



# Fighting Fake News with Fine Forgiveness

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# About Columbia College Library



# Added Challenges

Technical Skills

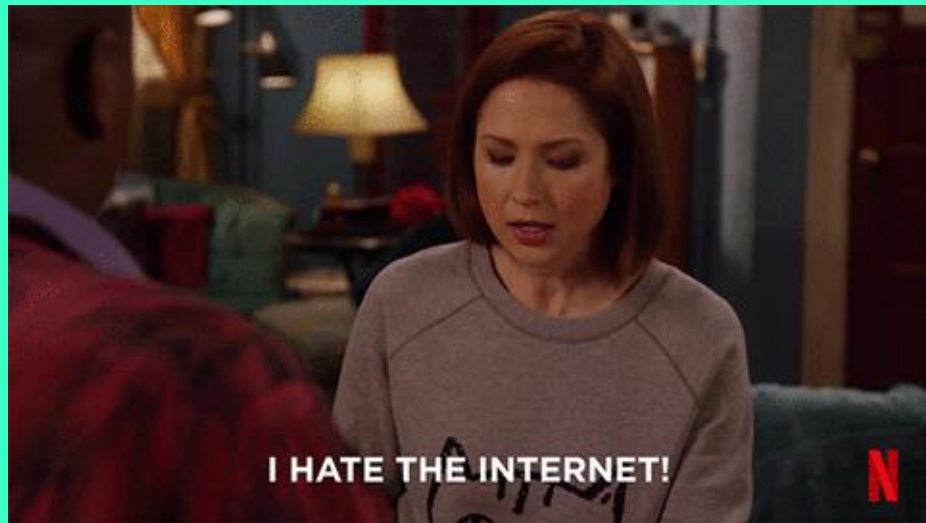
Reading comprehension

Contextual understanding

“Students have the remarkable ability to find the *worst possible* news sources online.

I google their topic and have no idea how they even found them.”

-- *Anonymous Columbia College instructor*



# Fine Forgiveness Week

- Not a “food for fines” program

## **Aims:**

- Provide opportunities for student learning & creativity
- An opportunity for positive interaction with library

Fines are fake news, so good fit!

# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?

**TEXAS: 14-YEAR OLD VIRGIN FALLS PREGNANT AFTER FLU SHOT**

San Angelo, TX | A 14-year-old schoolgirl has suffered serious complications after a flu shot allegedly left the young girl terribly ill and with severe cramps, until the family doctor finally realized weeks later she had been impregnated by the vaccine, reports the Forth Worth Telegram this week.

After symptoms persisted several weeks, the distressed mother sought her child to the local doctor's office for medical attention, where she was found to be pregnant moments later.

"She was in excellent health beforehand, after a flu shot she became very unwell, she had all the symptoms of a flu," explains her mother.

"It took a good few weeks before she felt better, but the nausea continued. She would throw up every day or so with occasional, we went to see the doctor who realized she was pregnant," she told local reporters, initially still under shock.

Source: <http://worldnewsdailyreport.com/texas-14-year-old-virgin-falls-pregnant-after-flu-shot/>

REAL

FAKE

JOKE

# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?

**Man tosses snake behind Tim Hortons counter over diced onion dispute**

A man who an individual called Anthony Robinson behind the counter left in the restaurant

...the man who was behind the counter at the Tim Hortons in Hamilton ...

...the man who was behind the counter at the Tim Hortons in Hamilton ...

...the man who was behind the counter at the Tim Hortons in Hamilton ...

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/man-tosses-snake-behind-sm-hortons-counter-over-diced-onion-dispute-1.2664389>

REAL

FAKE

JOKE

# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?

**President Trump Issues Executive Order Banning the Use of Robots in American Factories**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In keeping with his campaign promise to bring back jobs and ...

...the executive order ...

...the executive order ...

Source: <http://realnewsrightnow.com/2017/05/president-trump-issues-executive-order-banning-the-use-of-robots-in-american-factories/>

REAL

FAKE

JOKE

3 stories: fake, real & satire

# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?

