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2018

Understanding Fake News by Teaching with the Game "Factitious".

Sharell Walker

CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

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UNDERSTANDING FAKE NEWS BY TEACHING WITH THE GAME *FACTITIOUS*

Sharell Walker

Reference and Instruction Librarian

ACRL LMaO Interest Group

Fall 2018

- ▶ The battle with social media
 - ▶ 18-29 Age group 50% get news online (Pew Center 2016)
- ▶ Perceptions of news and reality
 - ▶ 2 in 10 Americans (22%) trust the information they get from local news organizations a lot, whether online or offline, and 18% say the same of national organizations, slightly higher than the 14% who say this of the information they get from their friends and family.

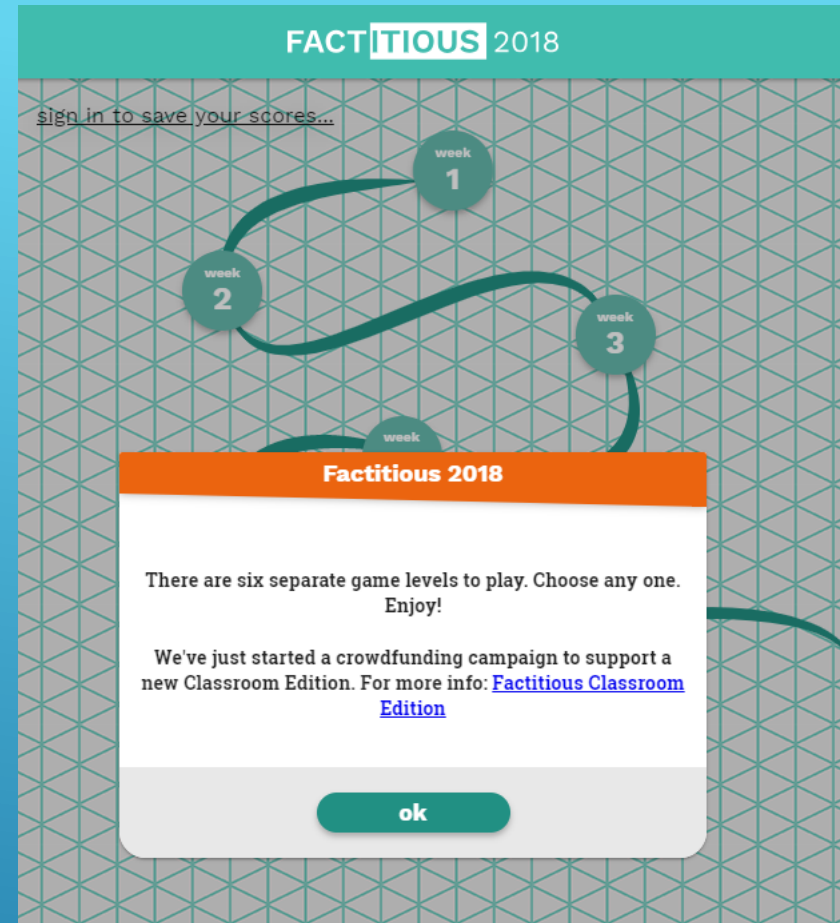


FAKE NEWS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Mitchell, Amy, et al. "The Modern News Consumer." *Pew Research Center*, 7 July 2016, www.journalism.org/2016/07/07/pathways-to-news/.



- ▶ <http://factitiousgame.com/>
 - ▶ A game that tests your news sense



FUN WAYS TO UNDERSTAND FAKE NEWS

INNOVATION IN JOURNALISM THROUGH GAME DESIGN



LEARNINGS



RESOURCES



NEWSGAMES



PROJECTS

As the complexity and pace of contemporary media and social transformation skyrocket, the worlds of journalism and media are sorely in need of transformational leaders who can lead, push, reorganize and restart efforts to inform and engage.

