Alexis Young

Professor Mary Hays

Rhet 105

May 3, 2017

About 680

<div align="center">Fake News: Destroying America's Institution</div>

The existence of the Republican and Democratic political party are defining influences in our society's government. America's differing political parties are symbols of the nation's respected democracy and emblems of freedom. Although these parties were once a declaration of America's hope, they have now become the forefront of predicted destruction of American values and the relationship between its citizens.

Disagreements between political parties has evolved from being the norm into becoming the basis for division and turmoil based on party identification, predominantly fueled by fake news. Amongst these divisions are separations between friends and families. According to *The New York Times* article by Amanda Taub, political conflict has begun to consume the nonpolitical aspects of our lives, ultimately affecting relationships within social groups. With fake news influencing how different political parties view one another, people's opinions of others are now becoming associated with, primarily, the negative aspects of each party. These opinions being an important factor in who we choose to marry, the party our children will belong to, and our social groups. This partisan divide is thought to be a vicious cycle, unfortunately, reinforcing that the opposing side is the enemy (pg. A3).

The power that fake news has in causing this partisan divide is no surprise amongst some Americans. These Americans, according to "Fake news websites in the United States" by

Wikipedia, use these fraudulent stories in order to play on the gullibility of the opposite party while promoting the other. Whether the motive is to help their party or receive financial gain, the influence of fake news has become the primary source for disinformation (n.p.). To counteract the surge of fake news, there are websites that help in debunking these false accusations on both sides of the political spectrum. For example, *Snopes.com* details the recent allegation of Bret Chiafalo and his attempt to commit suicide in order to refrain from voting during the Electoral College, which could have been viewed negatively across the Democratic Party (n.p.). Chiafalo's actions could have also suggested extreme disapproval in the election of Trump for President. According to *Snopes.com*, this accusation turned out to be false and in turn, saved the reputation of Chiafalo and the Democratic Party (n.p.).

Fake news has become a popular means of misinforming society and creating a divide between political parties. The effects of fake news have begun to destroy America's institution and values all over the continent. Educating both parties on the facts and removing influence on our nonpolitical lives will ultimately help in rebuilding a healthy democracy and social relationships in America.

Works Cited

"Fakeness Electors". *Snopes,* 30 Dec. 2016. http://www.snopes.com/elector-suicide/.

Taub, Amanda. "The Real Story About Fake News Is Partisanship." New York Times, 11 Jan.
    2017, p. A3

  Throughout the course of the semester, I've learned that when incorporating sources in your paper and using in-text citations, a works cited page has to be present. When you simply just reference another author's work without giving them their credit, which is in your works cited

page, it is considered plagiarism. I also learned that when creating a works cited page it is important to alphabetize sources by their first letter, so that your reader can easily reference where you received your information. In addition to making your works cited page easier for referencing, I've learned about hanging indent, which indents the first line of your source for you and improves clarity.

 Besides formatting, I've learned about the difference between primary and secondary sources and what constitutes a reliable source. Primary sources are considered to be the direct source of information or research, while a secondary source addresses information that has already been presented elsewhere. There is also a difference between popular and scholarly sources. Popular sources often times graze over the information, have minimal support, or have a lower reading level. Scholarly sources, most likely, has college level language, support, and detailed writing. All this information has improved my source usage and decreased my chances of plagiarizing.