

Exploring the misinformation landscape

John Silva, NBCT Senior Director of Professional Learning
March 2, 2022



John Silva, NBCT
Senior Director of
Professional Learning

jsilva@newslit.org



@MrSilva

The News Literacy Project

- My primary role is to design and facilitate professional learning for educators.
- I also teach news literacy concepts to adult audiences.
- I follow trends in misinformation and conspiracy theories.
- I was a MS & HS social studies teacher for 13 years in Chicago Public Schools.

[About](#)[For Educators](#)[For Everyone](#)[Global Education](#)[NLP News](#)[SUBSCRIBE](#)[DONATE](#)

Andria Chamberlin for the News Literacy Project

Upon Reflection: 14 lessons from our first 14 years

As a mom and NLP supporter, Wyoming woman values news literacy

NLP experts took to airwaves for National News Literacy Week 2022

LOS ANGELES
PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS
TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE MISINFORMATION

6:47

46°

9

The News Literacy Project

<https://newslit.org>

Our mission:

“The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources for educators and the public to teach, learn and share the abilities needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information and equal and engaged participants in a democracy.”

<https://newslit.org/about/>

Our vision:

“News literacy is embedded in the American education experience, and people of all ages and backgrounds know how to identify credible news and other information, empowering them to have an equal opportunity to participate in the civic life of their communities and the country.”

<https://newslit.org/about/>



Let's connect on social media!

Tag us with **#NewsLiteracy** on

Twitter, Instagram, Facebook:

@NewsLitProject



Reflection questions



With your phone today:

- Have you posted to social media more than once?
- How many social media posts have you scrolled through vs how many you've liked or commented on?
- How many text messages and emails are currently unread on your phone? How many have you sent?
- Have you read any news articles all the way through or did you just skim?
- Did you buy anything?

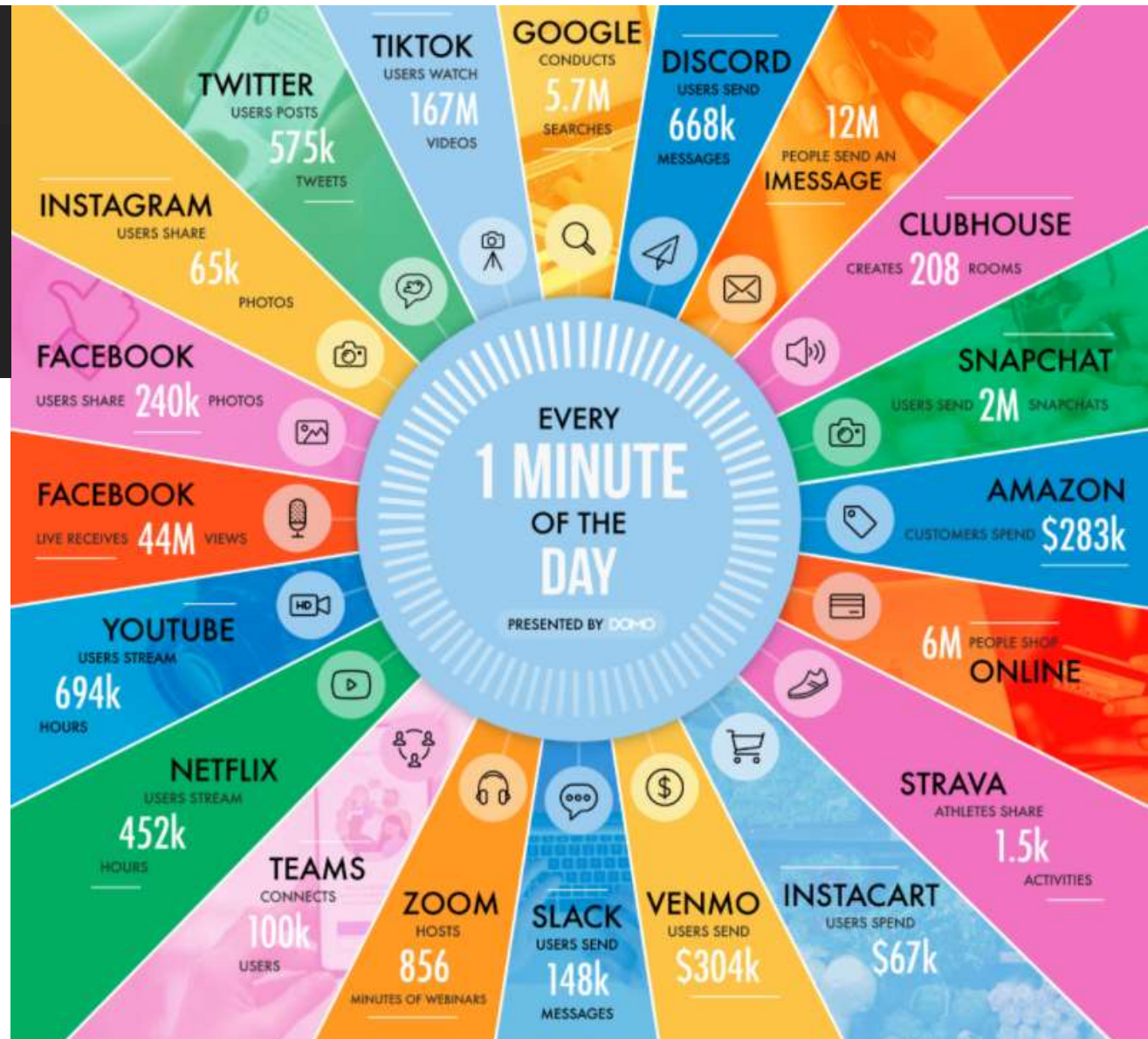


Global Internet Population Growth (IN BILLIONS)



In 2021 65% of the world's population had access to the Internet and 92.6% was through mobile devices.

The News Literacy Project



In 2021, the volume of data/information created, captured, copied, and consumed worldwide was 79 zettabytes. In 2025, that is projected to grow to 181 zettabytes.

A zettabyte is 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (10²¹) bytes of information!

Information overload, when combined with echo chambers, algorithms and passive consumption of information, increases our susceptibility to misinformation.

"Information Overload Helps Fake News Spread, and Social Media Knows It" by Thomas Hills and Filippo Menczer, Scientific American, December 2020

**“ Young people have a right to
news literacy education. ”**

“

**Young people
have a right to
news literacy
education**

”

The News Literacy Project

1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.
2. Students are inheriting the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.
3. Not preparing them to successfully navigate and play a role in shaping this landscape is fundamentally unfair.

What is news literacy?

“

Determine the accuracy of information as well as the credibility of the source of that information.

”



Peter McCullough, MD MPH
@P_McCulloughMD

...

In this report he had it 72 hours prior to the crash when there is circulatory Spike protein as shown by Ogata et al, '21. There should be great caution over any key positions (pilots, bus drivers, etc) during this high risk period given his and other lives potentially at stake.

Home > COVID-19 > Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

COVID-19 News USA

Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

By Mike Baxter - January 26, 2022

Like 370



Throughout the Pandemic Real Raw News has written about incidents of vaccinated pilots either falling ill or outright dropping dead midflight, catastrophic events that endanger not only the pilots but also the millions of passengers entrusting their safety to the airlines. This issue, obscured by the FAA in matters involving civilian pilots, and the DoD for military aviators, has plagued general aviation, commercial traffic, and military operations.

“

Use the standards of authoritative, fact-based journalism in deciding what to trust, what to share and what to act on.

