

How Schools Can Address Fake News

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Open share link: <https://goo.gl/jPFYyf>



"I'm sorry, Jeannie, your answer was correct, but Kevin shouted his incorrect answer over yours, so he gets the points."

Image Source: *The New Yorker* by Joe Dator

Why do we need to focus on this?

Figure 3
Share of Visits to US News Websites by Source

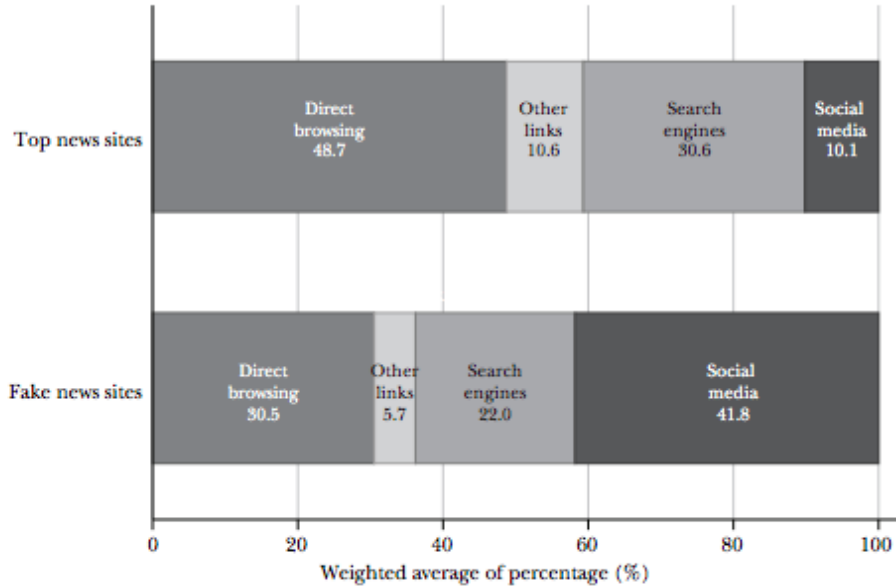
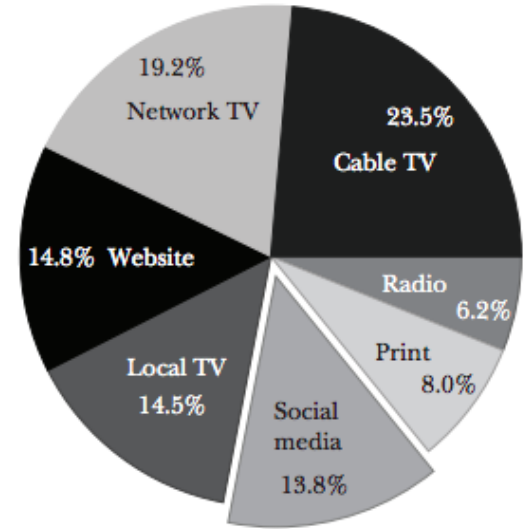


Figure 4
Most Important Source of 2016 Election News

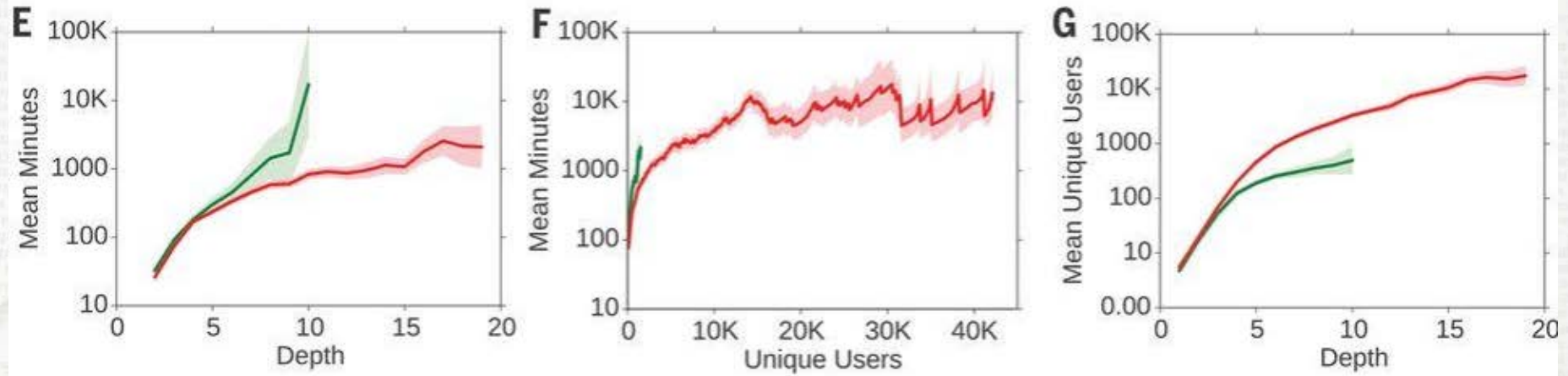
Which of these sources was your most important source of news and information about the 2016 election?



