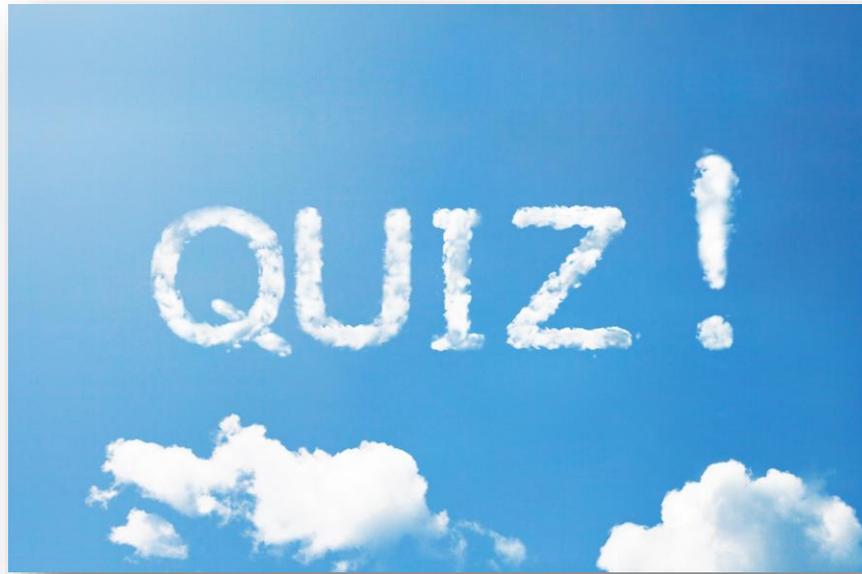


Teaching College Students How to Identify Fake News

Making Waves

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[Urban Legends Online Quiz](#)

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

Peter Parker as Spiderman



- Importance of teaching information literacy
- College students have always had the internet
- Social Media has blurred the lines between truth and fiction
- Stanford History Education Group designed, field tested, and validated fifteen assessments of online reasoning
- The researchers concluded “students need further instruction in how best to navigate social media content, particularly when that content comes from a source with a clear political agenda” (Wineburg et al., 2016, p. 24).

62% of adults also get their news from social networking sites (Gottfried & Shearer, 2016)

- 70% of Reddit users, 66% of Facebook users, and 59% of Twitter users get news from these platforms
- Facebook had the greatest reach of the social networking platforms examined in the study, as 67% of American adults are users of the platform
- This suggests that the two-thirds of adult Facebook users who get news there amounts to 44% of the general population



Psychology and Fake News

Availability Heuristic
(Tversky & Kahneman, 1974)

Availability Heuristic

= estimating the likelihood of events based on their availability in memory; if instances come readily to mind (perhaps because of their vividness), we presume such events are common

Psychology and Fake News

- ‘Epistemological Hedonism’ Jillette (also see Irwin, 1995)
 (“If it feels good, believe it”)
- Truth can be stranger than fiction and vice versa
- Broward College student study, less than 50% can tell

Social Media – the good, the bad and the ugly

- Quickly spreads news regardless of validity
- During emergencies, news organizations that might otherwise compete can work together and help spread good information, banding together to call out hoaxes and fakes. This kind of coordination can amplify the good information and help it rise above the fake and unreliable content that's frankly more appealing from a sharing standpoint. (Silverman, 2013)

Why propagate fake news?

- Advertising “click bait”
- Mistaking fake news for real news
- Intentionally created to confuse fact and fiction
- Political and social implications



Best practices for Teaching Students How to Identify Fake News

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) presented its [Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#) in 2015

- These frames, listed alphabetically, are:
 - Authority Is Constructed and Contextual
 - Information Creation as a Process
 - Information Has Value
 - Research as Inquiry
 - Scholarship as Conversation
 - Searching as Strategic Exploration

CORA

- [The Community of Online Research Assignments](#), or [CORA](#) (2017), hosted by Loyola Marymount University Library
- This open access site includes searchable assignments, using filters for information literacy concepts.



