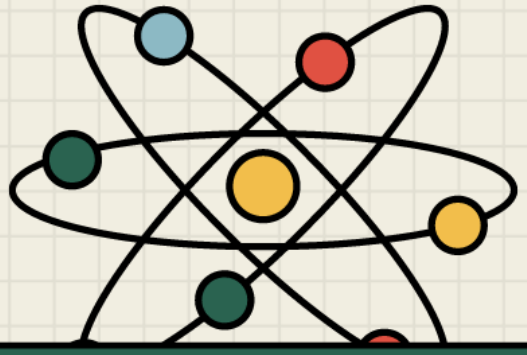
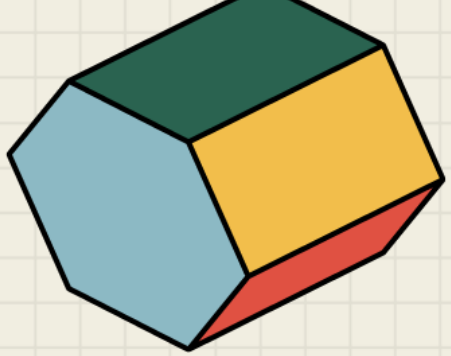
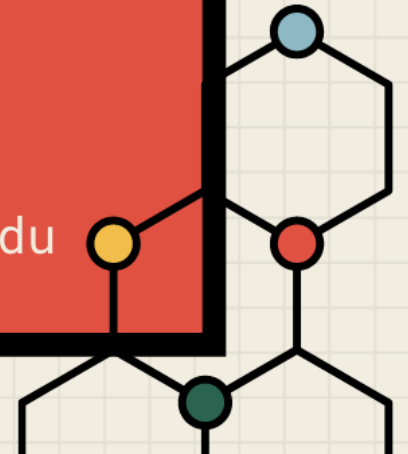


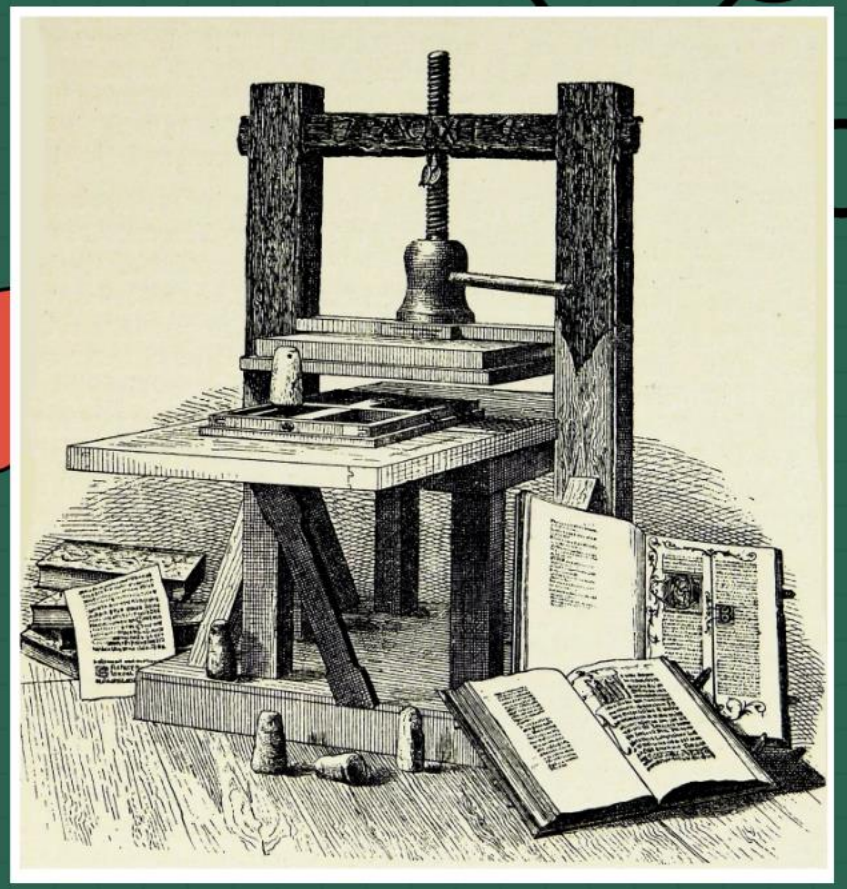


Who Wrote That?

Lisa Hoover
Clarkson
Libraries
lhoover@clarkson.edu



Historically only the wealthy had access to education & information....



Johannes Gutenberg's first printing press.
Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Getty Images - from History.com

But today information is everywhere, created by everyone!