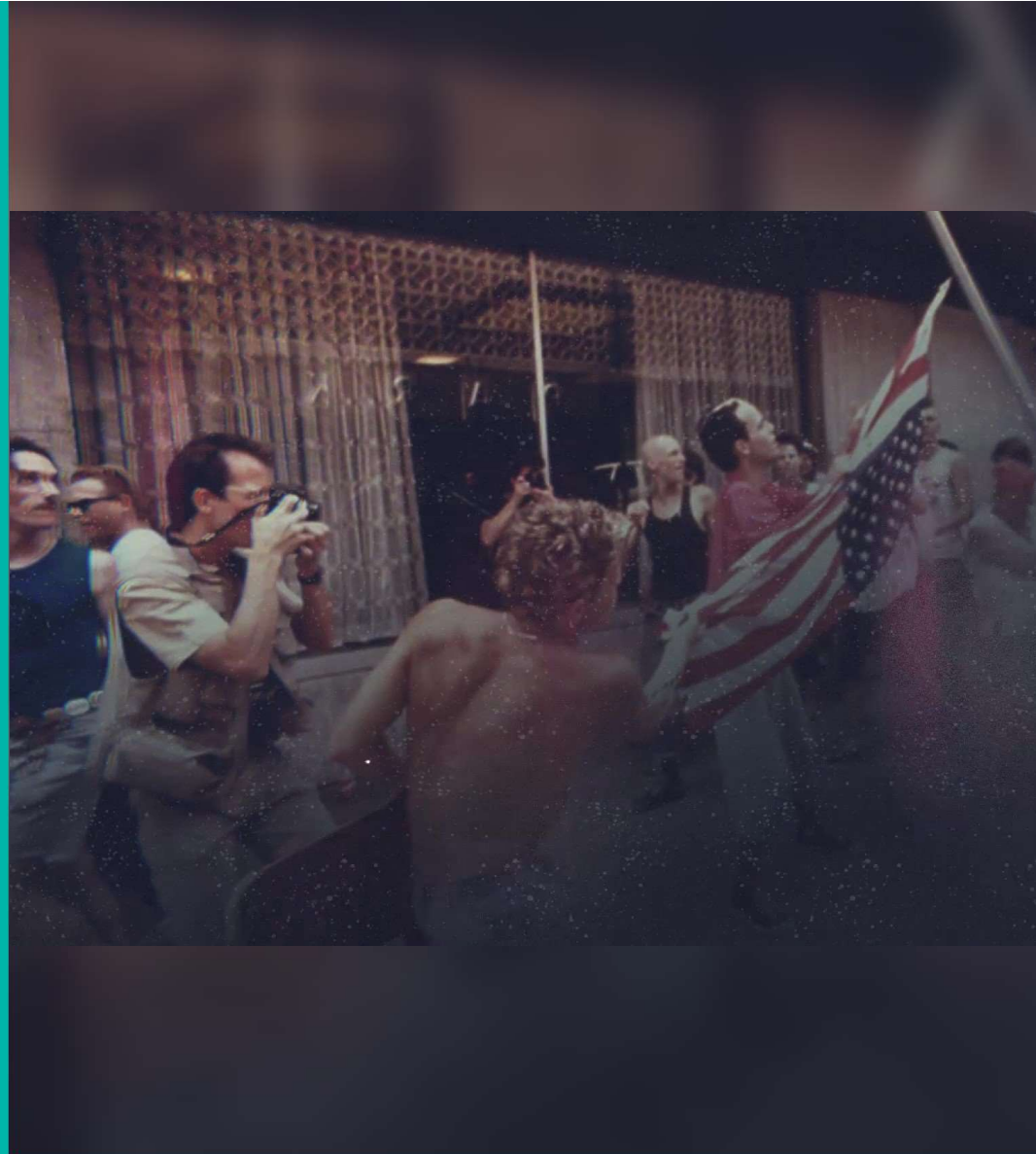
”



“

Understand the importance of a free press and interact with news and other information in ways that promote engaged participation in civic life.

”



Misinformation learning objectives



To understand and be less susceptible to misinformation, I can

- Define misinformation and differentiate common types.
- Describe the motivations of those who create and share misinformation.
- Classify types of propagators and relate them to motivations.
- Explain how misinformation exploits emotions and cognitive biases.

What is misinformation?



Misinformation is:

False

Inaccurate

Misleading

Incorrect

“False or misleading information
that is created and/or shared
regardless of intent to deceive.”

Misinformation and “fake news”

- Have become “irredeemably polarized in our current political and media climate”.
- Labeling information that does not support a position as “fake news” is a common political strategy.
- These terms have “lost all connection to the actual veracity of the information presented”.
- We must teach a more accurate vocabulary and categorization for misinformation.

Mis- vs Disinformation

Misinformation

False or misleading information that is created and/or shared regardless of intent to deceive.

Disinformation

False or misleading information that is knowingly and intentionally created and/or shared in order to deceive.

2012 image
taken in
Melbourne,
Australia.



2018 image
taken in South
Carolina after
Hurricane
Florence.



- Whoever created this meme knew the images were unrelated.
- It started out as **dis**information.
- Once in the wild, it became **mis**information.



- Fake tweet created using an app or website.
- It started out as **dis**information.
- Retweeting without verifying is spreading **mis**information.
- If you know it's false, and you share it hoping people believe it, that's **dis**information.



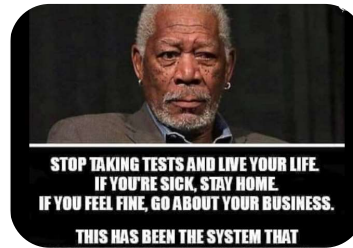
What does misinformation
look like?



NLP's five types of misinformation



Manipulated content



False context



Fabricated content



Imposter content



Spirit Halloween Sets Up Shop In Abandoned U.S. Military Bases In Afghanistan

Satire

Manipulated Content

Misinformation in which something is altered from the original, such as images that have had content added or removed using photo editing tools.





The News Literacy Project

Original image

Mobile Vaccination Clinics Continue at Gillette Stadium Events

Jul 31, 2021 at 11:09 AM



New England Patriots

Staff



Technology

Another fake video of Pelosi goes viral on Facebook

The social media giant attached a 'partly false' label to a clip manipulated to make the House speaker look drunk

Another manipulated video of Pelosi spreads widely online



Manipulated video



A manipulated video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was circulated across several social media platforms in early August. (The Washington Post)

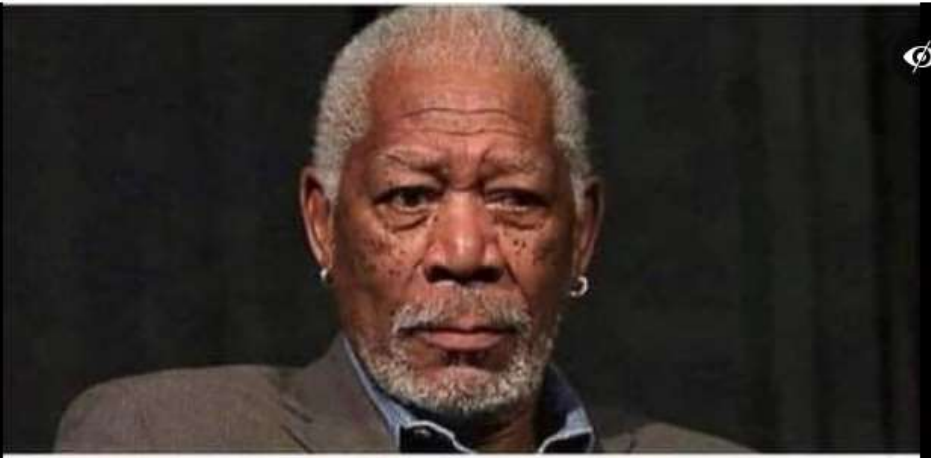
False Context

Misinformation that takes an image, quote or other piece of content and puts it into a new, false context to change its meaning. Especially common during viral, breaking news events.

Morgan Freeman didn't say this

January 18 at 8:50 AM · 🌐

Common Sense? Y'all have lost your deemed useless and meaningless! Li



**STOP TAKING TESTS AND LIVE YOUR LIFE.
IF YOU'RE SICK, STAY HOME.
IF YOU FEEL FINE, GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.**

**THIS HAS BEEN THE SYSTEM THAT
WORKED FOR ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY UNTIL
THE LAST TWO YEARS. TIME TO GO BACK TO IT.**

43

3 Comments · 297 Shares



January 18

Common Sense:

deemed useless and meaningless! Listen to Morgan Freeman!!!! 📢

FALSE CONTEXT



**STOP TAKING TESTS AND LIVE YOUR LIFE.
IF YOU'RE SICK, STAY HOME.
IF YOU FEEL FINE, GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.**

**THIS HAS BEEN THE SYSTEM THAT
WORKED FOR ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY UNTIL
THE LAST TWO YEARS. TIME TO GO BACK TO IT.**

43

3 Comments 297 Shares

The News Literacy Project



Matt Walsh
@MattWalshBlog

ORIGINAL

Stop taking tests and live your life. If you're sick, stay home. If you feel fine, go about your business. That had been the system for all of human history until the last two years. Time to go back to it.

7:32 PM · Jan 3, 2022 · Twitter Web App

6,387 Retweets 247 Quote Tweets 32.9K Likes



ACTforAmerica
@ACTforAmerica

Joe Biden also left behind military service dogs at the airport in Afghanistan.