Community of Online Research Assignments
an open access resource for faculty and librarians

ACRL Sandbox

- Platform and repository for sharing Framework materials, lessons and resources
- Can be searched using a variety of filters, including discipline, type of institution, scope, resource type



LibGuides

- LibGuides is a web-based application and content management system used to create and organize electronic guides.
- The Online Satirical News LibGuide by Ed Koltonski (2017) from Kent State University
- “Fake” News guide describes different types of fake news, including satire, bias, junk science, rumor mills, and clickbait (Novotny, 2017)
- Many other LibGuides on Fake News, evaluation of sources, etc.

Worksheets

- [CRAAP](#), standing for **C**urrency, **R**elevance, **A**uthority, **A**ccuracy, and **P**urpose -
California State Chico
- [Recycling C.R.A.P.: Reframing a popular research mnemonic for library instruction \(C.R.A.V.E.\)](#) –
(**C**onversation, **R**evision, **A**uthority, **V**alue, **E**xploration)
LeBlanc & Quintiliano
- [The Ultimate Cheatsheet for Critical Thinking](#) –
Global Digital Citizen Foundation (2015)

Infographic

- [How to Spot Fake News](#) –

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
www.ifla.org

Fact checking websites

- [Snopes](#)



- [FactCheck](#)



- [Hoax-Slayer](#)



- [Politifact](#)



- [Full Fact](#)

