Frankie Fanelli

Assignment 4

10/14/16

SIUC English 101

Squinting Can Damage Eyes

In my opinion, the media’s reporting on Michael Brown’s death wasn’t credible at all; at least that’s how I feel about the coverage immediately following the event. I feel that the reason this story was so controversial and started so many riots is because there were so many different rumors of what happened, and no one knew which one was right. Having two sides to this event caused a lot of debates and arguments all around, fueling fires all around the nation. I still could see this event still being controversial with all the evidence and stories set in stone right away, although I don’t think it would’ve blown up quite as much as it did. With stories and headlines making it look like an innocent unarmed teen was shot with his hands up by an evil cop floating around all over the internet mixed with a few saying completely different things, it allowed people to believe certain sides and forced them to try as best they could to get the other side to see the angle they saw. This is where I feel like the #BlackLivesMatter and #AllLivesMatter movements came from, they wanted to get everyone to believe what they believed. Walking through SIUC’s campus this week, the ground is littered with chalk writing with the victims’ names and ‘Black Lives Matter’ written multiple times throughout, while other writing, saying things like ‘All Lives Matter’ or ‘Blue Lives Matter’ are crossed out. Everyone just wants everyone else to see like themselves.

I don’t believe that media outlets like Fox and MSNBC lose credibility because they favor different sources, but that doesn’t mean they should be trusted 100% either. When reading from different news sources, it’s up to the reader to know what the news outlet will listen to. It’s the same as being told something from a coworker or classmate. Anytime I hear something told to me from a classmate who’s known for being untruthful or quick to draw conclusions, I’m not going to listen to them will the same trust I’d give someone who has always told the truth. Or a coworker who’s known for being too-far-left-wing (or too-far-right-wing) in terms of political views telling me something that sounds much too slanted against the other side. Just make sure to do research and not just believe the first news article you read. If you’re educated and know the point of view of the source, and take everything said with a grain of salt, everything should be fine.

In my opinion, Twitter feeds like Anonymous aren’t very credible. Sometimes they’ll be correct, but that’s not always correct. In the example of Fergusson, getting both the name of the officer *and* the name of the police station wrong isn’t a sign of being very trustworthy. These accounts are just run by normal people with just as much knowledge available to them as everyone else. I feel that this account (and others like it) should be believed just as much as accounts of everyday people. That’s all it is, just a social media account run by a human, just like everyone else’s.