Social media is increasingly becoming the means by which Americans are getting their news.

Image Source: [“Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election”](#)

Why do we need to focus on this?



Number of retweets
(depth) in minutes

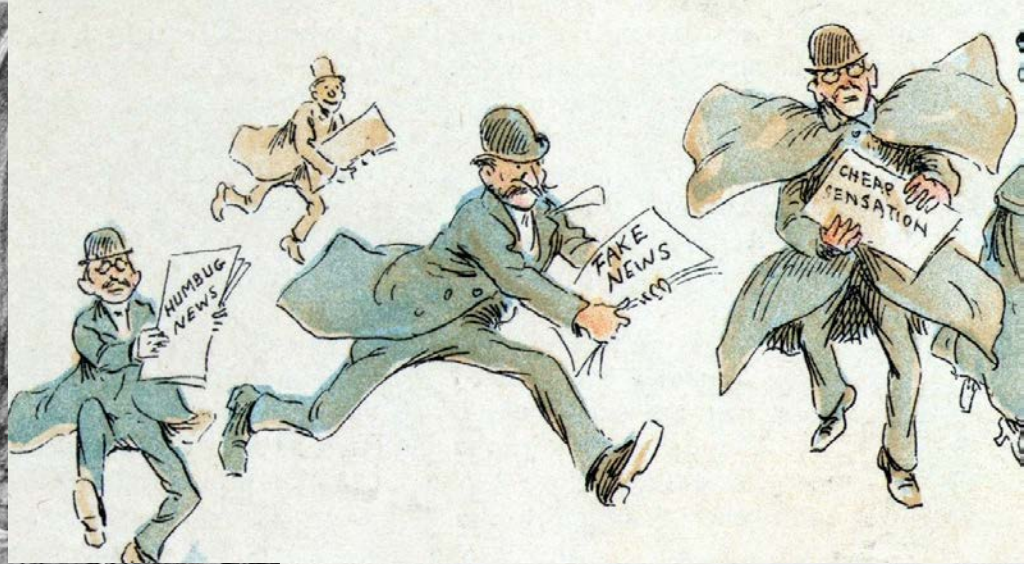
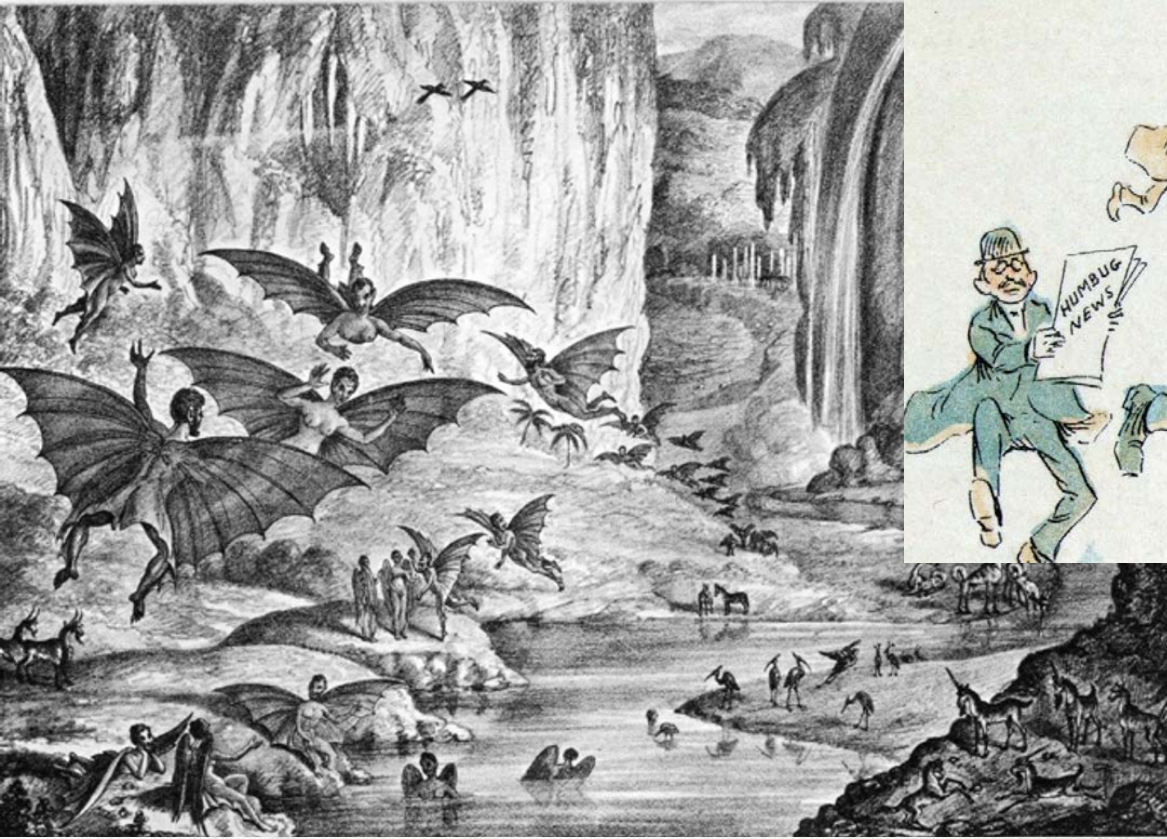
Number of users
seeing an article