10:23 PM · Aug 30, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

799 Retweets 212 Quote Tweets 1,324 Likes



PETA
@peta

The @JoeBiden Administration must get abandoned working dogs & other animals—and their caretakers—out of Afghanistan.

Join PETA in urging @POTUS to evacuate the dogs & cats, & their caretakers, who were left behind!
peta.vg/37vi #NoPawsLeftBehind



1:02 PM · Aug 31, 2021 · Sprout Social



ACTforAmerica
@ACTforAmerica

Joe Biden also left behind military service dogs at the airport in Afghanistan.



10:23 PM · Aug 30, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

799 Retweets 212 Quote Tweets 1,324 Likes



PETA
@peta

The @JoeBiden Administration must get abandoned working dogs & other animals—and their caretakers—out of Afghanistan.



John Kirby
@PentagonPresSec

To correct erroneous reports, the U.S. Military did not leave any dogs in cages at Hamid Karzai International Airport, including the reported military working dogs. Photos circulating online were animals under the care of the Kabul Small Animal Rescue, not dogs under our care.

10:56 AM · Aug 31, 2021 · Twitter Web App

2,132 Retweets 817 Quote Tweets 5,473 Likes

... e the dogs &
behind!

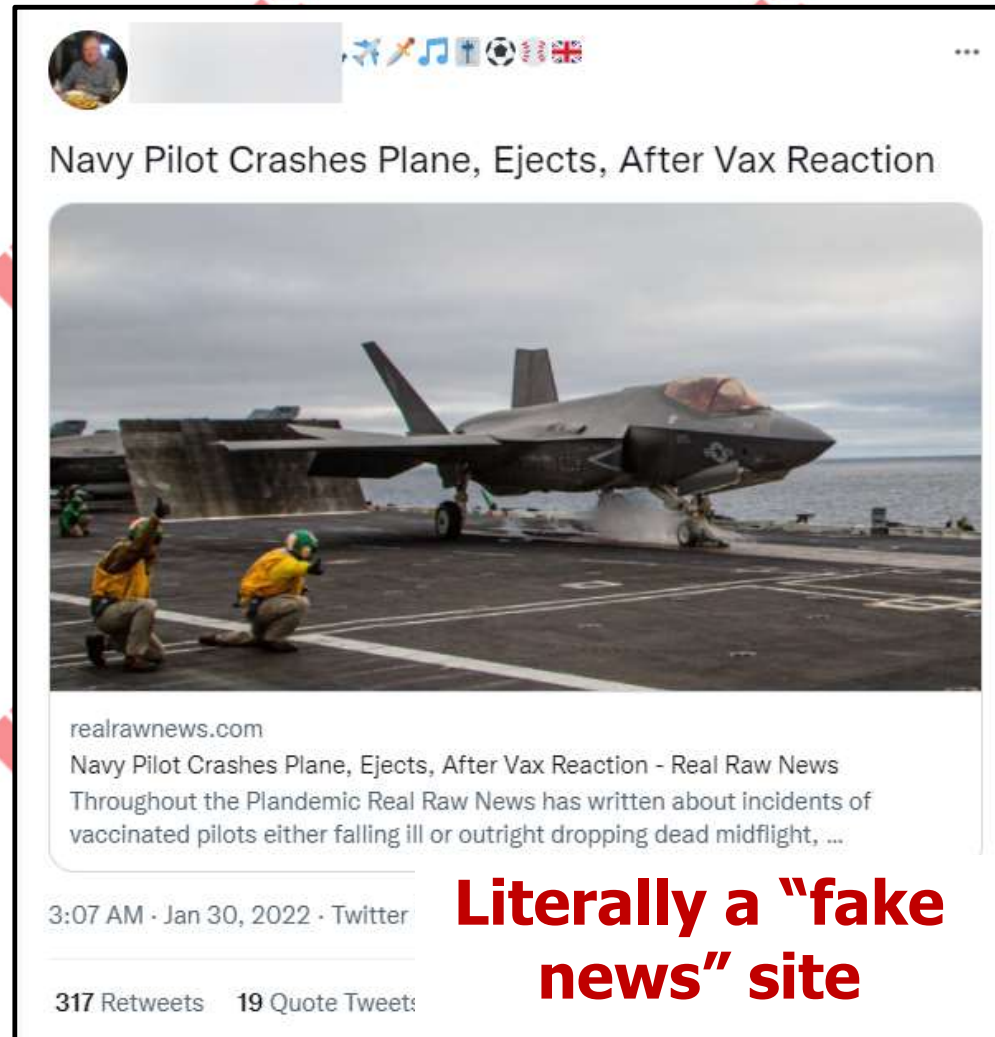


BIDEN: Evacuate animals & their caretakers from Afghanistan!

1:02 PM · Aug 31, 2021 · Sprout Social

Fabricated Content

Misinformation that is entirely made up and is designed to deceive you into thinking that it's real.



Headline is from a legitimate news article from Crow River Media

Someone took a screenshot, fabricated a quote (that does not appear in the original article) added a partial link and shared to social media.

Image goes viral, falsely connecting White's death to a Covid booster shot.



Imposter Content

Misinformation that falsely uses a well-known name, brand or logo to fool people into believing that it is authentic content.





Betty White throwing down.



Betty White
@BettyMWhite

As someone who had a 20 year relationship with the PBS star playing Big Bird, he never gave two shits what anyone thought about his feathery ass.
[#GoBiggie](#)

Satire PM · Nov 7, 2021 · Faith Back Rub

6:33 PM · Nov 7, 2021 · Twitter Web App

3,232 Retweets 210 Quote Tweets 18.5K Likes



That's what we've been saying this whole time



Chicago Police
@Chicago_Police

We are all Derek Chauvin.



6:46 AM · Apr 24, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

50K Retweets 1,393 Quote Tweets 231.3K Likes

These are both fake tweets

Satire

A piece of information that uses humor or exaggeration to critique or mock a person, organization or policy.



thebabylonbee



Spirit Halloween Sets Up Shop In Abandoned U.S. Military Bases In Afghanistan



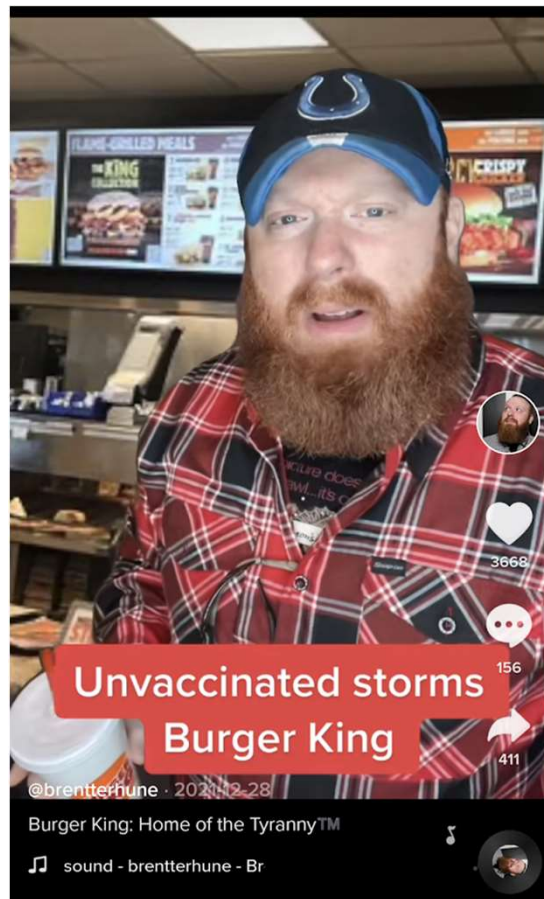
Some satire is established and well-known



