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about 613 Words

### Why is Society so Inclined to Believe “Fake News”?

The majority of society today isn't concerned or aware of the issue of “fake news.” “Fake news” is misconception and biased opinion conveyed as legitimate local, national, or world news and gossip. Much of the media constantly reports, “fake news,” but the majority of the population is too oblivious to differentiate between “fake news” and real news. Not only is “fake news” a large influence on the political spectrum but vice versa. The influence of “fake news” increases the social divide in today's world in which many fail to recognize. Being informed of the issue of “fake news” can create less tension between social classes, races, political factions etc. “Fake news” instigates issues of social class, races, and political views, and educating the public about “fake news” could prevent further tension.

Wikipedia's “Fake news websites in the United States” states a general definition of “fake news”. According to Wikipedia, “fake news” is misinformation and false accusations meant to intentionally stir up conflict within the media (“Fake news website”). For example, “fake news” is said to have played a significant role in the 2016 election; supporters used “fake news” as a political weapon against the opposing political parties. Wikipedia provides the article about the protestors at anti-trump rallies in Austin, Texas who we supposedly “bussed in;” the only people who were really on those buses

were those heading to the Tableau Conference. Trump supporters were so inclined to believe such “fake news” because it further defended their own support and credibility (Fake news website”).

The *New York Times*’ “The Real Story About Fake News Is Partisanship” also provides a definition of “fake news”, but the reason behind its intentions seems to be the more pressing question. According to a source provided by the *New York Times*, “fake news” is ultimately fueled by partisan divide (Taub). Because of complete bias against opposing political parties, society becomes more vulnerable to the “fake news” that supports each their own political views. Political partisanship was once a small aspect of our lives that now defines us as individuals.

Snopes.com is a website that supposedly differentiates real news from “fake news”. The website scours the media for any news that may be questionable, especially from the ideal “fake news” websites. According to *TMZHipHop*, a man locked his daughter in a cage because she used snapchat’s dog filter too excessively. Snopes.com gave no other reason for this article being a fake news story other than the fact that *TMZHipHop* has posted multiple “fake news” stories before (LaCapria). In my opinion, Snopes.com is not a trustworthy source when deciphering “fake news” from real news because no evidence is provided to think otherwise.

“Fake news” is a major issue in today’s media that needs to be brought to attention. Both sources describe “fake news” as being fueled by political partisanship and vice versa. Snopes.com goes to show that there is no way to go about not trusting “fake news” unless people are aware of which sources really are credible. I strongly agree that

“fake news” is an issue that needs to be addressed before society is further divided based on misconception and opinions.

## Works Cited

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