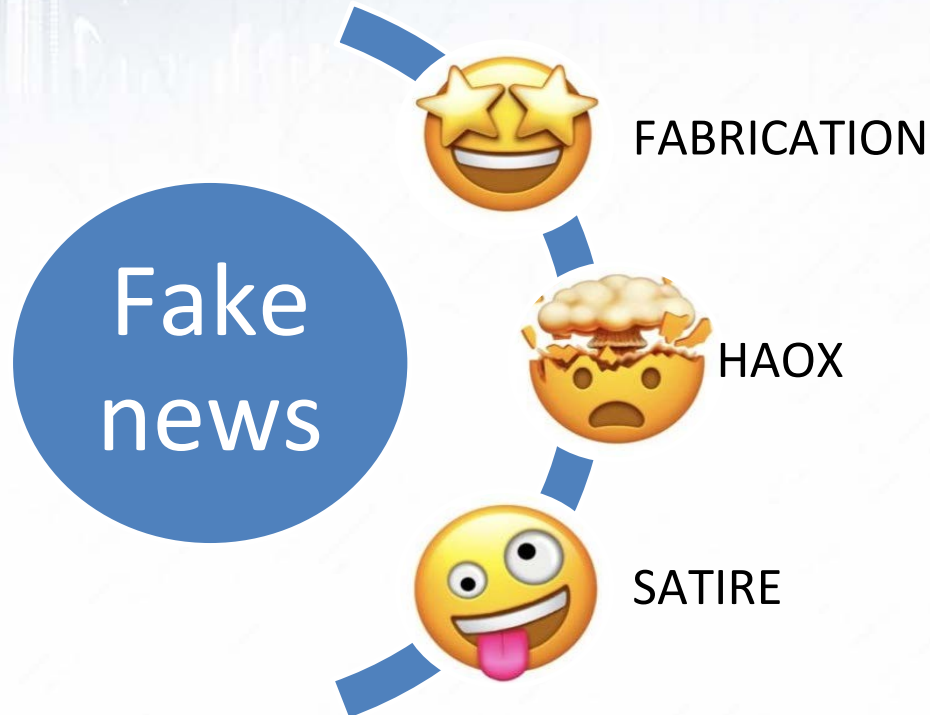


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3 biggest TYPES OF «Fake news»



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FAKE NEWS

3 biggest TYPES OF «Fake news»

- **FABRICATION** - an international lie that doesn't usually go beyond one source. The source is probably aware that the story is false. Depends heavily on clickbait. Think of these like an evolution of fake tabloid stories.



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- **HAOX** - Uses more sophisticated methods of fooling an audience or social media manipulation. Often spread by multiple sources, some of which may believe the story is true.

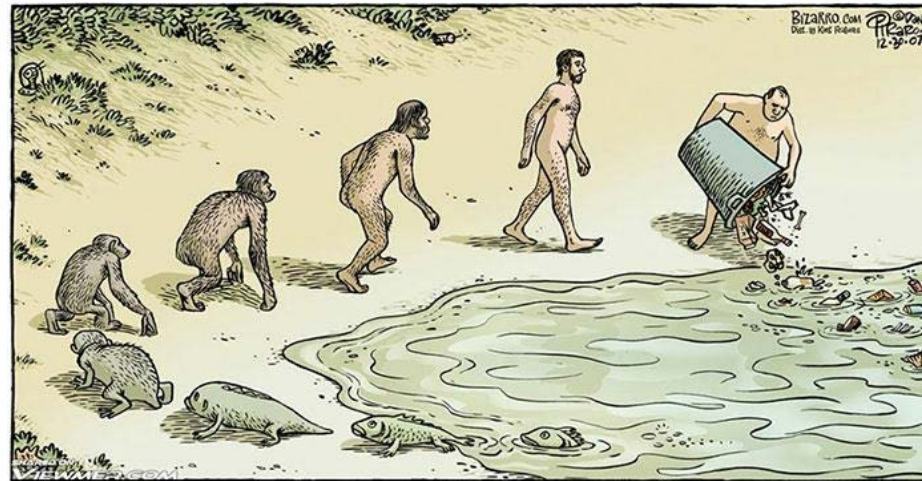


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- **SATIRE** -the use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's ignorance or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.





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FAKE NEWS

What kind of FAKE NEWS exist :

- **Advertisement** - Information that is sponsored by a person or organisation to promote a brand or product. The conflict of interest created by paying for the presentation of the information means that ads are not reliable sources of factual information.
- **Astroturfing** - The practice of disguising the source of information in order to give the impression that it has more popular support than it may have in reality. The term comes from the brand name of an artificial grass, playing on the idea that it is faking "grassroots" support.



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- **Bias** - An inclination or tendency, used especially when it leads to unfair or unreasonable treatment. There are all kinds of biases, including bias for or against a political affiliation, nation, race, gender, class, or many other things. Having a bias does not necessarily mean someone is trying to deceive you, but it can cause them to ignore information that disagrees with their perspective.
- **Clickbait** - Something (usually a headline) that is intended to lure you into clicking on a link that would otherwise be uninteresting. Clickbait is not necessarily deceitful, but it can often result in outrageous or upsetting headlines that are not backed up in the article.