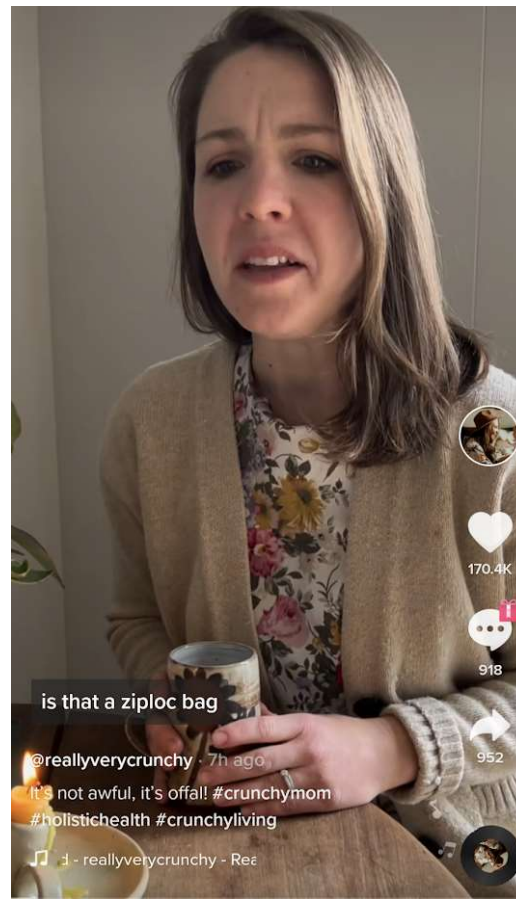
The News Literacy Project



People don't always recognize satire/parody



The News Literacy Project



newsweek.com

Newsweek

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1 >



CULTURE

Comedian Brent Terhune Hopes You Know His Rants About NASCAR and the Confederate Flag Are Satire

BY JAMES CROWLEY ON 6/12/20 AT 2:24 PM EDT

SHARE 

CULTURE


COMEDY

VIRAL

VIDEO

TWITTER

In the current sociopolitical climate, it's easy to roll your eyes as soon as you see a bearded white guy tweeting a


BuzzFeed News

Sign In

ABOUT US GOT A TIP? SUPPORT US BUZZFE




The "Crunchy Mom" Conspiracy Has Been Revealed. She's Just A Crunchy Mom.

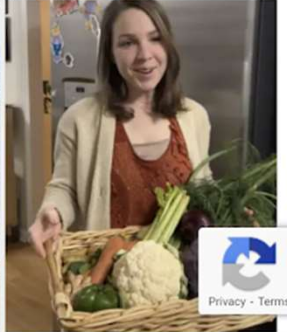

"But the thing about my crunchiness is that I'm also pragmatic."

by Katie Notopoulos
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted 4 hours ago

View 9 comments





DAILY BEAST

SUBSCRIBE

COMEDY →

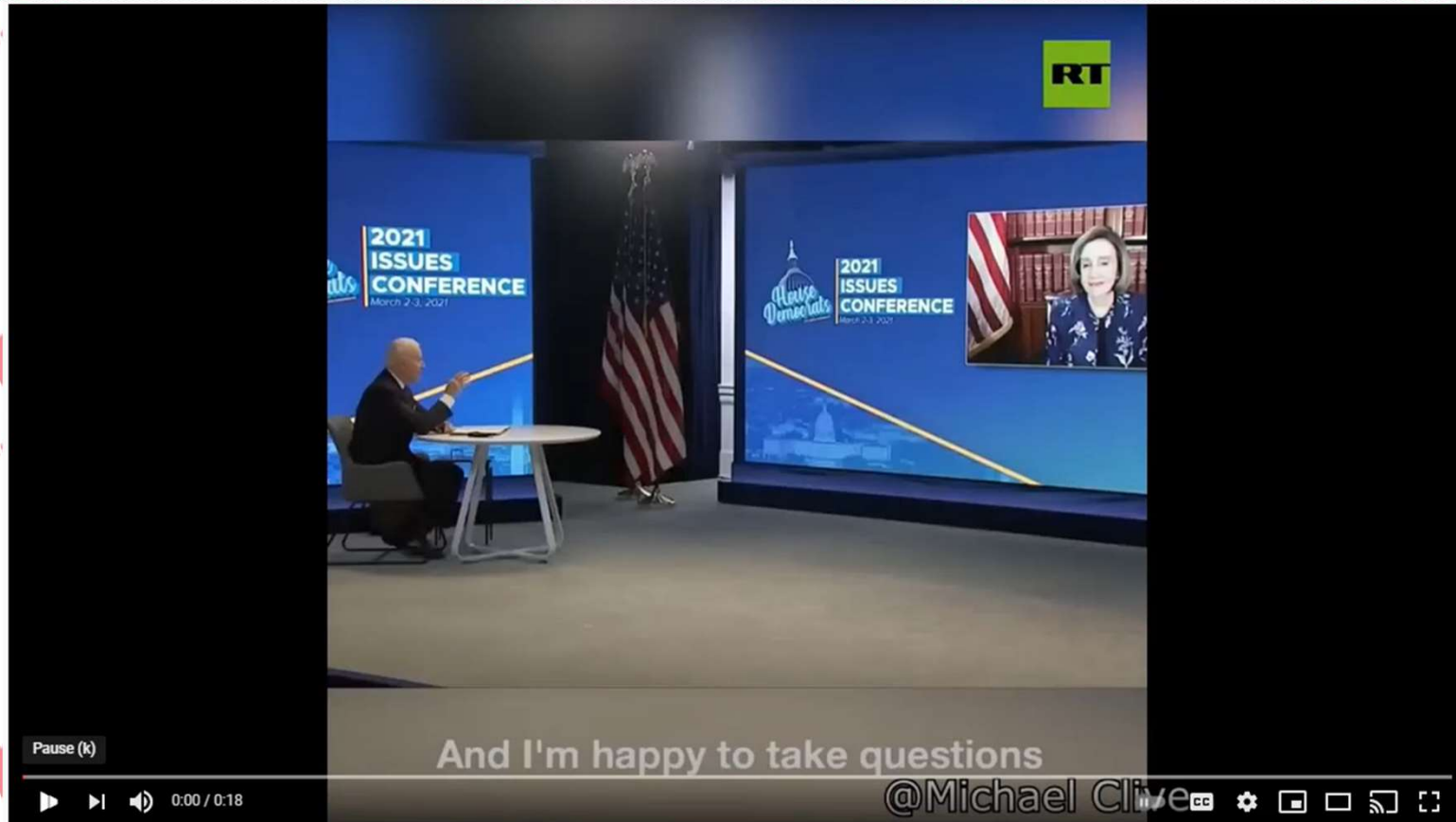
Meet Blaire Erskine, the MAGA-Spoofing Comedian Who Duped Michael Moore



Photo Illustration by The Daily Beast/handout

Blaire Erskine has pretended to be a stranded MAGA supporter, Jerry Falwell's daughter, and the wife of a notorious anti-masker. The gag: How many folks think her

Satire can become false context misinformation



#biden #pressconference #pelosi
The News Lite Biden Cut OFF - The Version you DIDN'T SEE! Pelosi: "No, we don't want him to talk". 🤔

America's Great Impressionist
is a Conservative Comedian !

30+ YEARS IN THE BIZ!

HUNDREDS OF VOICES / IMPRESSIONS!
THIS IS JUST ONE!



"One of the most Versatile Talents on the Planet!"

"this Guy is Dangerous!" "Impossible!"

"the Real Deal!" "10 out of 10!"

"Jaws were on the floor!"

"WTF!"



Trump Still Speaks

2.26K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#biden #pressconference #pelosi

Biden Cut OFF - The Version you DIDN'T SEE! Pelosi: "No, we don't want him to talk." 🤔

53,144 views • Mar 6, 2021

👍 530 💬 13 ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...



Trump Still Speaks

2.26K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Who's really running America? Unseen edit with Pelosi saying "No, we don't want him to talk." off screen?

This is Conservative Satire and Production, not for the timid or Free speech haters. America's Great Impressionist & Character Specialist. Watch Michael Clive's New Demo. It'll blow your mind!

<https://youtu.be/wAgRm55LVw0>

www.michaelclive.com

#biden

#pressconference

#pelosi

SHOW LESS

← Tweet



The Real Dawn Star
@dawnstar1776

Nancy Pelosi caught on hot mic saying, “We don’t want [Biden] to talk.”

Nancy Pelosi caught
on hot mic saying:
“We don’t want [Biden]
to talk.”



0:00 0:10 1x

New version
false context
misinformation

Satire video
edited to
remove
disclaimer

Questions so far?

Essential fact-checking and verification skills.



Three essential skills

Critical observation

Reverse image search

Lateral reading

Observation:

Is there any evidence or context provided for where/when these images were taken?



Reverse image search:

We can search for these images to find other versions to verify where/when they were taken.



Internet search:

Using details from the post, we can search for fact checks or additional context from other sources.