Participatory Culture

Blogs

Social Media

News Media

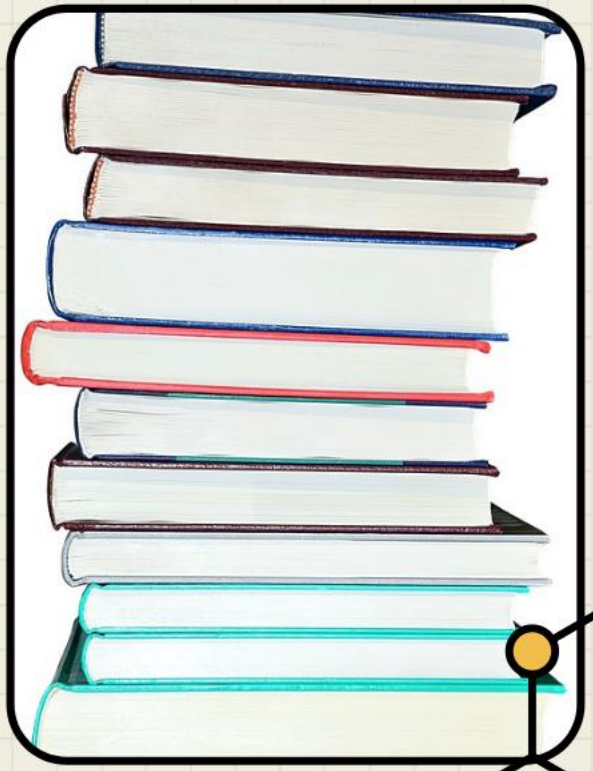
Citizen Science

Citizen Science image from Wikimedia Commons - image of Citizen Science Team on Sauk Mountain by Park Ranger

What can we trust?

Look for...

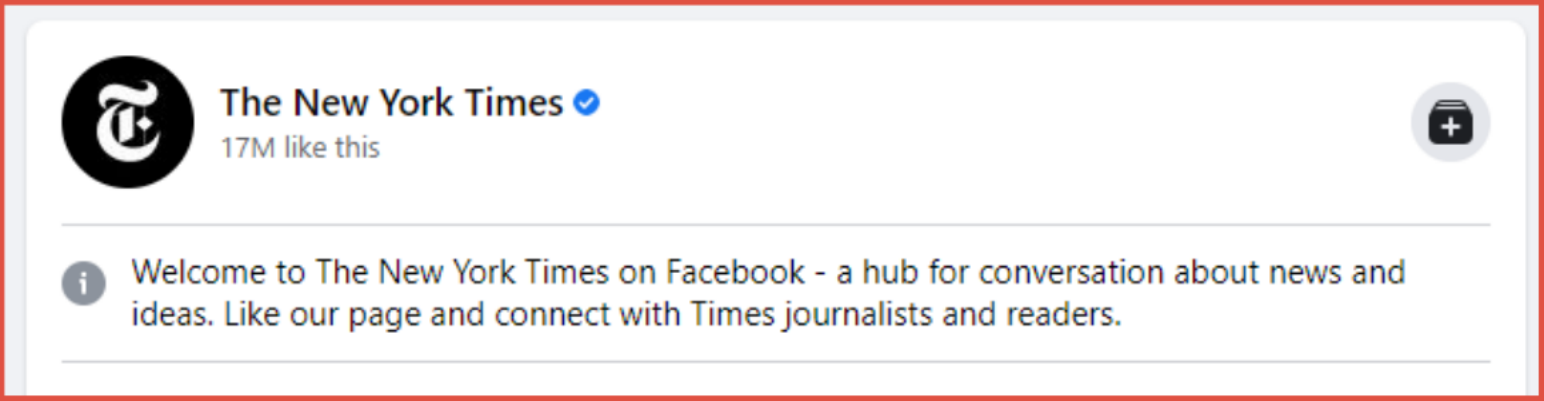
Authority
Sources
Purpose
Perspective



Authority

Is the author or creator....

- Independent?
- Verified
- Knowledgable
- Trustworthy


The New York Times
17M like this
Welcome to The New York Times on Facebook - a hub for conversation about news and ideas. Like our page and connect with Times journalists and readers.