Number of users
seeing retweets (depth)

“Falsehoods diffuse significantly farther, faster, deeper, and more broadly than the truth in all categories of information.” - Vosoughi, Roy, Aral (2018)

“Fake News” is not a new thing

“Reporters with Fake News” 1894 by Frederick Burr Oper



On August 21, 1835 *The New York Sun* reported that an astronomer used “hydro-oxygen magnifiers” to find life on the moon. The paper announced it was fake a month later.

Lithograph of “The Ruby Amphitheater on the Moon”

The internet has sped up the spread



Image Source: Andrew Peter Swanepoel

The rise of the internet allows everyone to become a reporter.

erictucker @erictucker · Nov 9
Anti-Trump protestors in Austin today are not as organic as they seem. Here are the busses they came in. [#fakeprotests](#)
[#trump2016](#) [#austin](#)

Two photographs showing white buses parked on a street. The left photo shows a bus parked near a modern building. The right photo shows a bus parked on a street with trees in the background.

How did a person with 40 Twitter followers make such an impact that the president elect tweeted about it?

The header of the Gateway Pundit website, featuring a collage of images and the text "GATEWAY PUNDIT Where Hope Finally Made A Comeback". Navigation links for Home, About, Archives, Advertise, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are visible.

Home About Archives Advertise Facebook Twitter YouTube

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[The Trade Desk Privacy Policy](#)

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Thanks for the feed! We'll use your feed's site.

Figures. Anti-Trump Protesters Were Bussed in to Austin #FakeProtests

Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Just had a very open and successful presidential election. Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!