Use “lateral reading” to verify information

Verify what you’re reading while you are reading it:

- Open a browser tab to search for verifying information from other sources.
- Verify key details, the credibility of the source and learn additional context.
- By evaluating multiple sources, you become more confident in the credibility of what you are reading.


Note: The terms “Lateral Reading” and “Click Restraint” are derived from research conducted by Sam Wineburg and Sarah McGrew at the Stanford Graduate School of Education.

Always exercise “click restraint”

- Don't simply click the first link in your search results.
- Review options and choose a source that seems relevant, credible.
- Fact-checking is a deliberate process for best results.



- Shocking headline.
- Source is an MD MPH.
- Is this information factual?
- Does it support his claim?
- Is he a credible source?



Peter McCullough, MD MPH
 @P_McCulloughMD

In this report he had it 72 hours prior to the crash when there is circulatory Spike protein as shown by Ogata et al, '21. There should be great caution over any key positions (pilots, bus drivers, etc) during this high risk period given his and other lives potentially at stake.



Home > COVID-19 > Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

COVID-19 News USA

Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

By Mike Baxter - January 26, 2022

Like 376

Throughout the Pandemic Real Raw News has written about incidents of vaccinated pilots either falling ill or outright dropping dead midflight, catastrophic events that endanger not only the pilots but also the millions of passengers entrusting their safety to the airlines. This issue, obscured by the FAA in matters involving civilian pilots, and the DoD for military aviators, has plagued general aviation, commercial traffic, and military operations.

Here's how I verified this claim



- Home
- Explore
- Notifications
- Messages
- Bookmarks
- Lists
- Profile
- More

Tweet

**John C. Silva, NBCT**
@MrSilva

← **Tweet**

**Peter McCullough, MD MPH**
@P_McCulloughMD

In this report he had it 72 hours prior to the crash when there is circulatory Spike protein as shown by Ogata et al, '21. There should be great caution over any key positions (pilots, bus drivers, etc) during this high risk period given his and other lives potentially at stake.


Home > COVID-19 > Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

COVID-19 News USA

Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

By **Mike Baxter** - January 26, 2022

 Like 376





Relevant people

**Peter McCullough, M...**
@P_McCulloughMD **Follow**

Expert in analysis of C19 pandemic and the medical response; physician, author, editor, news commentator
givesendgo.com/G2DR5

What's happening

NBA • LIVE

The NBA trade deadline looms as rumors persist

Trending with [Boi Boi](#), [Bagley](#)



POPSUGAR UK • 3 hours ago

Zendaya's Madame Tussauds Wax Figure Is Met With Mixed Reviews

Trending in United States



Messages





Peter McCullough, MD MPH
@P_McCulloughMD

In this report he had it 72 hours prior to the crash when there is circulatory Spike protein as shown by Ogata et al, '21. There should be great caution over any key positions (pilots, bus drivers, etc) during this high risk period given his and other lives potentially at stake.

Home > COVID-19 > Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

COVID-19 News USA

Navy Pilot Crashes Plane, Ejects, After Vax Reaction

By Mike Baxter - January 26, 2022

Like 376



Throughout the Plandemic Real Raw News has written about incidents of vaccinated pilots either falling ill or outright dropping dead midflight, catastrophic events that endanger not only the pilots but also the millions of passengers entrusting their safety to the airlines. This issue, obscured by the FAA in matters involving civilian pilots, and the DoD for military aviators, has plagued general aviation, commercial traffic, and military operations.

TRUE: A Navy jet did crash, and the pilot ejected. (He survived)

FALSE: The crash was not the result of a vaccine reaction, and "Real Raw News" is not a credible or legitimate news source.

There is no link between the false article and McCullough's tweet and calls his credibility into question.

Is Heinz making “Mayoreo” sauce?



Verified using reverse image search





About fact-checking organizations

- Responsible organizations “show their work”.
- Links to evidence used in the fact-check are provided.
- Context and background information are included.
- Transparent about methodology, practices and criteria for ratings.
- Good practice to use multiple fact-checks when practical.

A sample of reputable fact-checking organizations



Note: All logos are hyperlinked.

Fact check challenge



This image has been photoshopped in several ways. Using reverse image search or lateral reading determine:

1. What shirt was Mr. Rogers originally wearing?
2. Who was Steve Irwin originally posing with?
3. What else was altered or added?



You want a positive picture? I present to you, Steve Irwin taking a picture with Mr. Rogers who is wearing a Bob Ross shirt while there is a rainbow in the background!

Game set match!



4:01 AM · Mar 18, 2021 · Twitter for Android

2,359 Retweets 296 Quote Tweets 9,928 Likes

Short Break

Fact check challenge review



This image has been photoshopped in several ways. Using reverse image search or lateral reading determine:

1. What shirt was Mr. Rogers originally wearing?
2. Who was Steve Irwin originally posing with?
3. What else was altered or added?



You want a positive picture? I present to you, Steve Irwin taking a picture with Mr. Rogers who is wearing a Bob Ross shirt while there is a rainbow in the background!

Game set match!



4:01 AM · Mar 18, 2021 · Twitter for Android

2,359 Retweets 296 Quote Tweets 9,928 Likes

1. What shirt was Mr. Rogers originally wearing?

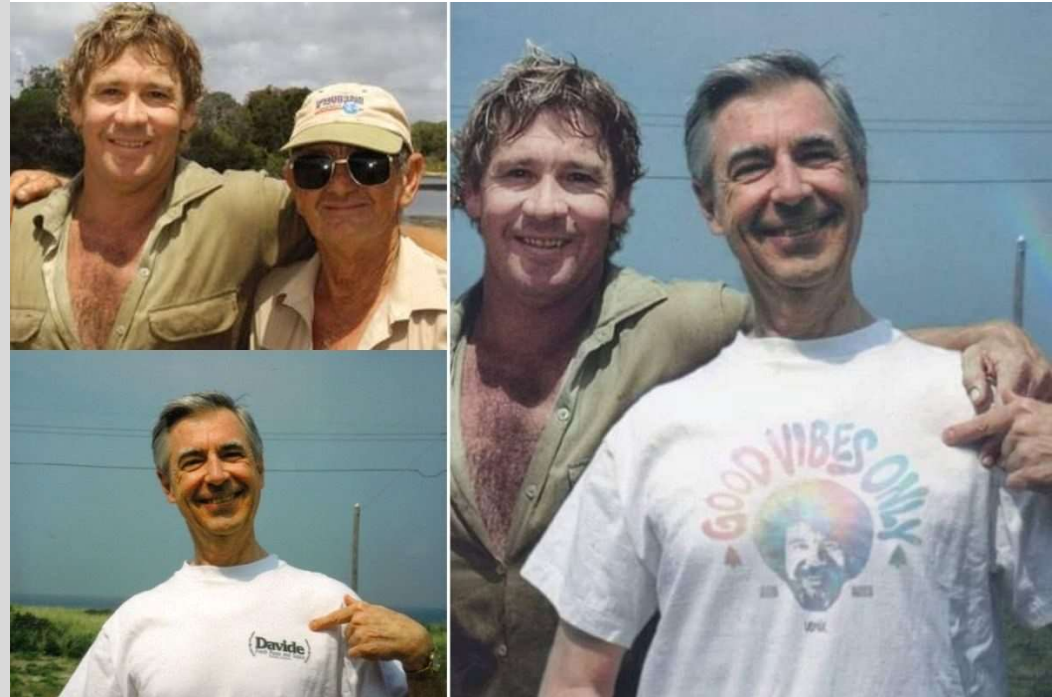
Davide's Tomato Sauce

2. Who was Steve Irwin originally posing with?

Bob Irwin

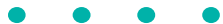
3. What else was altered or added?

A rainbow was added



Motivations:

Why do people create & share misinformation?



Questioning intent

- Determining intent accurately is difficult and usually different for creators and sharers.
- Distinguishes disinformation and other types of false or misleading information.
- Differentiates motivations and types of propagators.
- Discussions of intent can lead to a deeper understanding of misinformation.

Motivations for creating misinformation

Financial
gain

Increase
influence

Create
mischief

Political/social
divisions

Undermine
trust

Four types of propagators

Self-interest

- Scams, clickbait farming, companies

Group interest

- Partisans, governments, candidates

Altruistic

- Ordinary people

Malicious


- Trolls, extremists, conspiracy theorists

Note: These are not always
cleanly categorized



Propagator:
Self-interest

Motivation:
Financial gain,
undermine trust



The first randomized controlled trial of more than 6,000 individuals to assess the effectiveness of surgical face masks against SARS-CoV-2 infection found masks did not statistically significantly reduce the incidence of infection.