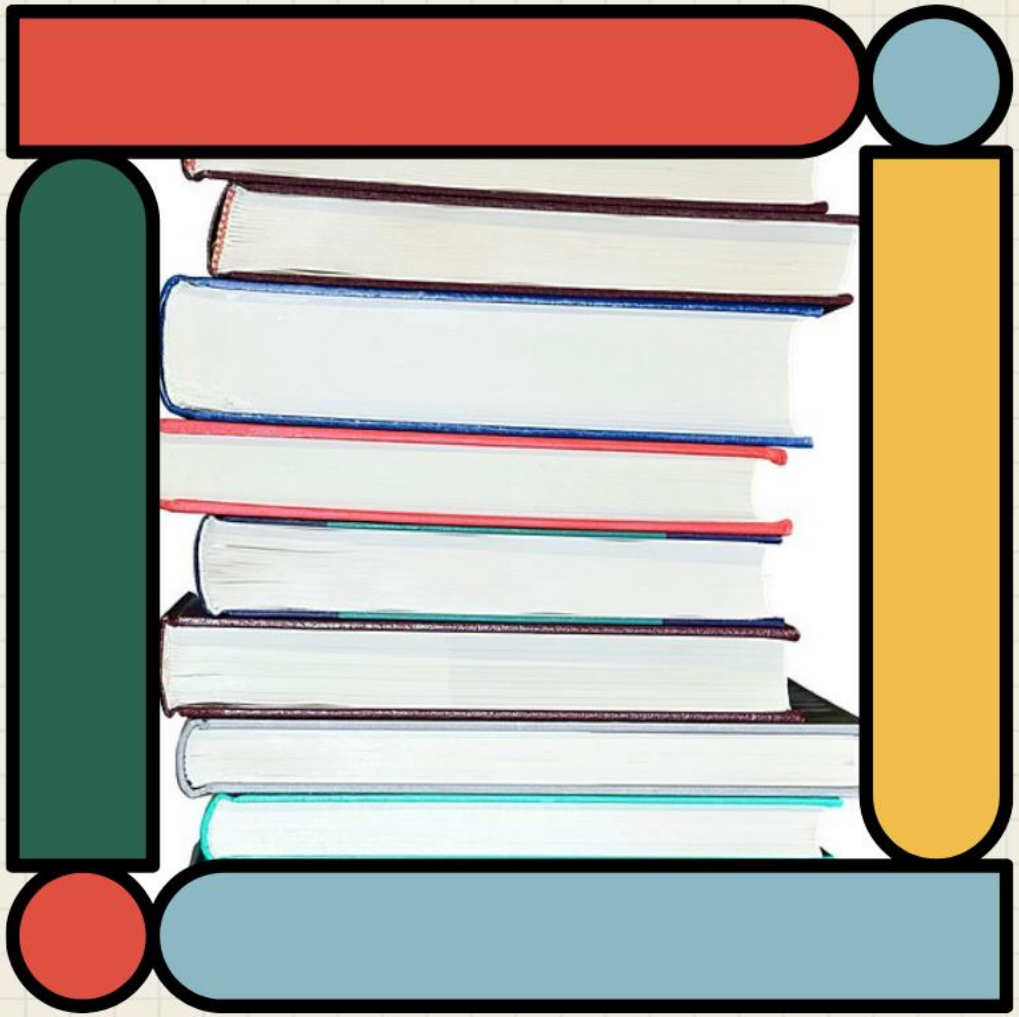
Breitbart
Page
Breitbart News (www.breitbart.com) is a conservative news and opinion website founded by the late Andrew Breitbart.

- Does he actually work for MIT?
  - Check the directory – no match
- Googled his name + MIT –
  found that he has degrees from MIT,
  but doesn't work for them
- Does he have expertise in this area?
  - Has been working for tech companies,
    not bio companies
- Was lecturer at MIT in early 2000s
- Most recent is a tech company
- PhD in biological engineering (systems biology) from MIT
- Google searches show MIT has distanced themselves from him, professors have made disparaging comments

Is he an expert? Is he reliable?

Who benefits if I believe this?
Who benefits if I react to this?

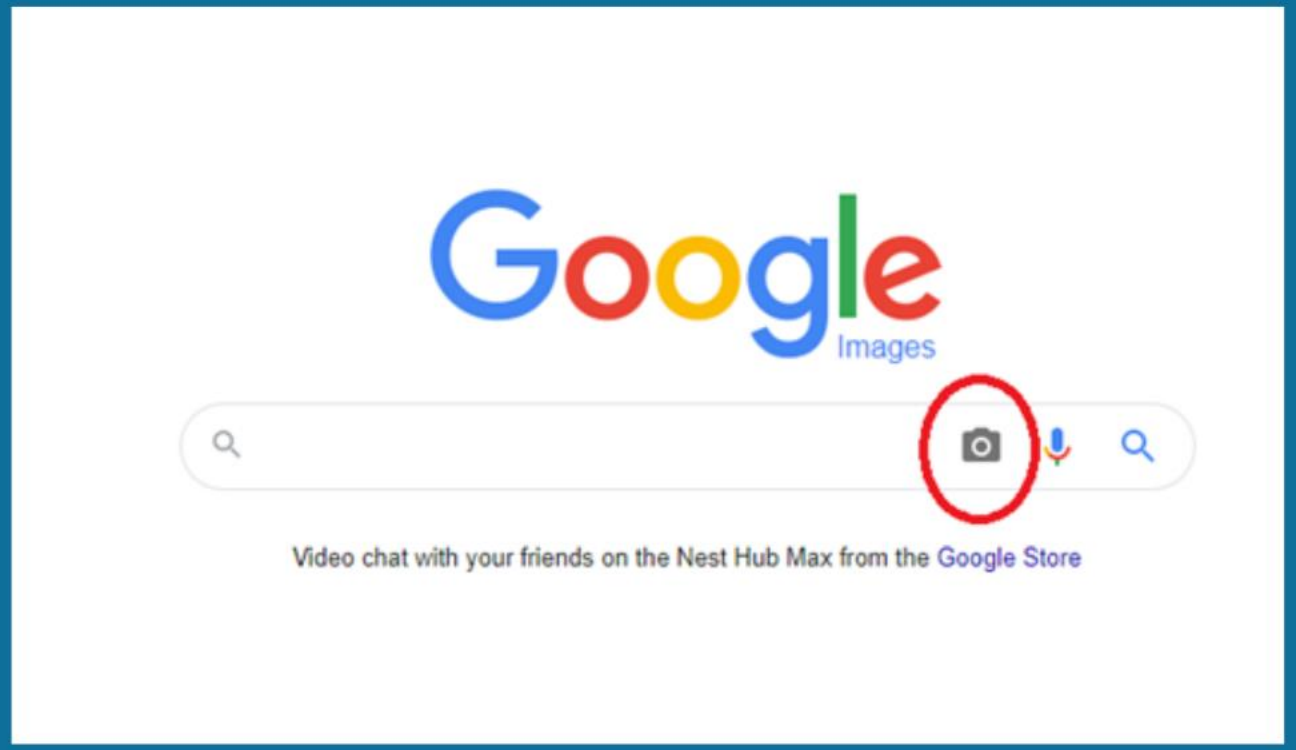
- Yellow Journalism – Remember the Main!
- Soviet Bloc AIDS disinformation campaign
- Nazi Blood Libel
- Genghis Khan sending sick horses to enemy camps
- Google “bombs”



