



FAKE NEWS

WHAT IS FAKE NEWS?

There are essentially **2** kinds of Fake News:

1. False stories that are **deliberately published** or sent around, in order to make people believe in something that isn't true.
2. Stories that may have *some* truth to them, but they aren't completely accurate, because journalists or writers haven't checked all of the facts before publishing the story.

Source: <https://guides.lib.umich.edu/fakenews>

WHY IS FAKE NEWS CREATED?

Lots of reasons actually, but some of the more common ones are....

- Political reasons
- **It pays money** - Some fake news sites make thousands of pounds a month from sharing made-up stories.
- Revenge
- Hatred or jealousy

Source: <https://30secondes.org/en/module/why-is-fake-news-invented/>



HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



Find out where the story comes from....

Check the URL (web sites ending in **.co** often contain fake stories (In 2018 over 45,000 **Facebook** news posts were identified as fake).

Stories that are circulated on WhatsApp groups and Twitter and are not backed up by sources can also be suspicious.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

Read the headline carefully.

Does it use a lot of ***ALL CAPS AND “!!!!”***?

Does the headline contain “**BREAKING NEWS**” or “**You Won’t Believe This!**”

If it contains wild, outrageous claims - “**Eating Tayto Cures Baldness!**” - then it is probably false.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

Is it someone's opinion rather than an actual news piece?

If the story doesn't provide arguments for both sides, then it can possibly be misleading or even false.

Has it been reported on multiple, trusted news sites?

The BBC, Washington Post, The Associated Press, Reuters, Politico, The Guardian are all considered trustworthy news sites.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS?

- Can create fear and suspicion
- Can create or reinforce discriminatory/defamatory/racist ideas and hatred
- Can encourage or support bullying
- Can have deep political impact
- Can be harmful to your health
- The spread of conspiracy theories can have mental and physical consequences on people

THE EFFECT OF FAKE NEWS..

The recent US election has created a perfect storm of 'fake news' and has led to lawsuits at best and death threats at worst. An example :

- Claim: More votes than registered voters in the state of Michigan

President Trump has repeated live and Tweeted on his account, the unproven rumour circulating in various forms since the election, that battleground states have recorded more votes than registered voters. In a focus on Michigan, the Trump campaign says voter turnout in 19 areas - listed below as proof - was higher than 100%, an outcome known as an "overvote".

Precinct Township	Votes/SOS Est. Voters
BENVILLE TWP	350%
MONTICELLO P-1	144%
MONTICELLO P-2	138%
ALBERTVILLE P-2	138%
ALBERTVILLE P-1	136%
BRADFORD TWP.	104%
VELDT TWP.	104%
CHAMPION TWP	104%
KENT CITY	103%
WANGER TWP.	102%
KANDIYOHI TWP.	102%
LAKE LILLIAN TWP.	102%
HOKAH TWP.	102%
HOUSTON TWP.	101%
HILL RIVER TWP.	101%
SUNNYSIDE TWP.	101%
BROWNSVILLE TWP.	101%
OSLO	101%
EYOTA TWP.	101%

However, these precincts are all in the state of Minnesota - not Michigan.

Do they even stack up as precincts where impossibly high levels of voting took place?

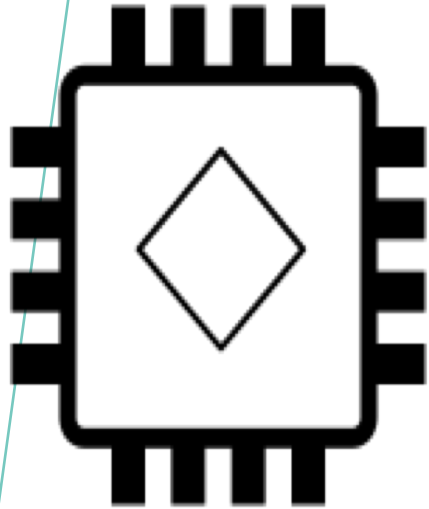
No! Top of the list is Benville Township with an alleged 350% turnout. 63 voted out of a total of 71 registered. That's a turnout of 89%. Other precincts on the list were checked and all had turnouts below 100%.



However, this Fake News and disinformation, led to the Michigan Secretary of State seeing armed protesters outside her house and other election officials receiving death threats.

Fake News has consequences in the real world, so fact checking is essential before reporting or publishing.

OTHER CURRENT INSTANCES OF THE FAKE NEWS EFFECT.....BILL GATES & VACCINE FAKE NEWS



A conspiracy theory that Bill Gates is funding the vaccine so he can secretly inject microchips and control the population is one of the most popular ones circulating and is false. Although obviously there are still tests to be done, the chances of microchips entering our bodies - unless via McCain's tasty crinkle cut - are extremely unlikely.

“Despite the lack of evidence, in May a YouGov poll of 1,640 people suggested 28% of Americans believed Mr Gates wanted to use vaccines to implant microchips in people - with the figure rising to 44% among Republicans.”

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/54893437>

REAL OR FAKE?

Can you figure out which of the following images are real or fake.....



Fake! Here's the original
Source: <https://bit.ly/3mK9yyu>

REAL OR FAKE?



Venice frozen over.



Fake! It's actually made up of two different photos.

REAL OR FAKE?



Fallen down trees after a hurricane.

Real!
Source:
<https://bit.ly/3qrLpyG>

REAL OR FAKE?



Sinkhole in Guatemala, 2010.

It's Real!
Source: <https://bit.ly/3ID9AqI>

REAL OR FAKE?



Space shuttle rising out of the clouds



Fake!

Source: <https://www.demilked.com/fake-viral-photos/>

REAL OR FAKE?



Lion's Mane Jellyfish

Real!
Source: <https://bit.ly/2JJBbJo>

REAL OR FAKE?



Cruise ship stranded on a mountain

It's real! Although it's a hotel in South Korea designed to look like a cruise ship on a mountain.

FACT CHECKING WEB SITES

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