M [redacted]

Partly False Information. Reviewed by independent fact-checkers.

The so-called "Danmask-19 Trial," published November 18, 2020, in the Annals of Internal Medicine, included 3,030 individuals assigned to wear a surgical face mask and 2,994 unmasked controls.

Click the link in my bio to read the full story.

1w

We know...as a respiratory therapist, my colleagues and I have known this since the end of our first semester in college..today, we have to shut up about this or we lose our credentials...😞😞...so a career change has become necessary

3,473 likes
7 DAYS AGO

Add a comment... Post

Propagator:
Self-interest

Motivation:
Increase influence,
Financial gain

“Engagement bait” account.

Original video from comedy
TikTok account.

Posted as authentic content.



Propagator:
Group interest

Motivation:
Undermine trust, Financial gain



About Us ▾

Citizens ▾

News ▾

Legal ▾

Media ▾

Summit ▾

Shop

COVID-19 ▾



DONATE

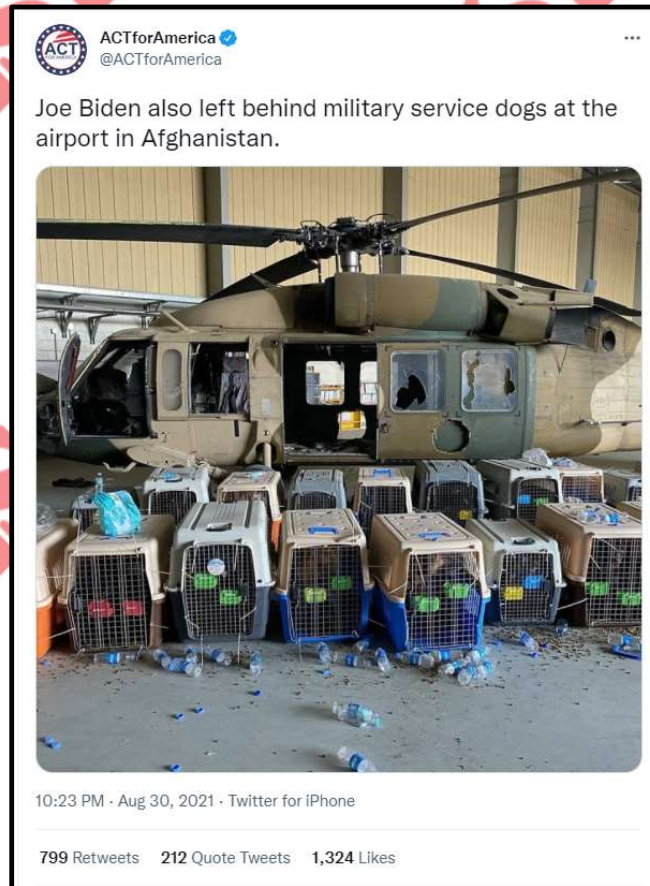
MAKE A STAND
FOR THE TRUTH OF REAL SCIENCE AND REAL HOPE

 WATCH RIGHT NOW



Propagator:
Group interest

Motivation:
Political/social
divisions, financial
gain.



The Disinformation Dozen

Why platforms must act on twelve leading online anti-vaxxers

Just twelve anti-vaxxers are responsible for almost two-thirds of anti-vaccine content circulating on social media platforms. This new analysis of content posted or shared to social media over 812,000 times between February and March uncovers how a tiny group of determined anti-vaxxers is responsible for a tidal wave of disinformation - and shows how platforms can fix it by enforcing their standards.

[Read the Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)



<https://www.counterhate.com>

Propagator:
Altrusitic

Motivation:
Increase influence,
undermine trust.



Propagator:
Altruistic

Motivation:
Varies



Don't microwave your masks btw...



Arlington Fire  @ArlingtonVaFD · Apr 20

There are reports of masks being sanitized in microwaves, this is a major fire hazard, please DO NOT place masks in the microwave for any period of time. Instead, follow CDC mask cleaning guidance [cdc.gov/coronavirus/20....](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-clean-use.html) Thanks and stay safe.



 55

 38



Propagator:
Malicious

Motivation:
Create mischief,
political/social
divisions, undermine
trust.



Propagator:
Malicious

Motivation:
Create mischief,
political/social
divisions, undermine
trust.



Intent determines motivation and type

- Altruistic misinformation – Someone thinks it's real and shares it to make people feel better.
- Self-interest misinformation – Someone thinks it's real and shares it for likes and engagement.
- Self-interest disinformation – Someone shares it knowing it's false for likes and engagement.
- Group interest disinformation – An account created to gain followers to monetize account.



Role of emotion in spreading misinformation

- Misinformation is designed to elicit a strong emotional response.
- Our emotion centers override rational thought processes, and we react by sharing, amplifying.
- We especially respond to things that “feel” true.
- Teens and older adults are especially vulnerable.

Emotional responses are varied



Anger



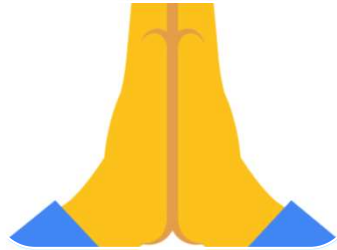
Fear



Sadness



Curiosity



Hope



Humor



Wow!

Your political/social beliefs affect your emotional response

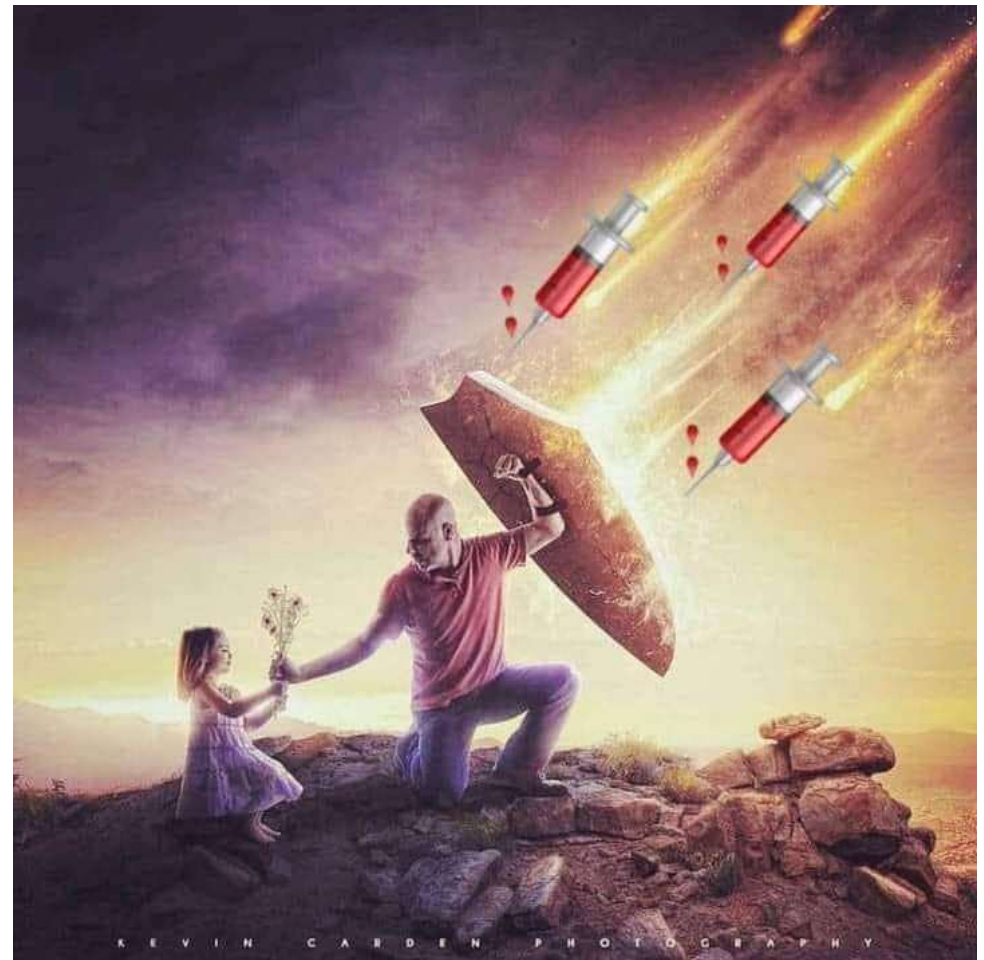


These are both fake tweets

Targeting parental fears and anxieties is very common



The News Literacy Project



Rumor theory and social media

- Humans are social by nature and sharing stories has always been part of how we interact.
- We have a deep-rooted desire to understand and make sense of the world.
- Combined this is called “shared sense making” and it fills an emotional need.
- Social media amplifies this with the ability to share with anyone and everyone.