Jeffrey Rutenbeck
Dean, School of Communication at American University



Admissions

Master of Arts

Master of Fine Arts

Certificate

People

Studio

Research

Getting Here



Designed to Drive Change

The American University Game Lab serves as a hub for **experiential education, persuasive play research, and innovative production** in the fields of games for change and purposeful play. Both a [Master's degree](#) and a [Certificate program](#) in Game Design are offered jointly by the [School of Communication](#) (SOC) and the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) (CAS). SOC also offers an [MFA in Games and Interactivity](#), as well as a concentration on Games and Interactivity within the [MFA in Film and Electronic Media](#). CAS offers a Game and Computational Media track with the [MS in Computer Science](#).

Students get real-world experience by working on projects with the [Game Studio](#), and with clients like the [Educational Testing Service](#), the [National Institute of Mental Health](#), [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#), and [WAMU 88.5](#).



GAME LAB

Research Skills for Life: Fake News

ASAP Workshops Spring 2018

- Welcome
- Crap Test
- Fake News**
- Efficient Research Tools
- Session Survey

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

How to Spot Fake News

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

checklist

How to Spot Fake News - Fac...

Here are some strategies to shield yourself from fake news.

Fact Checking Links

- [FactCheck.org](#)
Created and run by the Annenberg Public Policy Center as a useful tool for checking political claims and statements.
- [PolitiFact](#)
PolitiFact is a fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others who speak up in American politics.

For Discussion

Websites to evaluate

- [Basics of Climate Change](#)
- [Climate Change 101: The Evidence Humans Aren't Destroying The Climate](#)
- [Empirical evidence that humans are causing global warming](#)

Is it Fake or is it Real?

Factitious: a game that tests your news sense

FACTITIOUS

A game that tests your news sense

can you tell real news from
fake news?

Swipe **right** if you think
the article is **real**
Swipe **left** if you think the
article is **fake**

quick start

full start



Mozart Outsold Beyonce in CD Sales in 2016

During 2016, Adele, Kanye West, Beyonce and Drake all did more than fine when it came to shilling their music. But when it came to selling good old-fashioned compact discs, buyers went decidedly old-school; according to *Billboard*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart sold the largest number of CDs this year.



No, it doesn't signify some cultural shift, though recent reports show young people are becoming pretty big squares. A \$500, 200-CD compilation including every scrap of music Mozart ever wrote down hit the market in



40
round 2



correct!

That's right! That was a **news** article!

Source: Smithsonianmag.com

This is the online magazine of the Smithsonian Museum, and is a reliable source.

continue



50
round 2



Factitious news game: Classroom Edition



Factitious: Classroom Edition in Washington, DC

FACTITIOUS Classroom Edition

FACTITIOUS

A game that tests your news sense
by Joakim and AllGameLab

can you tell real news from
fake news?

Swipe **right** or click  if you
think the article is **real**
Swipe **left** or click  if you
think the article is **fake**

quick start

full start

North Korea successfully tests ultra short-range missile



The missile, the
DongSubstitute VII, was 'totally intended' to fall
over and explode on the pad meaning the launch
was 100% successful, a spokesman for the DPRK
Army said.

"The Dong missiles are designed to engage and
destroy targets up to five metres away, striking
terror into the hearts of nearby imperialists," we
were told.

"By lining the coast of our country with these
missiles ready to topple over and go boom at a
moment's notice, we shall make any invasion
slightly trickier than it otherwise might be."

correct!

That's right! That was a **fake** article!

