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Real or Fake?

Our society has become so corrupt that we the people do not even know what to believe anymore. Whether it is about politics, the environment, or even sports, our world has been influenced by so much judgment that one feels the best way to live life is by following in the footsteps of their parents, family members, or close friends. The problem here is that what they believe is factual evidence may actually not be true and it can cause controversy.

Since fake news articles purposefully mislead readers, we need to make sure that what we are reading is accurate. As stated in the Wikipedia entry about "Fake Websites in The US," it is clear that not all sources are true because "fake news websites deliberately publish hoaxes, propaganda, and disinformation to drive web traffic inflamed by social media" ("Fake Websites" par.1). By doing so, they are trying to catch the reader's attention and intrigue them with imprecise information. Arguments then begin over a topic because people base their opinions on lies.

It was not until the 2016 presidential election when fake news turned into a "political weapon" and major partisan bias occurred between both political parties ("Fake Websites" par.2). Since there was a huge controversial dispute between both presidential candidates, it motivated the people to automatically side with their party identification even if what they read and saw about their candidate was not exactly true. As declared in the New York Times article on "The Real Story About Fake News is Partisanship," it was evident that the people were biased

and only believed what they heard because "people of all partisan stripes are generally quite bad at figuring out what news stories to believe. Instead, they use trust as a shortcut" (Taub Par.21). Here, the people are taking what might be fake news and believing it just because others believe it as well.

For instance, after President Donald Trump's inauguration, a Women's March was held across the world to express women's rights as a union. A few days after the protest, a picture of two older women holding a poster that stated "Babies are useless they can't even talk. Kill the little freeloaders" went viral and people were in disbelief (Palma). But of course, this was not true. The picture that was said to be taken at the protest was actually taken long before 2017. According to Snopes.com's "Fake News Archives: Babies Schmabies," it is clear that this picture was not from the Women's March because "the image was created as part of a contest for web designers in which the challenge was to make up the most inane protest possible" (Palma par.2). This is a perfectly good example of how fake news catches the reader's attention with an irrational headline and picture.

All in all, one can tell if an article is real or not as soon as one starts reading. Unlike fake news articles, real sources do not typically have headlines that seem so absurd, which is what usually allures people into reading it. With that being said, being cautious of what one is reading is necessary and important. Not only do false sources give misleading information, but they also cause controversy between others which can be prevented.

Works Cited

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