NEWS ECONOMY ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH PEOPLE SCIENCES SOCIETY SPORTS WEIRD ABOUT US

SET PAPERS OCTOBER 23, 2017 | A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL DECEASED AFTER IN FLUENZA FOR YEARS FOR "CASUAL SEX"

## TEXAS: 14-YEAR OLD VIRGIN FALLS PREGNANT AFTER FLU SHOT



THIS NEWS STORY IS **Fake!**

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

The source: If you click on "More" you'll see the website claims to cover "subliminal pregnancy tests." However, their stories don't match these claims, and rely on shocking, unverified headlines...

Ask the experts: Google World News Daily Report and you'll find fact checking site Snopes.com describes there is a fake news site which uses an array of content designed to spread rumors and conspiracy theories. Search engines.com for the story, and you'll also see that they investigated the claim and found it to be false.

HOW DID YOU DO?

48% got it right

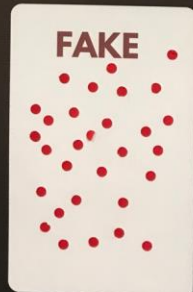
San Angelo, TX | A 14-year old schoolgirl has suffered serious complications after a flu shot allegedly left the young girl terribly ill and with severe cramps, until the family doctor finally realized weeks later she had been impregnated by the vaccine, reports the Forth Worth Telegram this week.

After symptoms persisted several weeks, the distressed mother brought her child to the Whole Woman's Health of Forth Worth medical clinic where she was found to be pregnant moments later.

"She was in excellent health beforehand. After a few days she became very unwell, she had all the symptoms of a fever" explains her mother.

"It took a good few weeks before she felt better, but the nausea continued. She would throw up every day or so until eventually, we went to see Dr. Hersch who realized she was pregnant" she told local reporters, visibly still under shock.

Source: <http://worldnewsdailyreport.com/texas-14-year-old-virgin-falls-pregnant-after-flu-shot/>

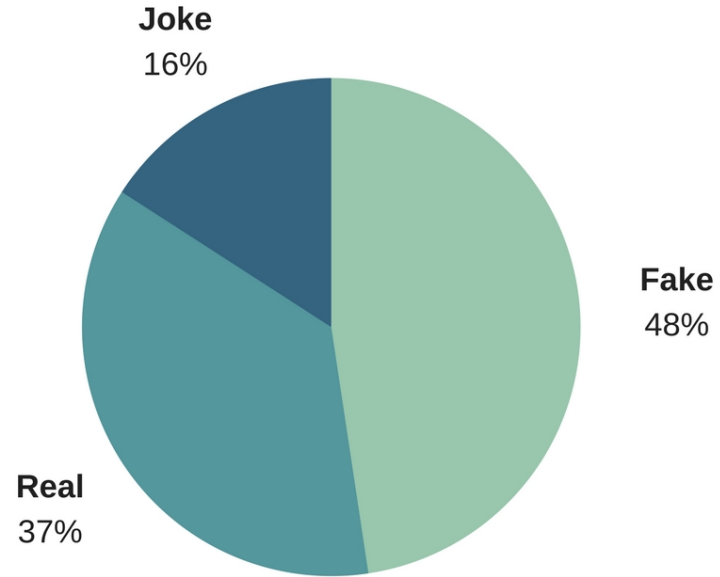


How well did you do?