Sources

Where did the information come from?

- Can you tell?
- Can you find/verify?
- Is it authoritative?
- Is it used properly?



Where is the photo from?

See Page 19 For Particulars of The World's Dot Contest Today

LATE EDITION

The World

THE BEST IN THE WEST

SATURDAY'S GUARANTEED CIRCULATION 31,203

PAGES 1 TO 20 — VANCOUVER, B. C., MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1912 — THIRTY PAGES

TITANIC SINKING; NO LIVES LOST

PASSENGERS TRANSFERRED TO CUNARD LINER CARPATHIA—ALL ARE NOW SAFE

THANIC IS NOW ON HER WAY TO HALIFAX

SMASH DOORS OF CONVENTION WITH AXES

THREATENS TO SEND HORDE OF I. W. W. HERE

THINK CALIFORNIA MAN MURDERER

ROOSEVELT IS VICTORIOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

LOCAL MANAGER TITANIC PASSENGER

DIC ENGINES ON C. P. R. BY JULY 1

THAT'LL HELP SOME

Information Timeline

Event Occurs

Within minutes

Social Media

"Breaks" the story. Info may be incomplete, false, or biased.
Examples: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, blogs

Within days

News Sites, TV, Radio & Daily Newspapers

As time passes, info gets added, updated, and verified. Opinions emerge.
Examples: CNN.com, Fox News, BBC Radio, New York Times

Within a week

Weekly Magazines

Offers more insight. Likely to include context info, interviews, related topics.
Examples: Time, Newsweek, People, The New Yorker

Within a month

Monthly Magazines

Additional time allows for better reporting. May include opinions.
Examples: Wired, Scientific American, National Geographic

3+ Months Later

Scholarly Journals

Written by experts. Well-researched and objective.
Examples: Journal of American Culture, Nature, JAMA

