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Social Media Increases Misinformation Bias

The increase in technology has allowed social media to become a major part of information-networking. Information is now easily obtainable through a phone or a computer and allows a person to find what they want within seconds. However, even though information is now easier to access, it is easier to post misinformation as well. Fake news websites in the United States as claimed from Wikipedia are said to “publish hoaxes, propaganda, and disinformation to drive web traffic inflamed by social media.” It goes on to elaborate on the fact that during the 2016 election between Clinton and Trump, fake news became a political weapon used to garner support for the candidates (“Fake News”).

“The Real Story About Fake News Is Partisanship” from the *New York Times* talks about how non-political issues such as racism and abortion are made into political conflicts due to social media partisanship and bias towards these issues (Taub). The article gives an example of how social media affects politics by saying that Trump supporters are more likely to believe in news that support Trump such as the Pope endorsing Trump and stories that deride Clinton’s character, vice versa for Clinton supporters.

People from the same political party tend to trust each other more than other people with different political views. This trust leads to people not fact-checking the news that they were given and promotes bias and misinformation. Snopes.com has an archive where you can check your facts. For example, the information about Trump's inauguration being the most viewed in history was unproven and a tweet from a time magazine reporter who said that a bust of Martin Luther King Jr. was removed from the Oval Office by Trump was proven to be false.

Since misinformation is increasing, people should learn to doubt the information that they're given and to fact check using credible resources such as high-authority figures like professors and teachers and even news-checking resources online like Snopes. Fact-checking the information that you're given allows bias to be reduced and contains the spread of misinformation.

Works Cited

"Fake news." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Apr. 2017. Web. 22 Apr. 2017.

Taub, Amanda. "The Real Story About Fake News Is Partisanship." The New York Times. The New York Times, 11 Jan. 2017. Web. 22 Apr. 2017.