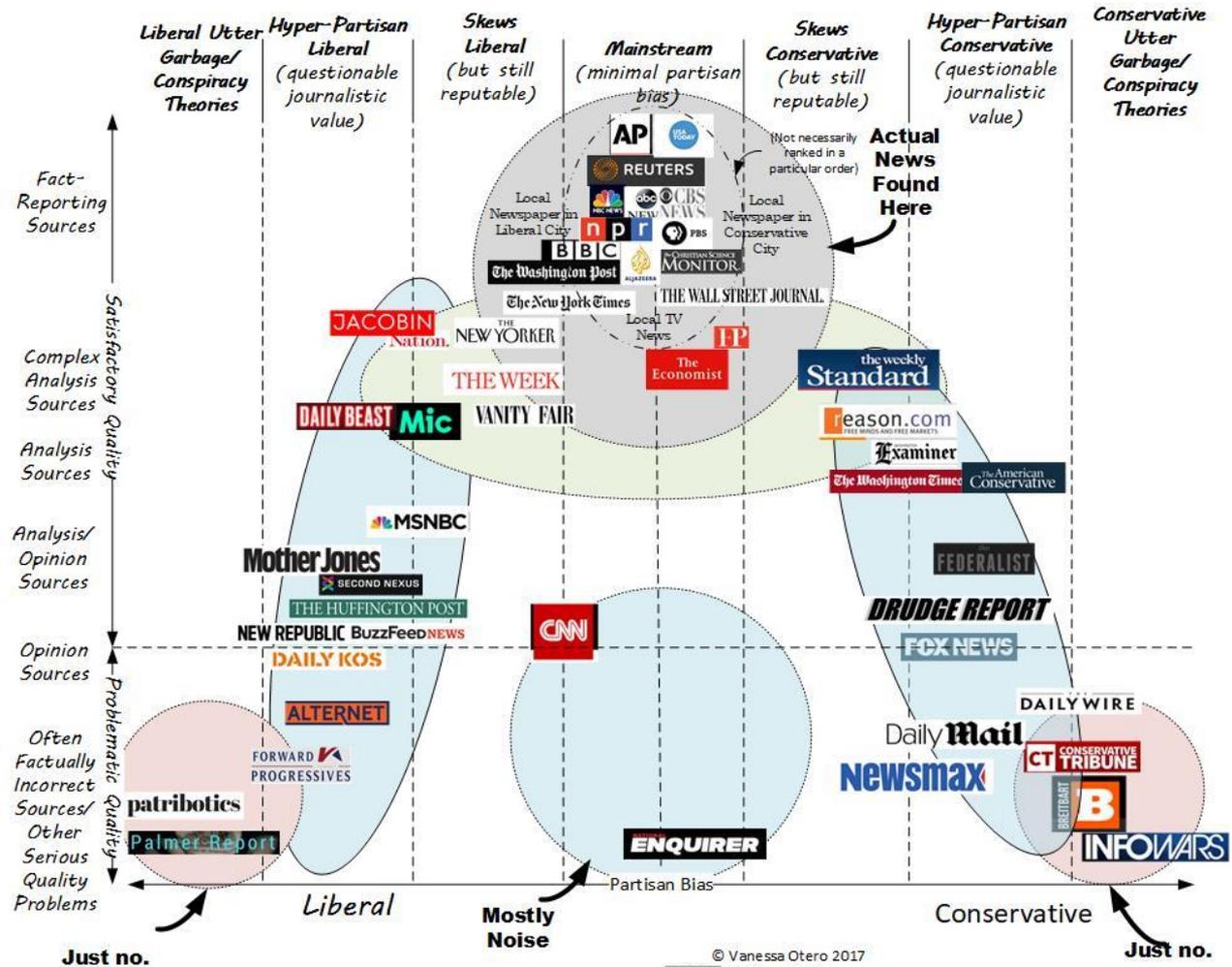


Journalism

- Real news, abide by the [Society of Professional Journalist's Code of Ethics](#) (2017)
- Verification by at least 2 sources
- The news source wants to be recognized, not to hidden

2nd edition: News Quality

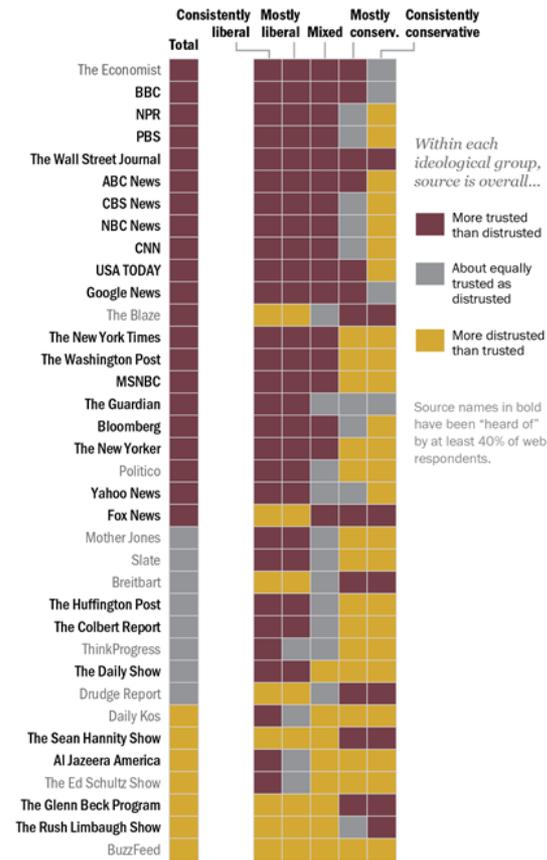
By: Vanessa Otero
(2016)



Trust Levels of News Sources by Ideological Group –

Pew Research
Center, 2014

Trust Levels of News Sources by Ideological Group



American Trends Panel (wave 1). Survey conducted March 19-April 29, 2014. Q21a-21b. Based on web respondents. Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see about the survey). Grouping of outlets is determined by whether the percent who trust each source is significantly different from the percent who distrust each source. Outlets are then ranked by the proportion of those who trust more than distrust each.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Conclusion

- The evaluation of the truth of a news story is not in the story itself, but rather in the verisimilitude of the given source.



Questions?