9:19 PM · Nov 10, 2016

64,278 67,141 224,563

Essential questions for conversations with students

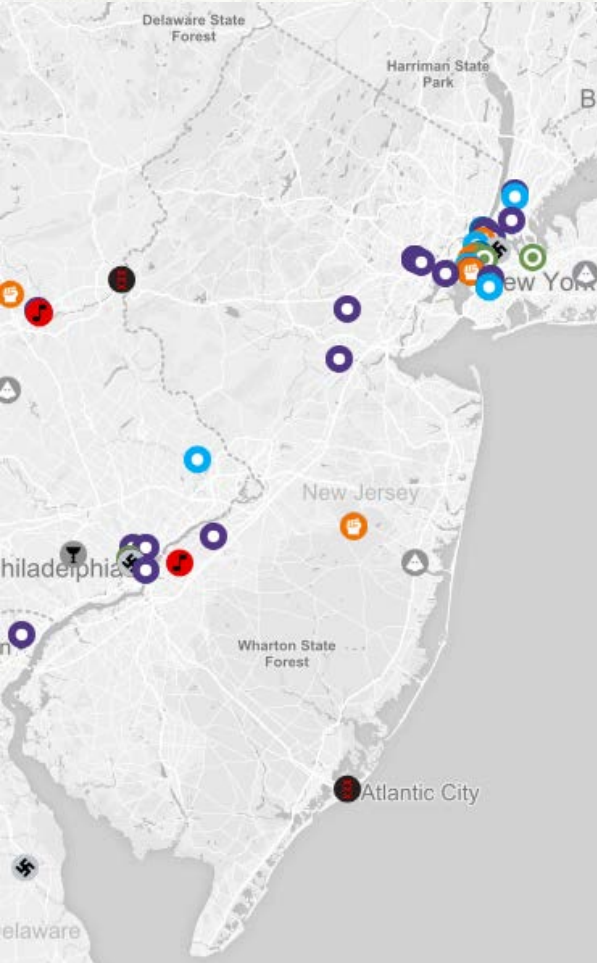
- Has technology increased access to fake news, or has technology slowed the spread of fake news?
- Why might fake news be such a problem for sites like Twitter and Facebook to regulate?
- Is there legislation that could/should be passed by our state or federal government to help control fake news?
- Can our school be a gatekeeper to prevent students from accessing fake news?



Image Source: [Buzzfeed](#)

Have students develop their own “media ecosystem” and visualize it using [wordle](#).

Why do we need to talk with students about this?



HATE GROUPS 1999-2016

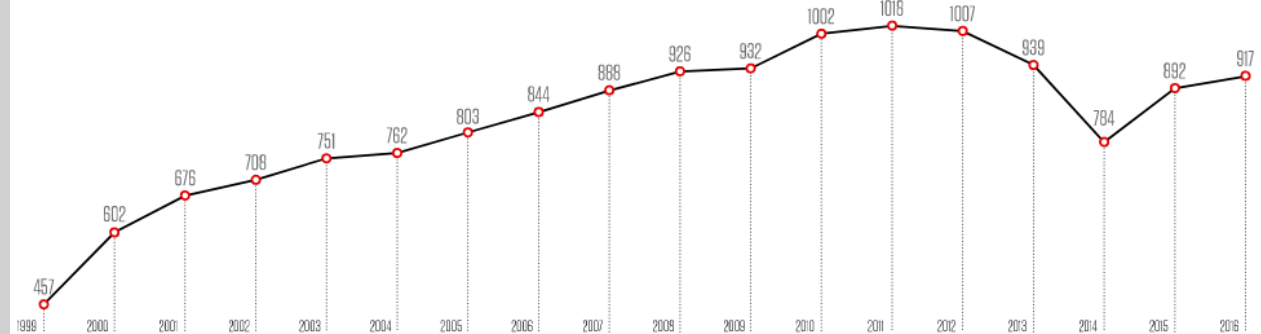


Image Source: [Southern Poverty Law Center Hate Map](#)

[NPR](#) reported on how many conspiracy theory websites can ultimately lead you to white nationalism websites.

Using *The St. Louis* to Teach the Syrian Refugee Crisis



Image Source: Wikicommons



St. Louis Manifest

@StL_Manifest

#WeRemember the victims of Naziism turned away at the doorstep of America in 1939. #RefugeesWelcome. via @russelneiss & @chschwartz

📍 Miami, FL

🔗 ushmm.org/wlc/en/article...

