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<div align="center">Fake News — The Reflection of Changing Society</div>

Fake news has a straightforward definition on Wikipedia: fabricated news that is spreading to deliberately mislead readers, making the websites profit through clickbait, and eventually influencing the society negatively(Fake). However, during the dramatic presidential election, as Wikipedia points out, "the definition of fake news as used for such polemics became more vague (Fake)". The vagueness of the definition, based on my standard, offers the opportunity to explore fake news as something more profound—the reflection of the changing society. Fake news reflect two aspects of the changes: the changing intensity of political partisanship, and the changing function of social network.

The partisanship nowadays is extremely severe. People are not only tending to treat others from their own party better but also taking partisanship as fundamental identities. Sean Westwood perfectly summarized the phenomenon: "Partisanship, for a long period of time… wasn't core to our identity. But in the modern era we view party identity as … the core traits that we use to describe ourselves to others(Taub)." As a result, nowadays, people are not only merely arguing for their believes but also fighting for their identities through the political arguments—fake news becomes one of the easiest method to attack another group while insisting on one's own correctness, and therefore

some people spread fake news even while realizing the falsity. Moreover, people are psychologically more likely to positively evaluate others from their own group, and , as indicates by Taub, "more inclined to seek out and believe stories that justify their pre-existing partisan biases, whether or not they are true (Taub)". In sum, the intentional spreading of and unintentional beliefs in fake news reflect the current upheaval in political partisanship.

Furthermore, the changing function of the social network is also reflected by fake news. Social network was the place to contact people and make friends; however, because of the opportunities of indirect communication offered by the social network, and the almost unlimited accesses of posts from each individual, it has already been the battlefield of unethically attacking the other political side. People with some credibility are also creating fake news via the social network that exacerbate the new function of the social network. Snopes.com offers an example: "A Time magazine reporter erroneously tweeted that a bust of civil rights icon Martin Luther King, Jr. was removed from display in the Oval Office by Donald Trump (Emery)", which has been proven as fake. In brief, the current overwhelming existences of fake news are reflecting the new role of social network.

Fake news, which was merely tabloid journalism with instantaneous damage upon the society, is now the reflection of the socio-political changes of the modern society. People creating and spreading the fake news are making our society morbid as a whole.

Works Cited

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The originality report is not valid and not intellectual enough. It shows that I have 5% plagiarism. However, the two parts it highlights are a quotation, which is put in quotation marks, and a portion of my works cited. The reason of the highlighting is the exact phrases have appeared in other's paper; however, since they are a quotation and a standard MLA format works cited, the phenomenon is impossible to avoid. Nevertheless, I learned that the same source could be used by different individuals for different purposes; thus, not twisting the ideas of the sources were ethical. Since I did my best to revise the citations before I turned in the homework, I can not identify any other plagiarisms.