12+ Months Later

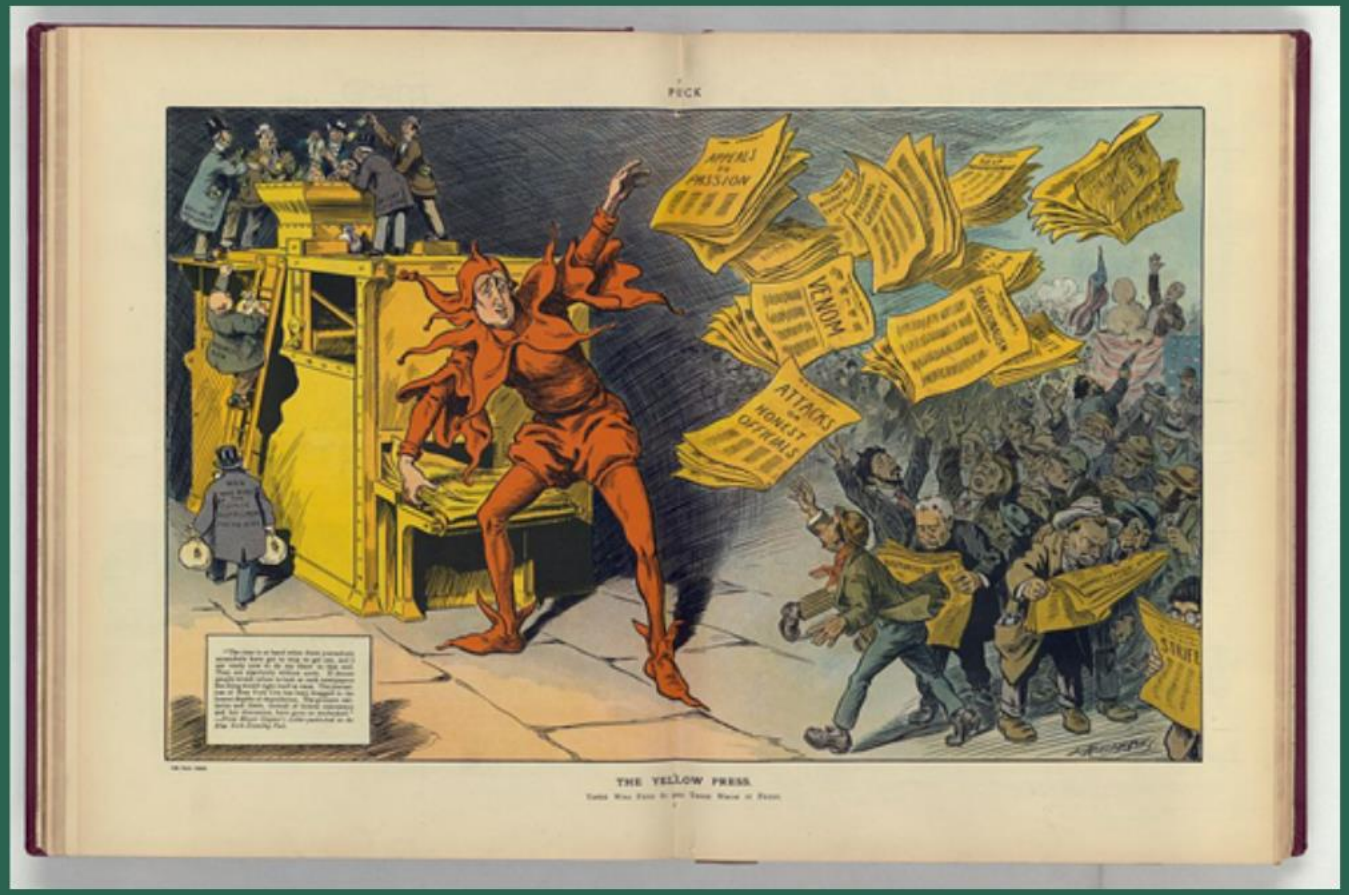
Books

Benefit most from hindsight. Give most in-depth coverage of topic.
Examples: Nonfiction titles, biographies, textbooks, reference materials

Purpose

What is the purpose?

- News?
- Opinion?
- Satire?
- Entertainment?
- Manipulation?



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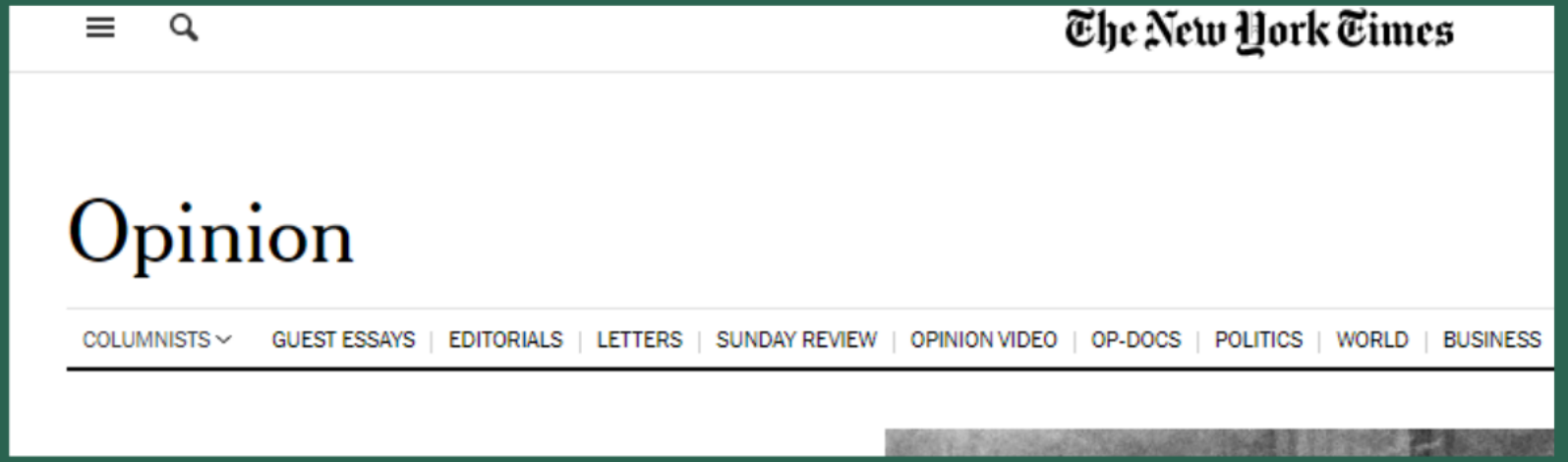
CALL
Trump
Verified video
Altered video

ter.
ted access,
ytime.
THE NEW YORKER
Newsletter
News
Books & Culture
Fiction & Poetry
Humor & Cartoons
Magazine
Puzzles & Games
Video
Podcasts
Archive
Goings On
Subscribe
SATIRE FROM THE BOROWITZ REPORT
Not the news.