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- **Conspiracy Theory** - A pattern of thinking that holds that the truth about a situation is being suppressed by powerful people. Deceitful sources often use conspiracy theory to cultivate the false idea that any source that disagrees with them can not be trusted.
- **Junk Science** - Information that appears to be justified scientifically (with data, theoretical frameworks, etc.) that, whether because of bad methodology or intentional fraud, is actually inaccurate.
- **Scam** - An act in which one uses fraudulent information to profit somehow from victims that believe the information is true. Scams might not be "fake news" themselves, but fake news can often be used to support a scam.



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- **Propaganda** - Information that is promoted specifically to advance or hinder a cause or organization, used especially in the context of nations or ideologies. Propaganda might be factually correct or incorrect, but it is biased by definition and therefore not a reliable source of factual information.
- **Rumor** - Unverified information that is spread on the assumption that it may be true. Many sources specialize in reporting on rumors, but one should always wait for confirmation from authoritative sources before treating this kind of information as fact.



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Therefore unreliable information

FAKE NEWS

Michelle Obama Deletes Hillary Clinton From Twitter

When Hillary goes low, Michelle goes BYE!

Posted on November 1, 2016 by Baxter Dmitry in News, US // 1 Comment



It was shared on Facebook



"If it's on the internet
then it must be true,
and you can't question it."
- Abraham Lincoln



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Does FAKE NEWS affect life? YES!

Terms such as “fake news”, “post-truth” and “alternative facts” will be forever associated with the 2016 Presidential Election. Hoax stories, such as Hillary Clinton selling weapons to ISIS and Pope Francis endorsing Trump for President were liked and commented upon hundreds of thousands of times on Facebook, with many consumers not being able to tell whether the headlines were real or not. This highlights the level of confusion that fake news caused.

(<https://www.statista.com/topics/3251/fake-news/>)



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How about yourself?

Answer to these questions:

Do you believe everything you hear, read or see?

Why?

Are you spreading information that is based on facts?

Always?

Which sources you trust?

Why?

How do you know it is true?



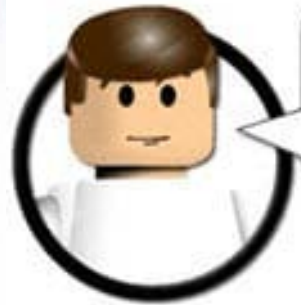
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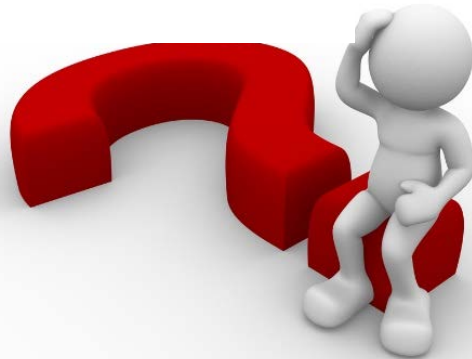
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How to find out-if they are «fake news»?



Don't be afraid to ask questions



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Turn on your critical person and ask:

- 1. Who is the source?** Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info. How well the story is made? Well made story starts with solid facts. It should be calm, clear and neat, not a train wreck of exaggerated emotions (like ALL CAPS WORDS!) and sloppy mistakes.
- 2. Who is the author?** Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- 3. What date news are you getting?** Reposting old news stories does not mean they are relevant to current events. Stories like this tend to be shared around the same time each year, but will always have the same date. Before reading, just check the date before you read and share it.



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4. How about your biases? Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgment. Is it aimed at a specific audience?

5. What is the whole story? Read beyond. Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks.

6. What sources are supporting it? Click on the links (but be careful), to find out if the info given actually supports the story.



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7. Is it a joke? If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure. **Is it news or opinion?** News may explain what is happening. Opinion takes a stance to judge or make an argument about it.

8. Where else can you see that information? Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site, or check information in governmental institutions.

9. Is it supported by facts? Is there good evidence? Look for examples, primary sources, expert analysis or other signs that the writer has done their homework and can back up the argument.



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**If you have doubt-
always get a second opinion from a librarian, teacher, friend, colleague etc.**



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Extra materials

- <https://collegeinfo geek.com/improve-critical-thinking-skills/>
- <https://blog.iqmatrix.com/critical-thinker>
- <https://www.statista.com/chart/7305/public-opinion-on-fake-news/>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2017/03/01/fake-news-how-big-data-and-ai-can-help/#668a386670d5>
- <https://ktwop.com/2017/11/03/will-recognition-of-fake-news-be-followed-by-fake-science/>
- <https://publications.computer.org/it-professional/2018/02/08/fake-news-economic-equation-solutions-to-stop/>
- <https://guides.zsr.wfu.edu/fakenews>
- <https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174>
- <http://www.nlb.gov.sg/sure/category/fake-news/>
- <http://www.brandeis.edu/magazine/2017/summer/arts-and-culture/fake-news.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0GTCD39h3Q&index=1&list=RDy0GTCD39h3Q>
- <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/opinion/fake-news-affects-all-of-us-the-debate-should-reflect-all-voices/>
- <https://ecas.org/event/workshop-media-literacy/>
- <https://www.statista.com/topics/3251/fake-news/>
- <https://pdc.is/2018/01/24/8-ways-spot-fake-news/>





THANK YOU!



REMEMBER-CHECK, CHECK, CHECK!



2. Critical Thinking