Misinformation exploits
cognitive biases



Cognitive biases

A natural error in reasoning and thought processes that can cause people to misinterpret information, leading to distorted perceptions of events, irrational judgments and false beliefs.

Institutional Cynicism

The belief that institutions like governments and corporations are always acting in dishonest ways and cannot be trusted.

If you believe Pharmaceutical companies are on your side



REMEMBER THIS: Your staying sick is what keeps them in business.



More people are realizing how the CDC, FDA, Big Pharma, big government, & media allies manipulated & parroted faulty data to scare the hell out of people to empower lockdowns, mandates, fire people & gain far-reaching control over people's lives. Some seriously sinister shit.

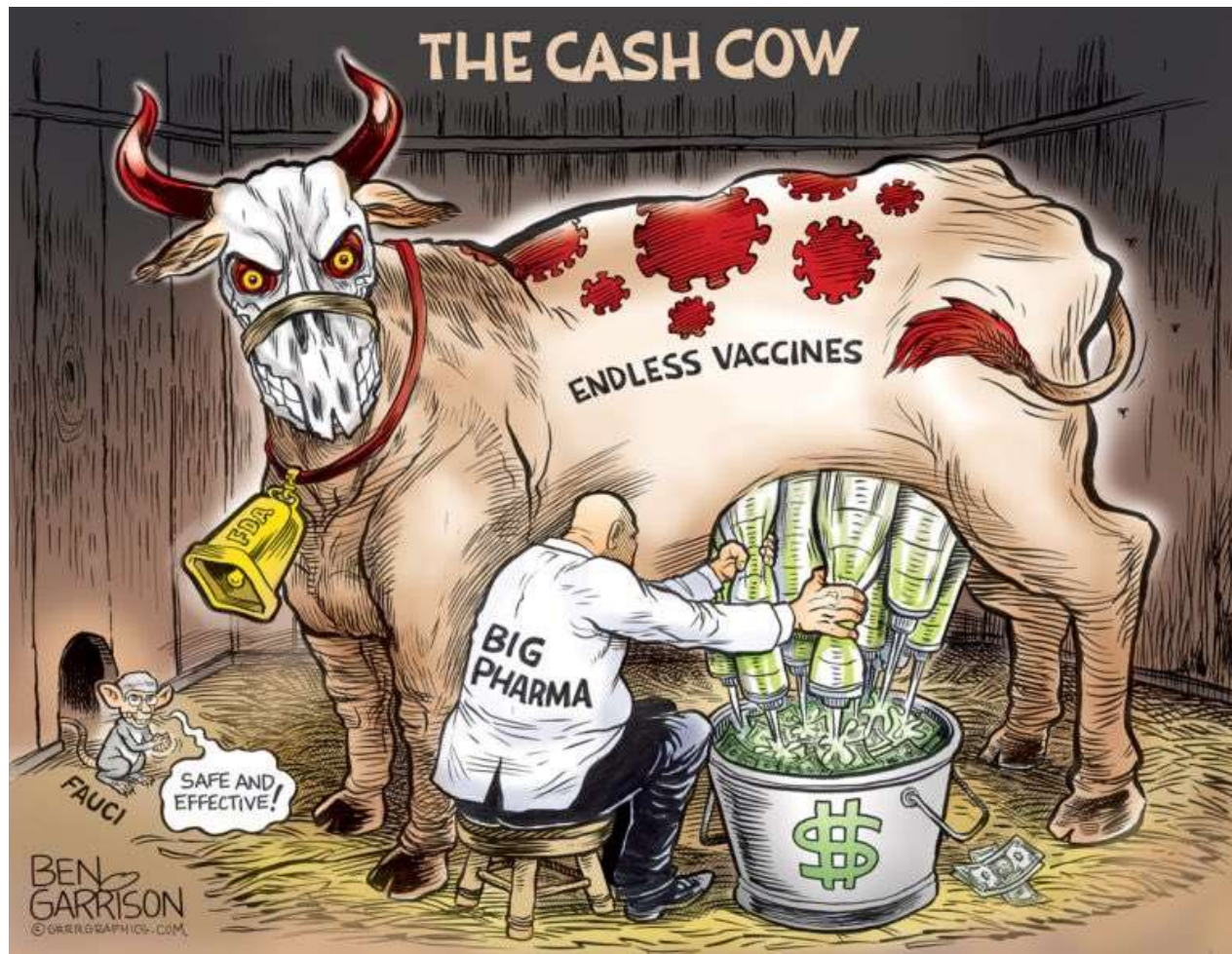
9:16 AM · Jan 10, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

950 Retweets 52 Quote Tweets 4,113 Likes



How medicine was hijacked by the Rockefellers and converted into the Big Pharma mafia that currently has all governments eating out of their hand.





Confirmation Bias

The natural tendency of people to readily accept any information, even false, that agrees with or reinforces their existing beliefs.



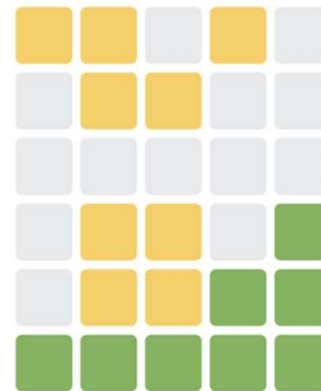
“

The New York
Times made
Wordle harder!

”



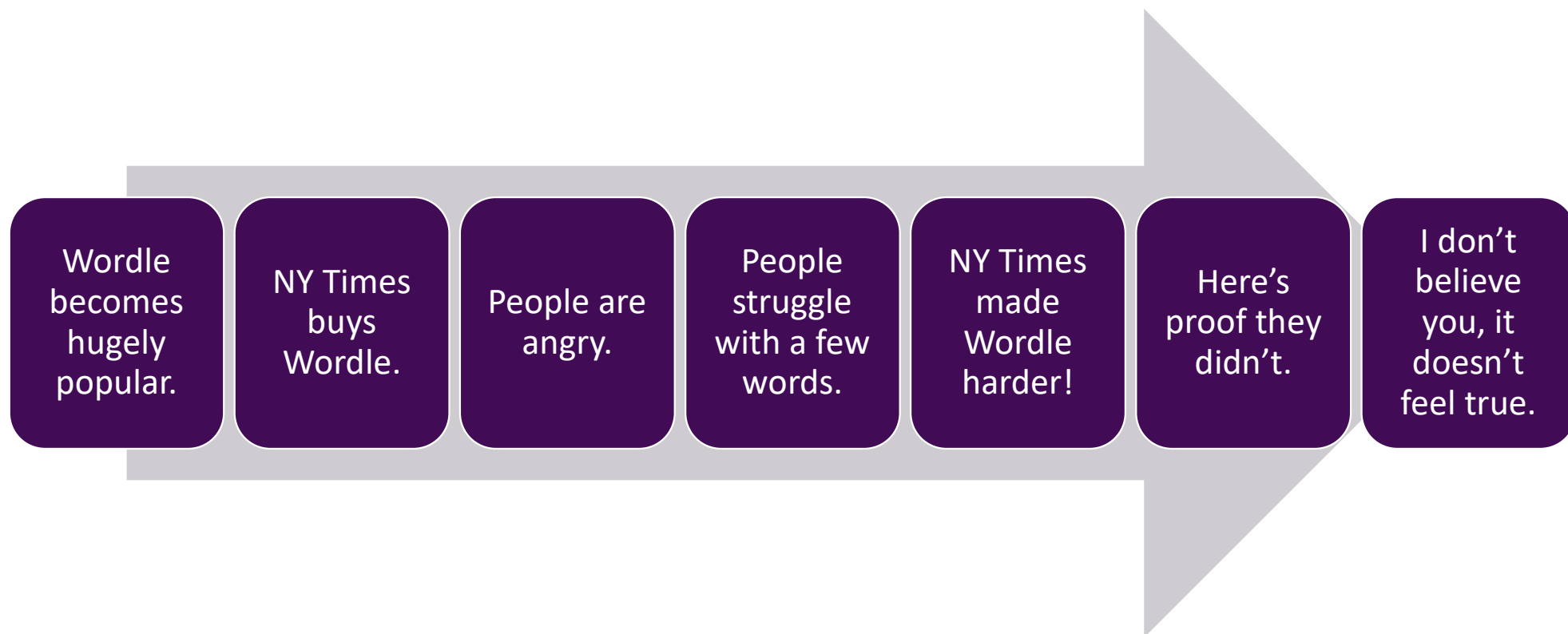
I don't care what the anti-conspiracists say. NYT made Wordle harder and the evidence is right there in my streaks. Wordle 247 6/6