📅 Joined January 2017

Media in 1939 said the refugees of *The St. Louis* should not be let in due to fear of attacks by foreign agents.



Image Source: Samuel Corum, Anadolu Agency

The three types of fake news

Fabricated News - Completely made up.

Biased News - Clearly stating an opinion, generally the opposite of a person calling it fake news.

Distracting News - Accurate news intended to change the focus of an ongoing issue, as well as clickbait articles.

Clooney & Muslim Wife Flee Europe Scared For Their Lives After Refugee Support Backfires BIG Time

By Prissy Holly



78.8K
SHARES

Share

Tweet

He Was a Professional Climate Denier. Then He Switched Sides.

This "warrior" for climate skepticism actually looked at the evidence and changed his mind.



David A. Clarke, Jr.
@SheriffClarke

Follow

Lib media trying to silence me with FAKE NEWS reports of an FBI investigation because I have been wearing them out in messaging. It won't work. I am not under any investigation. I will increase the hammering of them because they are scum buckets. The truth always wins in the end.

Fabricated News - Definition

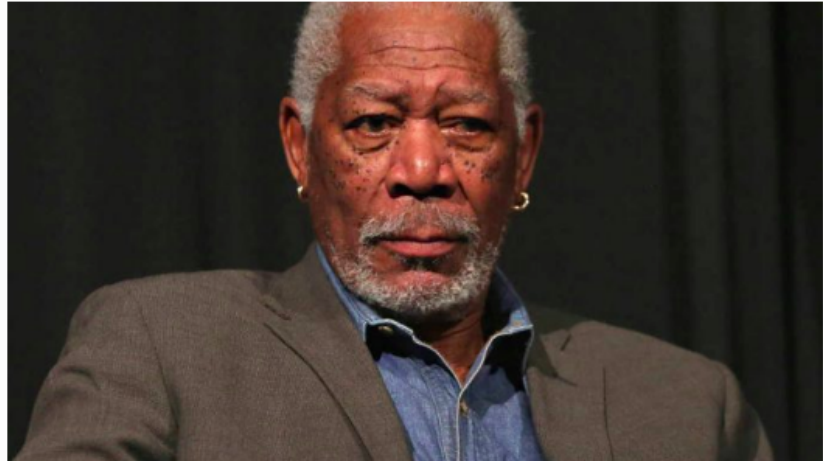
This is what we mostly think of as “fake news”: reporting that is untrue and simply false.

Students need to ask:

1. Who made it (author and publisher)?
2. How was it made?
3. When was it made?
4. Why was it made?

Morgan Freeman: ‘Jailing Hillary’ Best Way To ‘Restore Public Faith In Govt’

October 29, 2017 Baxter Dmitry News, US 13



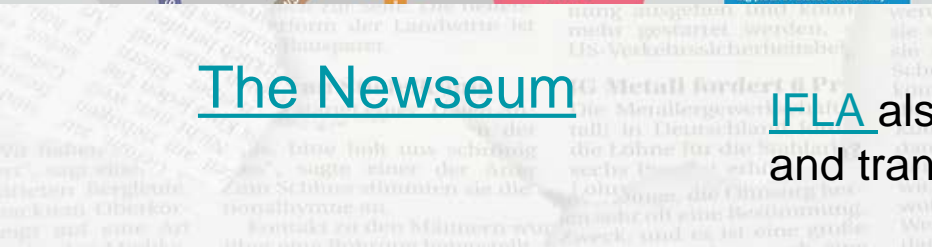
Share 20K

1 point

The best way to restore public faith in government institutions is to “send Hillary to prison”, according to Hollywood icon Morgan Freeman, who warns that unless the former First Lady’s crimes are seen to be punished, “everyday Americans will forever know, deep down, that there is one law for those with money and power, and another for the rest of us.”

