

Knowledge question: How do we determine what is true?

Do Now: What is “fake news”? You can focus on your own definition or discuss how it is used in society.

- Journalism that is intentionally:
 - Absolutely false or
 - Misleading or
 - Told with extreme bias
- Intended to manipulate
- Indubitably false, there is truth!
- May be a result of ignorance rather than intentional manipulation
- The term is a weapon directed at those we disagree with. We call things fake if we disagree with them but fall for actual fake when we agree with it.

Why do people fall for fake news? What kinds of people are victim to it?

- Hard for people to differentiate truth from fiction in a hyper-partisan environment.
- It often tells people what they want to hear. It validates and therefore people fall for it.
- People who have very strong beliefs, very certain, on an extreme side of an argument.
- People are incentivized to spread things that may be fake. Engagement, “shares” and “likes” are currency and not truth.
- People use social media to get their news. Certain media, like instagram posts, can be effective without saying much.

How can we as a society combat fake news? How can individuals?

- Always present multiple perspectives
 - Can exist, on the news, multiple people can share opinions
- Can never really do anything. People are going to want to say what they want
- People will always want to benefit from fake news
- We can train children now and the public to doubt sources and news. It will be easier to combat later on.
- This is a human problem, no one is safe! We have all been lied to
- Know more and that should be part of the solution. People can be trained.

Stephen Colbert on “Truthiness”

What is Colbert’s point about how people arrive at truth? How does this connect to the concept of fake news?