



THE FAKE NEWS PHENOMENON

Take a Stand

Some people argue that it is the responsibility of the reader to research news articles before assuming a story is true. Fake news or satirical articles can be entertaining. But what happens when readers don't understand that an article, picture, or headline is a joke? Do you think it is wrong for any piece of information to be shared if it is not true? Where should the line be drawn? Do you think there's a place for fake news in the world?





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Why Do I Care?

Perhaps you don't care to read much news online or in print and are thinking fake news doesn't affect you. But think about the customers at Comet Ping Pong. How did fake news affect them? Think about the presidential election and how fake news affected the outcome. Are you affected by who becomes the president of the United States? How might your experience in school or society change if a different candidate had been elected president?





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Another View

This book talks about fake news, alternative facts, and ways to decide if a news source is credible. As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian or another adult to help you find another source about this topic. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's author. What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Say What?

Studying fake news and how it relates to politics can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book you've never heard before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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You Are There

This book discusses online news sources that concoct fake news stories in order to push an agenda or entertain. Imagine you are a writer for a fake news website. You have been asked to write an article about a presidential candidate. You are instructed to embellish the story, or lie, to make the candidate look less appealing to voters. Write a few sentences explaining your thoughts on writing lies about another person. What could be the long-term results of doing so?