*“Hillary should be in jail for her unlawful deeds and President Trump should absolutely, absolutely make sure this happens to send the very strong message that no-one, and I mean no-one, is above the law in the United States of America,” Morgan Freeman said in New York while promoting National Geographic’s new docu-series *The Story of Us*.*






Fabricated News - Strategies



TEN QUESTIONS FOR NEWS DETECTION

START

- START** →

 1. Gauge your emotional reaction:
Is it **strong**? Are you **angry**? Are you intensely **hoping** that the information turns out to be true? False?  **YES** | **NO** ✓
 2. Reflect on how you encountered this. Was it promoted on a website? Did it show up in a social media feed? Was it sent to you by someone you know?
 3. Consider the headline or main message:
 - a. Does it use **excessive punctuation(!!!)** or ALL CAPS for emphasis?  **YES** | **NO** ✓
 - b. Does it make a claim about containing a secret or telling you something that **"the media"** doesn't want you to know?  **YES** | **NO** ✓
 - c. Don't stop at the headline! Keep exploring.
 4. Is this information designed for **easy sharing**, like a **meme**?  **YES** | **NO** ✓
 5. Consider the source of the information:
 - a. Is it a well-known source?  **YES** | **NO** ✓

NewsLiteracyProject.org

IFLA also made a nice flyer of fake news procedures and translated it into over 35 languages!

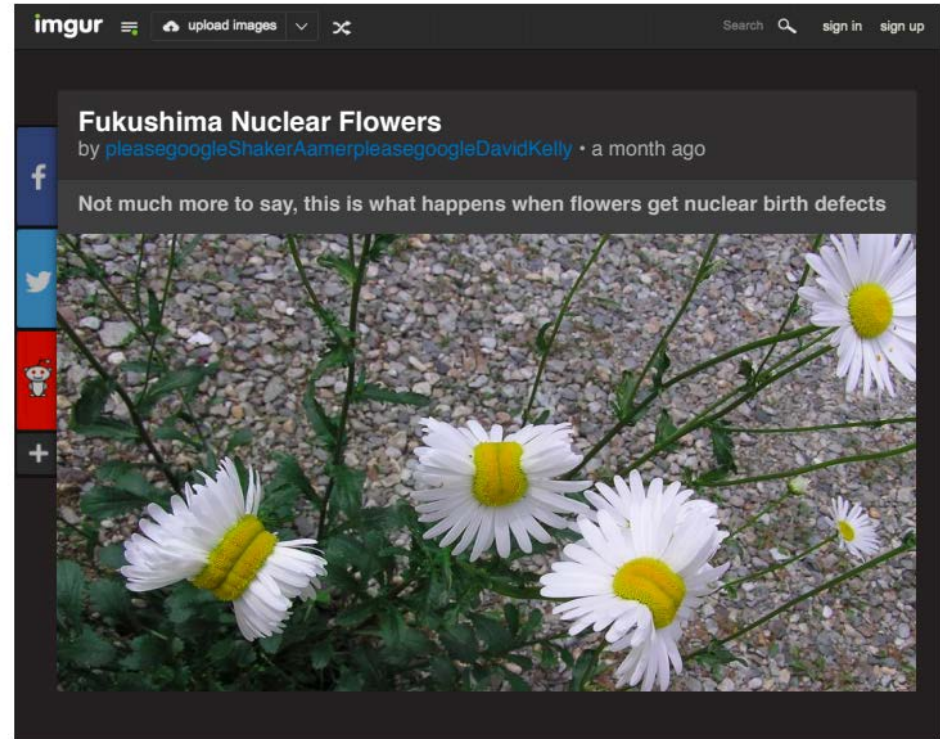
Biased News - Definition

When someone finds an article too slanted, they hope to invalidate it by calling it fake news.

The issues in this category is how students process the difference between news (facts) and news analysis (opinions). Can these both be biased?

Stanford Evaluating Information

On March 11, 2011, there was a large nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. This image was posted on Imgur, a photo sharing website, in July 2015.



Does this post provide strong evidence about the conditions near the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant? Explain your reasoning.