Source: Newstump.com

Does "Newstump" sound real? The whimsical
writing makes this story's credibility "go boom."
It is satire.

continue

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6

SUPPORTERS

\$1,245 / \$10,000

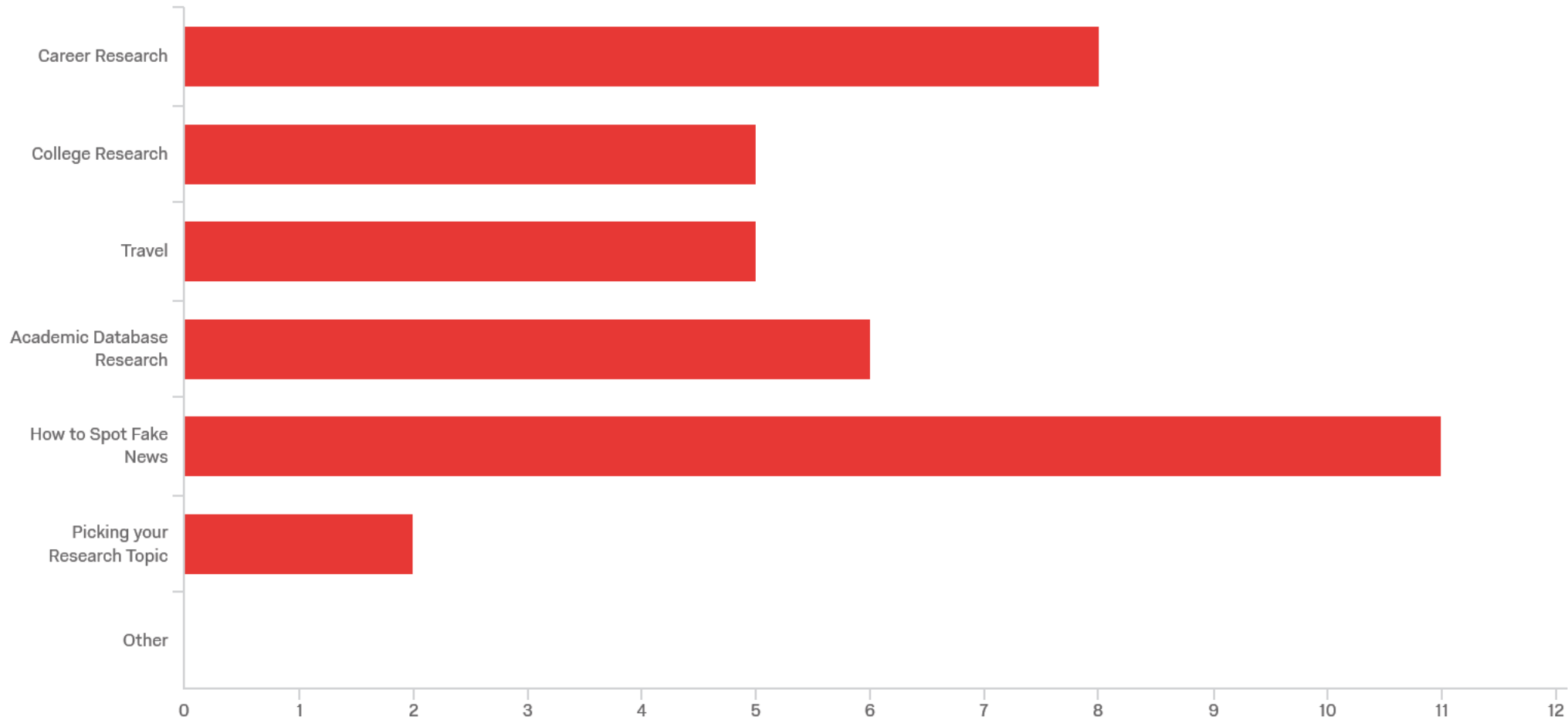
RAISED

11 Days left

Donation: Campaign receives all funds.

FACTITIOUS NEWS GAME: CLASSROOM EDITION

Q5 - What was your favorite part of the workshop?



STUDENT RESPONSES

TAKEN FROM SPRING 2018 WORKSHOP SURVEY RESULTS



- ▶ Sharell Walker
 - ▶ BMCC
 - ▶ shwalker@bmcc.cuny.edu

THANK YOU