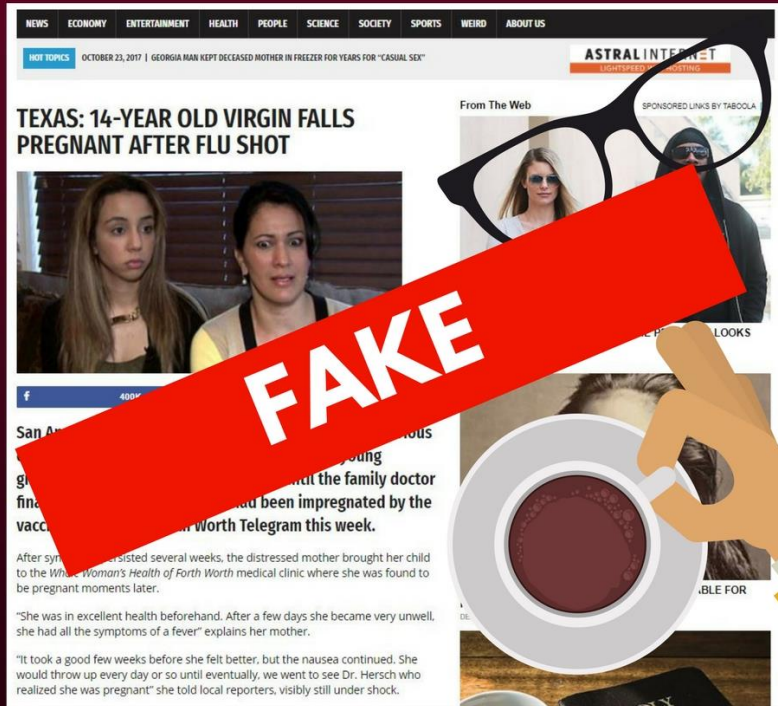
48% of CC students thought it was fake.

37% thought it was real.

16% thought it was a joke.



# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?



## Featured Student Response:

“FAKE:  
No author or reporter’s name given.

World News Daily Report is known for presenting fake news and the news is not in any of the reliable news channels like CBC.

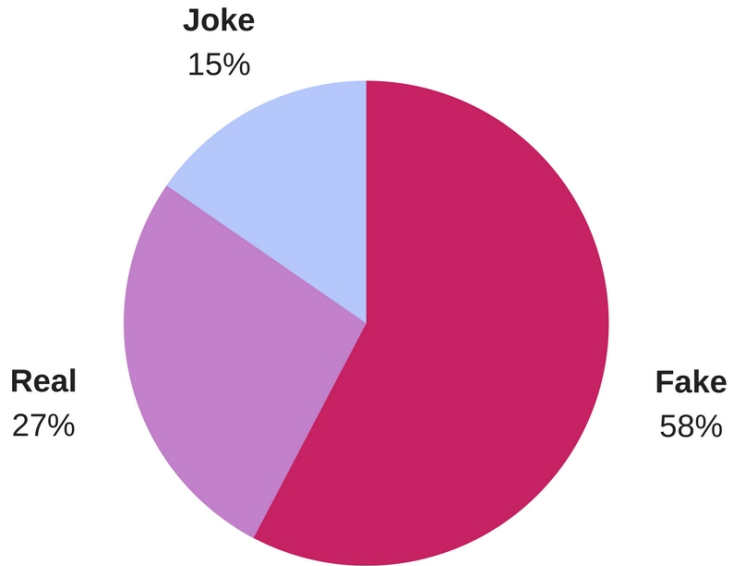
...  
There is specifically an emotional and religious content to make the readers emotionally fragile and manipulate their mind from the main story.”

**How well did you do?**

**58% of CC students thought it was fake.**

**27% thought it was real.**

**15% thought it was a joke.**



# REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?

The image shows a digital interface for a news article simulation. At the top, a purple banner reads 'REAL, FAKE, OR A JOKE?'. Below it, a tablet displays a news article from 'REAL NEWS RIGHT NOW' with the headline 'President Trump Issues Executive Order Banning the Use of Robots in American Factories'. A yellow circular callout on the right says 'THIS NEWS STORY IS a Joke!'. Below the article, there are icons of a potted plant and a robot. At the bottom, three white boxes labeled 'REAL', 'FAKE', and 'JOKE' contain red dots for a dot-matrix game. The 'JOKE' box has the fewest dots, indicating the correct answer.

Source: <http://realnewsrightnow.com/2017/05/president-trump-issues-executive-order-banning-the-use-of-robots-in-american-factories/>

# Results

- 38 students completed the worksheet for fine forgiveness
- 103 total votes
- Attention on instagram: ~150-200 likes per post
- Revealed varying level of mastery & misconception

# Takeaways

- Info lit activities = great alternative to canned food!
- Needs to be somewhat fun, **not** punishment for fines
- Involves staff time, but can reach new students