Biased News - Strategies

THE CONFIRMATION BIAS

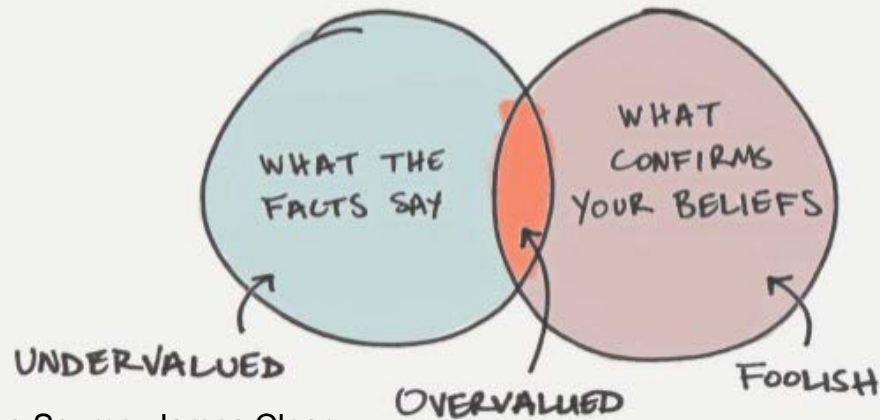


Image Source: James Clear

Have students check their own bias. Take an op-ed piece (or two) and ask students to highlight what they feel is news and what is news analysis. Then students compare who highlighted what and why.

Facing History:
Facing Ferguson



Facing Ferguson: News Literacy in a Digital Age

Distracting News - Definition

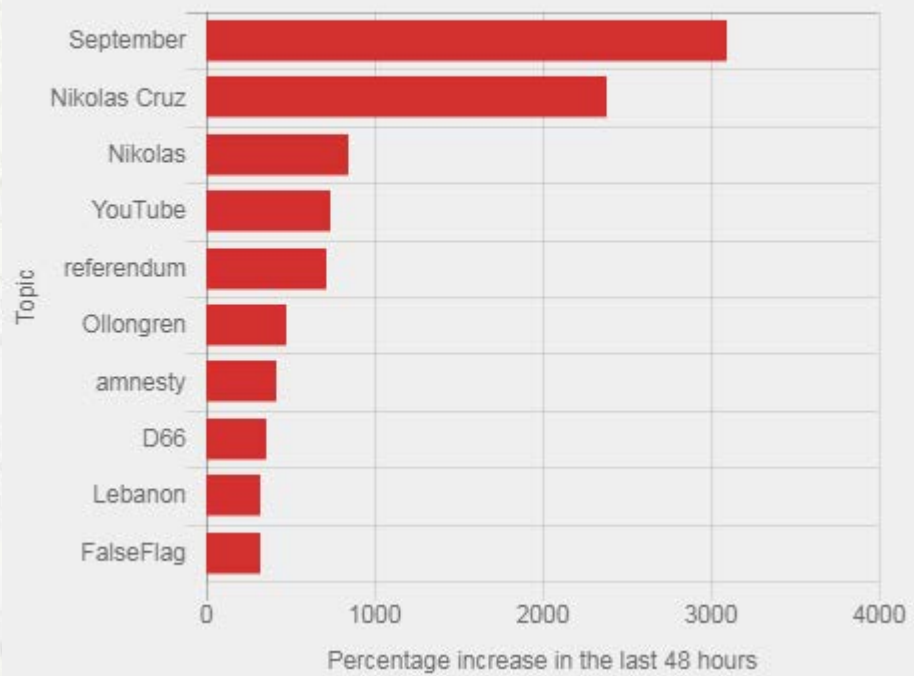
It is easy for a story to get drowned out in social media. How are we making sure our students know what to focus on?

Visit the [Hamilton 68 Dashboard](#) to see the latest trends of Russian Twitter-Bots and trolls!



