

Name: _____

Assignment: AOW Wk 2

Core: _____

Due Date: Monday 11/13/17

Instructions: For each evening complete the following activity:

- **Monday/Tuesday:** Read and complete stop sign summaries as designated throughout the text. Vocabulary by Context Clues Complete Comprehension and Analyzing Question
- **Wednesday:** Choose either question 5 or 6 of the Applying Questions
- **Thursday:** Turn in the completed article TODAY!
- **Friday:** NO School!

Your margin notes are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in complete sentences unless otherwise instructed.

Five Tips on How to Spot Fake News Online

No, Pope Francis didn't endorse Donald Trump. And no, Trump didn't beat Hillary Clinton in the popular vote. But a **surge** in fake news sites would like you to think that both those things are true.

A growing number of websites are promoting **misinformation** or flat-out lies, raising concerns that falsehoods are going viral over social media without any means to separate fact from fiction. And there is a legitimate fear that some readers can't tell the difference.

A study released by Stanford University found that 82 percent of middle schoolers couldn't spot **authentic** news sources from ads labeled as "sponsored content."

The divide between true and false has been a boon for companies trying to turn a quick profit.

"There are more of these sites now because there's an awareness that people can create fake news sites and make money from the ads," explained Claire Wardle, an expert from the Tow Center for Digital Journalism. "A few years ago, we were mostly dealing with people who were misinformed, but not malicious."

The rise of scammers has two of the world's largest internet companies, Facebook and Google, in controversy over their role in giving fake news such an influential platform.

Melissa Zimdars, a communications and media professor at Merrimack College, compiled a comprehensive takedown of fake news sites after she discovered that one of the top stories on Google News was spreading false information from a fake website.

Here are some tips on how to spot fake news:

1. Stay away from sites with suspicious-looking web addresses, like those ending in .lo or .co.com.
2. Pay attention to the article's author. If there's no byline on a story, or there is only one author for every post on the entire website, watch out. It may be an imposter.
3. Be wary of news sites that host bloggers without any clear editorial or fact-checking process.
4. Check if there's an "about me" section on the website. This makes it easier to spot whether the news source is legitimate.
5. Get your news from a variety of places. The best way to ensure that you're not scammed by fake news is to read from a diverse array of news sources, and not just what pops up on a Facebook feed.



Summarize



Summarize

surge: _____

misinformation: _____

authentic: _____

malicious: _____

Summary 1: _____

Summary 2: _____

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Comprehension questions

1. List four synonyms for 'fake' used in the text.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. What two web addresses are typically unreliable, according to the authors?

- 1.
- 2.

3. What is "sponsored content"? _____

6/7/8.RI.1,2,3,4,7

Analysis questions

4. Explain why it may be helpful for middle schoolers to have a list of fake news sites such as the one the author refers to in paragraph 7? _____

6/7/8.RI.2,6,8,9

Applying

5. Based on the data from the Stanford University study, how many students in your middle school would likely be unable to tell the difference between real news and fake news? Show your work; answer in a complete Sentence. Lowes Grove Middle School has approximately 655 students. 6/7/8.RI.1,4

6. Write your own fake news article. Include a beginning, middle, and end. Cite an unreliable source. (You may need to complete this question on a separate sheet of paper if not working on the computer.) 6/7/8.RI.8,9

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