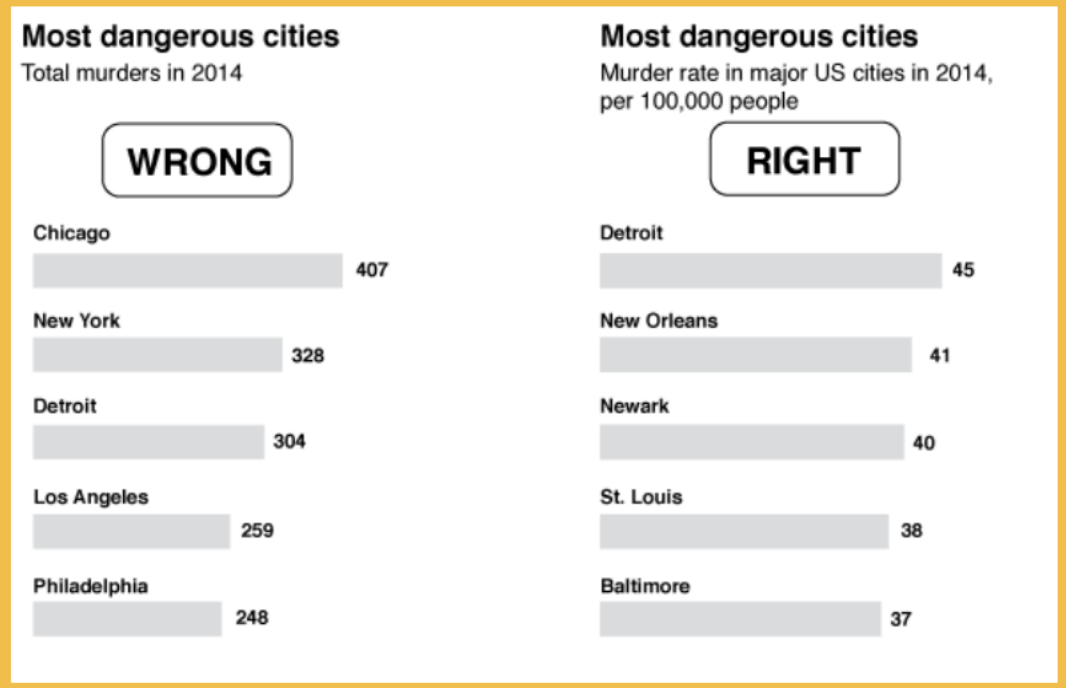

The New York Times
Opinion
COLUMNISTS
GUEST ESSAYS
EDITORIALS
LETTERS
SUNDAY REVIEW
OPINION VIDEO
OP-DOCS
POLITICS
WORLD
BUSINESS

Perspective

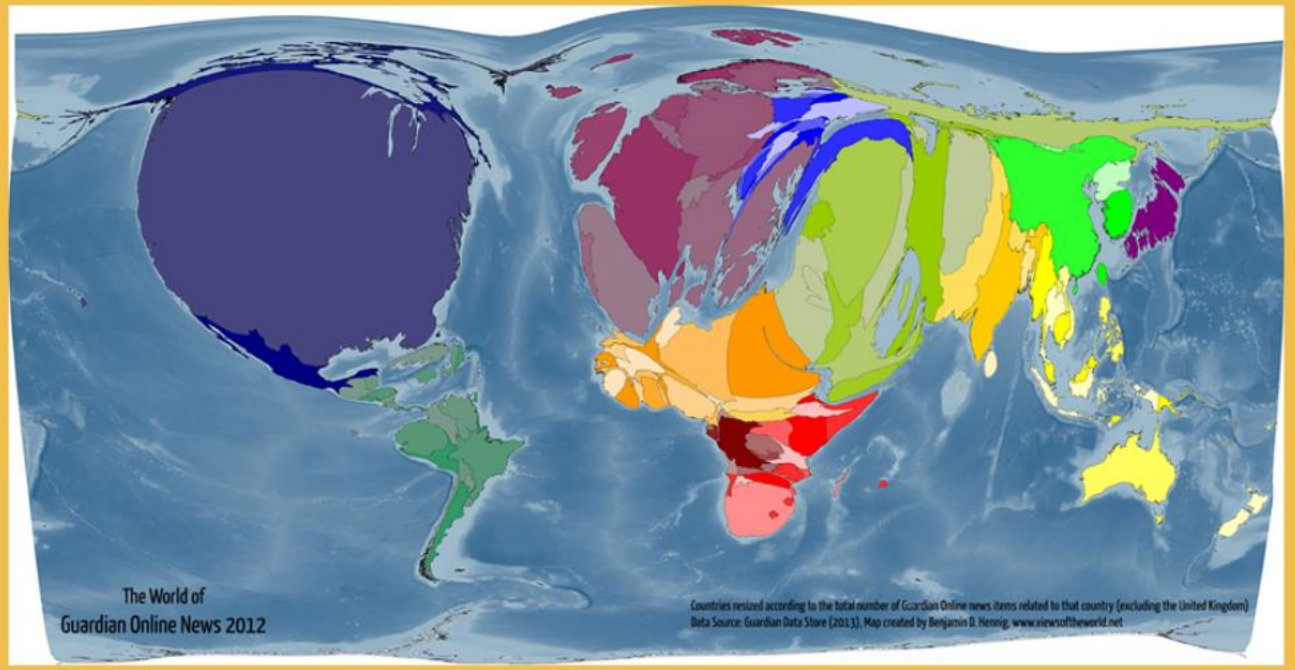
Is it....