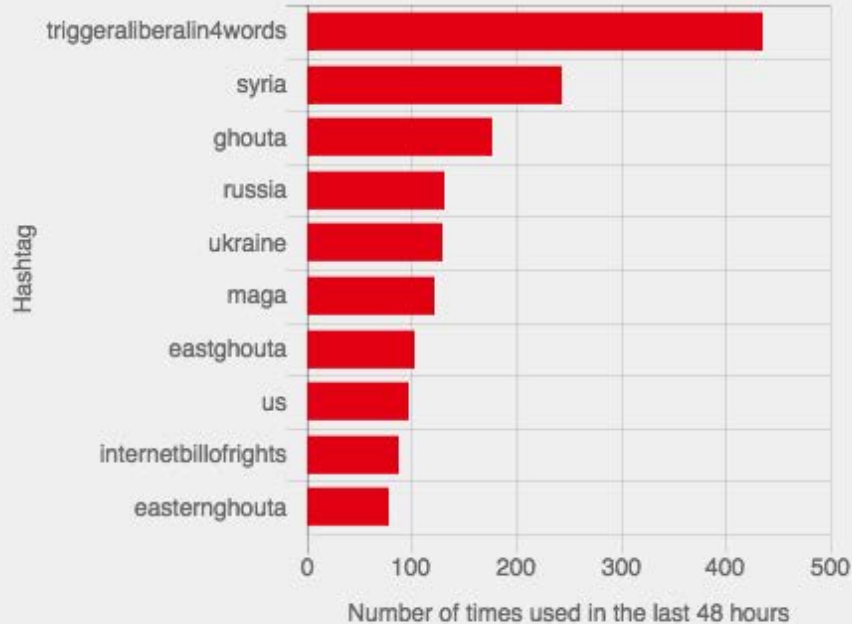
Hamilton 68 Topics from 2/15/18 (day after Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting)

Trending Topics

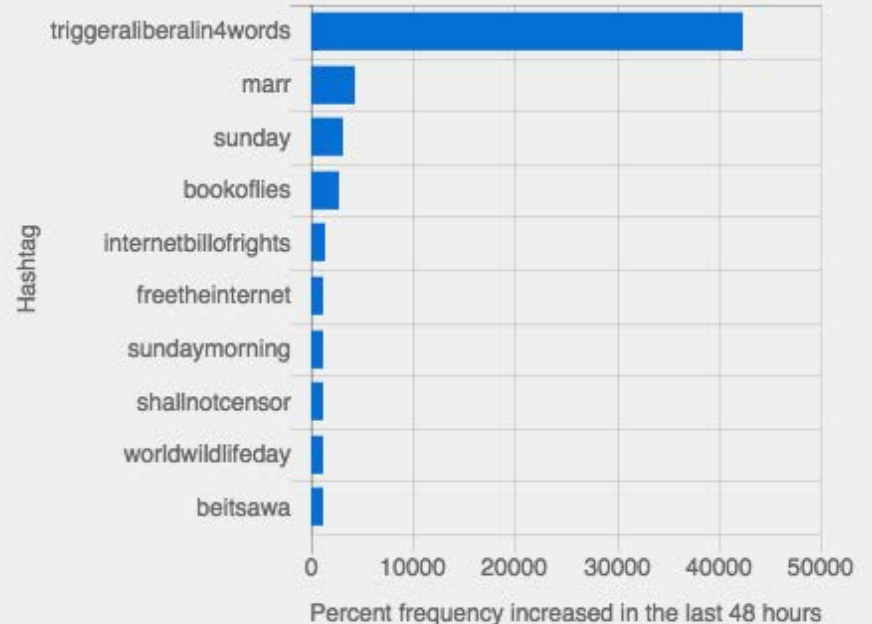


Hamilton 68 Topics from the morning of 3/4/18

Top Hashtags



Trending Hashtags



Distracting News - Strategies

This junk news is a waste of time, but in more serious ways it breaks down our dialogues. This news is often built to reinforce our specific bubble.



Teaching Tolerance
[Digital and Civic Literacy](#)
and they wrote an
[introduction](#) on digital
literacy (share it with your
staff!)

What is the Future of Fake News

[Adobe VoCo](#) can sample a voice and replace short phrases. [RadioLab](#) partnered with them and a facial recognition company to produce a fake Obama video.



How can we fight that future?



Image Source : Rob Rogers *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

We need to teach students (and ourselves) to:

1. distrust confirmation bias
2. get out of filter bubbles
3. see how fake news is spread
4. stand up when confronted with fake or offensive news

