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### My School's Fake Shutdown

Imagine waking up extra early on a Monday morning to an email stating that your school is shutting down. How would you react? Would you believe it? Why is it closing and why are you just finding out? There are endless questions one may ask themselves, but there is only one solution: evidence. One must hear the absurd news from a legitimate news resource to make sure it is not a scam. In the article "SIU Closure Slated for August 13th" by John Dalton, and in "Here's what's in store for the 40,000 students left without a school now that ITT Tech has closed" by Abby Jackson, each author shared their individual resources they had on schools closing down. However, one is a fake article and the other is real.

Since fake articles are so common nowadays, the general population does not know what to believe anymore. There was a hoax going around that Southern Illinois University would be closing in the fall of 2017 due to "social justice warrior" activity. This thesis came from *The American Tribune*, and it had parents and students panicking. According to *The American Tribune's* "SIU Closure Slated for August 13th," it was almost certain that SIU would be closing when stated, "this enrollment issue is primarily due to parents not wanting their children at the school because of a recent uptick in campus crimes and protest activities" (Dalton par. 3). Because it has been extremely chaotic recently at SIU, the article has started to convince people

that the school would be closing. When John Dalton stated, “This pairing of state cuts and lack of revenue generation has caused the state to decide that funding would best serve the state at other facilities” (par. 3), was when everyone believed the department would officially be shutting down. However, that was not true. Yes, SIU is rated as “one of the most violent campuses in IL” (Dalton par. 4), but that is not a logical reason why the college should vanish.

When analyzing articles, the warrant is known as the value/assumption the writer is expressing throughout the passage. The warrant itself throughout the article was discreet. John Dalton's primary intention was to inform readers why people believed Southern Illinois University was closing, and tried backing it up with information. He wanted his readers to believe his fake story. He described how dangerous it was, for example, the crimes that have been committed and all the protesting that has been going on. It was clear that Dalton was being impressive when he stated, "the fact that SIU rates as one of the most violent campuses in IL does not go on to help that reality” (par. 4). Here, he is informing readers about the instability SIU is currently going through in hopes they will believe his story.

In the article, “SIU Closure Slated for August 13th,” there is no qualifier. A qualifier is indicated by words or phrases to limit how universally a claim applies. If there were to be a qualifier, then words such as “usually,” “maybe,” and “most” would be indicated in the article. For instance, if Dalton stated “If SIU were a safer school, then maybe it would not have closed,” then this would be considered a qualifier. However, throughout the article Dalton would not be clear to his readers by constantly stating “sources say” instead of presenting where his sources came from. Dalton did not use factual evidence in his article to support his claims. For instance, when Dalton states, “Sources say this resulted from necessary Illinois state budget cuts paired

with a recent drop in enrollment” (par. 3), he is not referring to any sort of archive article, just simply writing it in his own words which makes his article unbelievable.

Towards the end of the article, John Dalton writes an objection and rebuttal. His objection states, “Interim Chancellor Brad Colwell refused to comment on whether or not the current rise in Social Justice Warrior activity, such as the recent Black Lives Matter inspired protests, had anything to do with the drop in enrollment” (Dalton par. 4). He quickly rebutted this declaration by commenting, “Without comment on the subject of the protests, however, there is still reason to believe that the high profile murders of two young adults in the area being swept under the rug by city officials, has given parents and prospective students a cautionary eye when it comes to SIUC” (Dalton par. 4).

Even though the article about Southern Illinois University closing was fake, the article “Here’s what’s in store for the 40,000 students left without a school now that ITT Tech has closed,” by Abby Jackson, is indeed true. The thesis states that ITT Tech schools shut down due to the lack of federal funding, which affected those who are still enrolled at the school and those who graduated. Unlike Dalton, Jackson used factual information to support her thesis. According to the *Business Insider*, it is clear that the closing of ITT Tech will affect an abundance of individuals when Abby Jackson stated, “The college’s closure, which affects 40,000 students and 8,000 employees, is one of the largest in US history” (par. 1). Many of those who were affected by the news, did not know what the next step in their lives were. When Jackson stated, “The Department of Education held a press conference to discuss next steps for affected students, urging them to consider the two options: discharge their federal loans or transfer to another

school” (par. 2), showed the limited choices a student had to embark into the next steps of their journey.

The writer’s warrant throughout the article expressed concern. Abby Jackson focused on the effects and tough decisions students had to make as the result of their college closing. When she stated, “If students decide to fully discharge, however, they’d essentially need to start their postsecondary education over from scratch, a particularly unattractive choice for students close to graduating” (Jackson par. 4), Jackson expressed the concern she had for students stuck in the dilemma, specifically those who are close to crossing the stage to receive their diploma.

In the first article that was analyzed, there was a qualifier. However, in this article, there is not. If the writer did include a qualifier, it would limit the thesis using words such as might, probably, perhaps, and maybe. For instance, if Jackson stated, “The closing of ITT Tech might affect students,” then that would be considered a qualifier because the word “might” makes the statement weak.

Lastly, Abby Jackson stated a rebuttal about students having trouble finding a different school to transfer to. Jackson stated, “But transferring is no easy task, especially if students are looking for a quality school” (par. 4). She then quickly commented, “Mitchell indicated that the ED was working to have community colleges around ITT Tech campuses reach out to students” (Jackson par. 6). Here, Jackson is pointing out the fact that transferring schools is not going to be an easy task, but that it is not impossible and there will be people helping them along the way.

After analyzing both articles, I gained useful information on how to tell if an article is real or not. It is important to check the web source you’re using to make sure the article is reliable. If the article does not have sources listed or justified information to back up a statement,

then it is safe to say that it is a fake article. However, one is not a hundred percent sure if the article is fake unless it is read thoroughly, which is how people mislead information most of the time. For instance, in *The American Tribune* article, “SIU Closure Slated for August 13th,” people started to believe that the article was true, even though there were not any legitimate resources used to back it up. Unlike in the fake article, the real one by the *Business Insider* on “Here’s what’s in store for the 40,000 students left without a school now that ITT Tech has closed,” Abby Jackson uses clear resources and firm vocabulary to prove the situation. If one ever does wake up to a rude awakening stating that their school would be shutting down, make sure to hear it from a reliable resource before going back to bed.

Work Cited

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