How false news can spread by Noah Tavlin

VOCABULARY

1. Study the sentences and complete the definitions below with the underlined adjectives.
   - We should not tolerate this biased media coverage.
   - The newspaper has been accused of publishing sensationalist stories of the murders.
   - The report presented fabricated evidence which was really ridiculous.
   - There are so many pseudoscientific beliefs, for example astrology.
   - Judges need to be impartial to make objective decisions.

   a) pseudoscientific : falsely or mistakenly claimed or regarded as being based on scientific method
   b) fabricated : something false which is invented or produced in order to deceive someone
   c) biased : preferring one person, thing, or idea to another in a way that is unfair
   d) impartial : not connected to or influenced by one particular person or group
   e) sensationalist : presenting events in a way that makes them seem as exciting or shocking as possible

2. Discuss the following questions?
   - How do you keep up with the news?
   - Do you trust the information you get? Are media in your country biased?
   - How can you know that the information you've read/heard is not fabricated?
   - What do you know about fake news?
How false news can spread
by Noah Tavlin

3. Read the text below and answer the questions below.

Circular reporting can occur when:

"(...) publication A publishes misinformation, publication B reprints it, and publication A then cites B as the source for the information. It's also considered a form of circular reporting when multiple publications report on the same initial piece of false information, which then appears to another author as having been verified by multiple sources."

1. In your own words, what is circular reporting?
2. How do you think it can be avoided?
3. How can it affect our everyday lives?

VIDEO & DISCUSSION

4. Before watching the video, explain what a quote attributed to Mark Twain means.

“A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”

5. Watch the video and answer the questions.

- What examples of circular reporting does the speaker mention?
  - a pseudoscientific paper published in 1998 arguing that routine vaccination of children causes autism which inspired an entire anti-vaccination movement
  - a joke article in the reputable British Medical Journal entitled "Energy Expenditure in Adolescents Playing New Generation Computer Games"

- How do wikis contribute to circular reporting?
  - As more writers come to rely on such pages for quick information, an unverified fact in a wiki page can make its way into a published article that may later be added as a citation for the very same wiki information, making it much harder to debunk.

- What should we do to avoid circular reporting according to the video?
  - Avoiding sensationalist media, searching for criticisms of suspicious information, and tracing the original source of a report can help slow down a lie, giving the truth more time to put on its shoes.

- Have you seen people sharing fake news on social media pages? What types of behaviors did you notice when it happened?
- What impact do you think fake news has had on you, or on people in your life?
- What impact do you think fake news sites have on elections?
ADDITIONAL TASK

Give your students these 4 pieces of news and ask them which of them are true (news no. 1 and no. 4) and which are fake (news no. 2 and no. 3)

NEWS NO. 1

Lockheed Martin shares drop after Trump says F-35 program too expensive

Berkeley Lovelace Jr. | @BerkeleyJr
Published 8:30 AM ET Mon, 19 Dec 2016 | Updated 10:03 AM ET Tue, 20 Dec 2016
How false news can spread
by Noah Tavlin

INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
MAJORITY OF AMERICAN TEENS THINK THE G7 IS GOOGLE’S NEW SMART PHONE
5 JUNE 10, 2015  ▶ POL PROF  ▶ LEAVE A COMMENT

LOS ANGELES, California (The Adobe Chronicles) — Technology has definitely caught up with America’s new generation of teenagers. Or is it the other way around?

Today, the Field Poll released a new nationwide opinion survey involving 5,000 Americans throughout the country — aged 13 to 19 — in which they were asked a question: “What do you know about the

GLOBAL EDITION
The Adobe Chronicles is now a registered trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office | Registration No. 4711386

VIEWERS
25,378,117 hits

SUPPORT US!
To Donate click here

Created by ESLbrains.com Graphics by Freepik.com
How false news can spread
by Noah Tavlin

Canada consider #JustinBieber as new ambassador to #USA. burrardstreetjournal.com/canada-consider... canada #TrumpLeaks #cdnpoli #trudeau

Canada Considering Justin Bieber As New Canadian Ambassador To US
Justin Bieber has emerged as the shock front runner to become Canada's new Ambassador to the United States.

burrardstreetjournal.com

6:52 PM - 24 Feb 2017

LIKE 1

Jason Arruda @Masonaruda : Feb 24
@BurrardStreetJ @FailMuchLive correction. Canadian Government considers Justin Bieber for the position. IMO... stupid move if this is true
How false news can spread by Noah Tavlin

Indonesian man's body found inside python - police

29 March 2017  Asia

Police said they had cut the snake open and found the man inside.

A missing Indonesian man was found dead inside the body of a python, according to local police.

Akbar went missing on Sunday on the island of Sulawesi, after leaving to harvest palm oil.

In the search for the 25-year-old, police told BBC Indonesian that they had found a