- Inaccurate
- Misleading
- Biased
- Skewed?
- Incomplete?

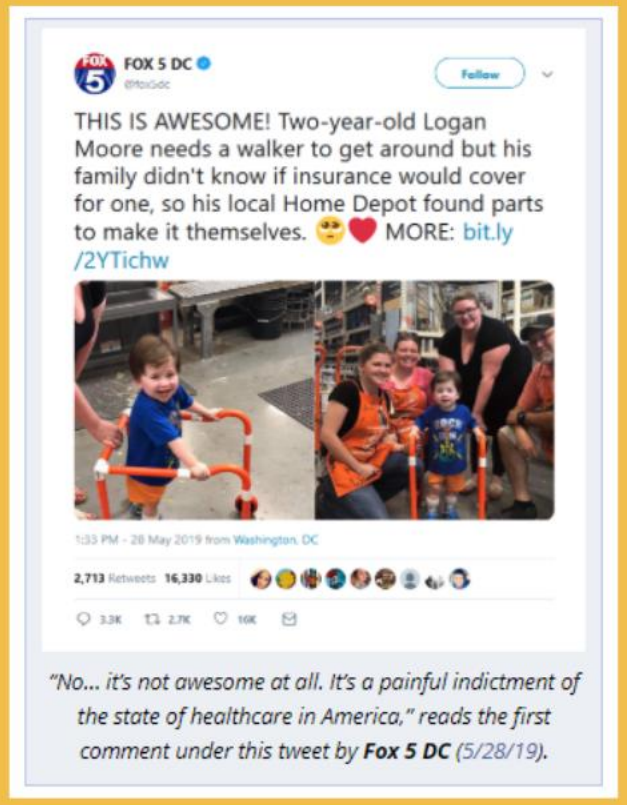
From the © National Geographic, https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/06/150619-data-points-five-ways-to-lie-with-charts/



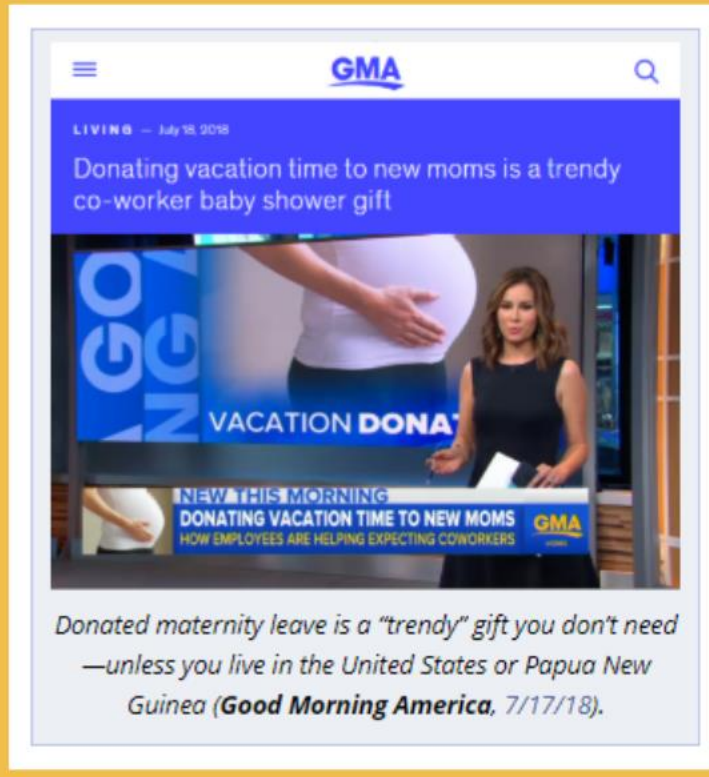
is 4 followers a lot?
depends on the context
in Instagram? Not at al
in a dark alley? yes, a lot.