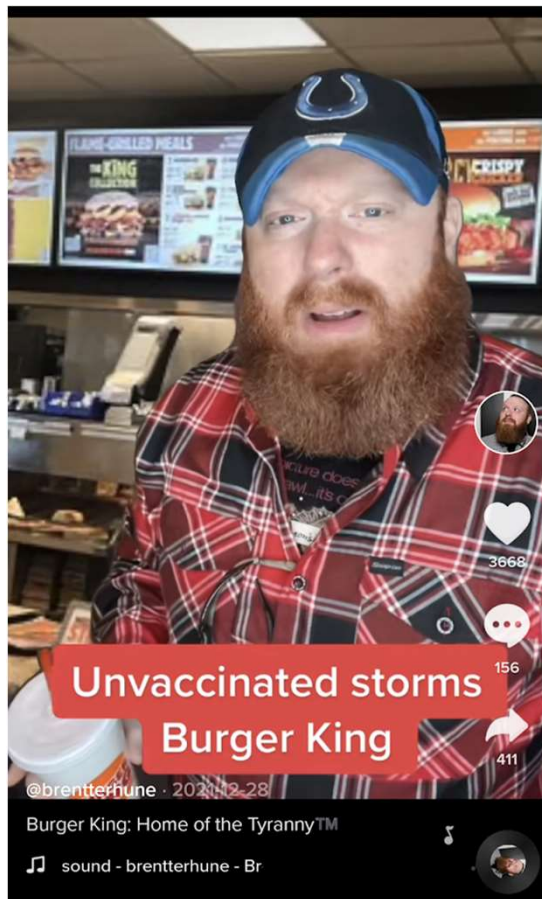
9:39 AM · 21 Feb 22 · [Twitter Web App](#)

(No, they didn't)

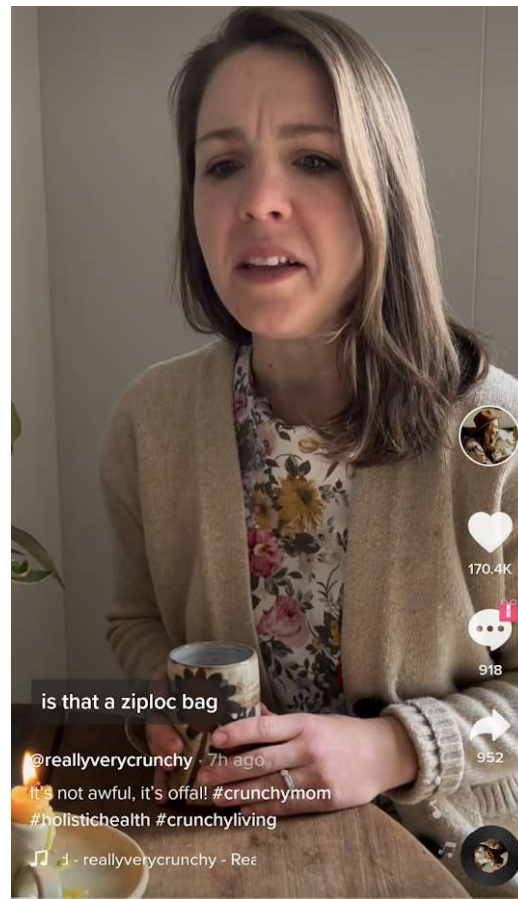
The effects of emotion and confirmation bias



Confirmation bias and believing satire is real



The News Literacy Project



Motivated Reasoning

To deliberately search for or interpret information in ways that confirm what you already want to believe and to invent reasons to dismiss anything that disproves these beliefs.

What a fascinating name for a 5G power system..🤔



🥶🟡 "the blue and yellow, which are its appropriate colors, are said to refer to the appearance of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai in clouds of azure and gold"



10:30 AM · 2/27/21 · Twitter Web App

The News Literacy Project

NEWS

World landmarks lit blue and yellow in solidarity with Ukraine

Ares - Wikipedia

Ares is the [Greek god of courage and war](#). He is one of the Twelve Olympians, and the son of Zeus and Hera. The Greeks were ambivalent toward him.



land marks go blue and yellow for Ukraine
the rams just won the Superbowl the yellow and blue team
Aries the Ram zodiac symbol
ARES the son of Zeus and GOD OF WAR

NOTE: Seeing patterns and connections in random things is totally normal.

Creating patterns to justify a belief or manufacture “evidence” is a key component of conspiratorial thinking.

Do we need to check
everything we see?



When should we fact-check or verify information?

- When you are planning to share something with others, *especially* on your social media.
- When you are unsure or skeptical.
- When you plan to use something to inform a decision.
- When something is influencing your beliefs.
- When you are experiencing a strong emotional reaction as a result of seeing something.

Seven Steps for Staying Sharp Online

● Tip #1

PAUSE.



Misinformation plays on your emotions. Don't let strong feelings like anger, fear and outrage guide your decisions about what to believe and share.

Tip: Be extra cautious during breaking news events. They generate a firehose of information that can be hard to follow as details emerge and attract a variety of bad actors who peddle sensational falsehoods.

● Tip #2

MEMES AREN'T NEWS!



There are big differences among the different types of content that come across your social media feeds. Memes and social media posts created by complete strangers online are often inaccurate and misleading. Do not share anything you or experts cannot verify.

● Tip #3

LIKES AND SHARES ≠ CREDIBILITY



Many people post things to try to rack up lots of likes and shares on social media, but just because something is popular or goes viral doesn't mean it's credible.

Seven Steps for Staying Sharp Online

● Tip #4

TAKE TIME TO ASSESS SOURCES.



When you see a social media post by a person or group you don't recognize, take a moment to check out their profile. Do they seem credible? Can you even tell where the content you're looking at came from? If not, don't believe it or spread it.

● Tip #5

GET TO THE EXPERTS.



Today's information environment allows you to find and follow people with expertise in just about any subject. Remember: true experts tell you how they know what they know by citing strong evidence. They don't oversimplify complex trends and events, and they adjust their analyses in the face of new information.

● Tip #6

DON'T FEED THE TROLLS.



Troll accounts on social media exist to provoke people, cause chaos, distort important issues and make focused, reasonable debate impossible. It's tempting to take them on, but that's exactly what they want: attention. Don't give it to them.

Seven Steps for Staying Sharp Online

● Tip #7

STEER CLEAR OF CONSPIRATORIAL THINKING.



Conspiracy theories offer people a simple explanation for complex and random events, but they lack concrete evidence, and rely on faulty logic and fear.



Tip: Remember that credible information doesn't ask you to trust it — it shows you why you should by clearly attributing the facts it provides to reliable sources.

This infographic was developed by the News Literacy Project with Cindy Otis, author of *True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News*.

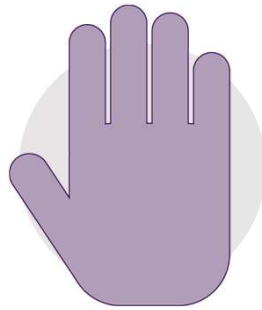
What you can do



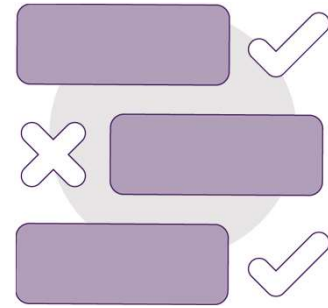
Practice news literacy skills



**Check your sources
before you share**



**Double-check the facts
before you share**



**Debunk
misinformation**

Stand up for facts!

Questions?

Thank you for joining us!



A future founded on facts



/NewsLitProject



@NewsLitProject



@NewsLitProject



@NewsLitProject



LinkedIn.com/company/
NewsLitProject



Youtube.com/
NewsLiteracyProject

newslit.org