ViewsoftheWorld.Net



"No... it's not awesome at all. It's a painful indictment of the state of healthcare in America," reads the first comment under this tweet by ***Fox 5 DC*** *(5/28/19).*

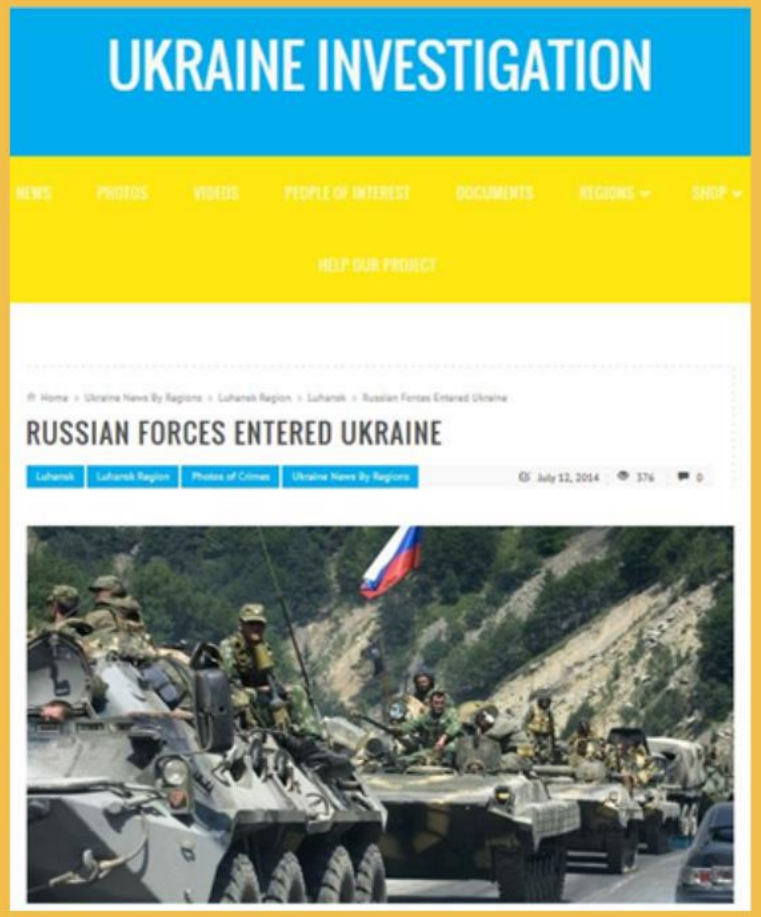


*Donated maternity leave is a "trendy" gift you don't need —unless you live in the United States or Papua New Guinea (****Good Morning America****, 7/17/18).*

"Hardships were never an excuse for Moseley," ***CNN*** *(5/22/19) reports—as they are, implicitly, for homeless teens who aren't offered millions in scholarships.*

Hidden/Systemic Biases? Does the news favor the status quo?

"Or how about the story of a New Mexico girl selling lemonade trying to fund her mother's kidney transplant? People magazine (5/9/18) applauded her resolve, and local radio described it as "heartwarming" that she had raised over $1,000. The massive problem is a kidney transplant in America can cost over $400,000. To anyone with a heart, what this story actually represents is the desperate struggle of a child trying in vain to save her dying mother. Worse still is the fact that if she lived in Sweden, Spain or Saskatchewan, she would be given a kidney free of charge and without question." - From FAIR.org story



For example, this photo was used in a Ukranian news story, allegedly showing Russian forces entering Ukraine in 2014. However, the photo was really an Associated Press photo of Russian forces taken in 2008 as they headed to the border with Georgia...not Ukraine.

Unfortunately, this and other misrepresented photos were actually used by a Senator in his attempt to introduce a bill in the US Senate! From the "Picture Prosecutor's." Other examples of misused photos are available on his blog.

"EVERYONE SEEKS CONFIRMATION BIAS."
HA! I KNEW IT!
J.BURRELLO

It's Not Just....

Bias

Also Think About...

Level of Analysis

Trying to Persuade or Inform?

Propaganda? Misleading?

Opinion v. Fact Based

Evidence Based?

Use of Sources

- Ask questions
- Think critically
- Is it over simplifying?
- Is the information easily verifiable as true/false?
- Are real people cited? Are those people qualified? Are they reliable?
- Where did the image actually come from?
- Is it appropriate to compare two sets of data?
- Is it misleading?
- Who wants me to believe this? Why?

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lhoover@Clarkson.edu

calendly.com/lisahoover

ERC 1110