

Fake News Explanations

Misinformation influences and diverts our perception of reality, trying to control our opinion towards many critical issues.

Fake news, in particular, come up in a variety of ways using catchy titles, manipulated images and creative edits, making them way more sharable than factual information.

Explaining how information is being manipulated is essential to show the general public why such manipulations are being made and what is the underlying intent behind them, helping us make choices and decisions based on facts and truthful information.

*Required

Form Structure

This form is comprised of a total of 7 exercises.

In each exercise we will present you with an item, comprised of three sections:

- Claim - something that was said by someone.
- Label - attributed to the Claim according to its veracity, they could be:
Pants on Fire | False | Barely True | Half True | Mostly True | True
- Summary Explanation - telling you why that Claim was classified with that specific Label.

There are three different types of exercises:

1. We will present you with an explanation for you to read and tell us about your preferences
2. We will present you with two explanations for you to read and tell us about your preferences.
3. We will present you with three explanations for you to read and ask you to classify each in a scale.

The estimated duration for the completion of this form is around 7-10 minutes.

1. Have you participated in any type of studies related to Fake News explanations before? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Demographic Data

Please select one option for each of the three questions.

2. What is your gender *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non-Binary

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Other: _____

3. How old are you? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ < 18

☐ 18 - 25

☐ 26 - 35

☐ 36 - 45

☐ 45 - 60

☐ 60 - 70

☐ > 70

4. What is your educational degree *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ High School
- ☐ Bologna Bachelor
- ☐ Pre-Bologna Bachelor
- ☐ Bologna Master
- ☐ Pre-Bologna Master
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Other: _____

Exercise 1

Read the following item

Claim:

Says Joe Biden has issued more executive fiat than anyone in such a short period of time, ever, more than Obama, more than Trump, more than anyone.

Label: true

Summary Explanation:

The total number of presidential directives signed by Biden during his first two days in office is greater than the number signed by Trump and Obama over the same period.

The available record before FDR isn't complete enough to definitively say whether Rubio is also right about all presidents, but experts said it's likely that his claim still holds.

It's worth noting that Biden issued multiple orders directed at a specific issue that's actively affecting the entire nation: the coronavirus pandemic.

Read the following explanation

Joe got on his job
And signed a whole bunch of fiats.

It's true
More than any other nation
Even than Trump and Obama.

It's no surprise
Biden had to work double time
To stop this pandemic.

5. Do you consider this explanation to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

6. Do you like it? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

7. Do you think is funny? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definetly No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definetly Yes

8. Do you think is creative? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

9. Do you consider it explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

10. Do you consider it explains well? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

11. Do you like how it explains? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

Exercise 2

Read the following item

Claim:

On key issues including taxes, health care, the Green New Deal, abortion, and guns, there is no daylight between Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden.

Label: half-true

Summary Explanation:

The Republican National Committee's email accurately portrays the policy similarities between Biden and Sanders on several issues, including abortion, the Green New Deal, the death penalty, an assault-weapons ban, and detention of undocumented immigrants.

However, the email overlooks notable differences between Biden and Sanders on other issues, including tax policy, free college tuition, and two aspects of their health insurance plan. It also incorrectly describes the position of both candidates on reparations for slavery.

Read the following explanation

The Republican National Committee's email
sure is fast to portray similarities
but actually becomes a snail
when it comes to disparities.

Although half of it is true,
Biden and Sanders are not in the same crew.
They differ on tax policy and free college tuition,
as well as two aspects of their health insurance plan.
So its wrong to say they are on the same mission
when they are two different minded man.

12. Do you consider this explanation to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

13. Do you like it? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

14. Do you think it is funny? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

15. Do you think is creative? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

16. Do you consider it explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

17. Do you consider it explains well? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

18. Do you like how it explains? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

Exercise 3

Read the following item

Claim:

Mask mandates on children lead to learning loss that harms early childhood development.

Label: barely-true

Summary Explanation:

Public health officials pointed out the article cited as support was “not a study but an opinion paper.”

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, limited available data indicates “no clear evidence that masking impairs emotional or language development in children.”

Read the following explanation

Yes, children are sick of masks, as we all are,
but it doesn't mean they learn better without them.
Maybe next time before you cause such mayhem,
check if any study supports what you stated so far.

19. Do you consider this explanation to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

20. Do you like it? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

21. Do you think it is funny? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

22. Do you think is creative? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

23. Do you consider it explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

24. Do you consider it explains well? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

25. Do you like how it explains? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

Exercise 4

Read the following item

Claim:

Map shows states where all of the children... are back to living mask-free, normal lives.

Label: barely-true

Summary Explanation:

Though the majority of states do not have statewide school mask mandates, individual school districts still have mandates.

The absence of state mask rules has not meant a full return to pre-pandemic "normal" at school in most places.

Read the following explanation A

No one likes to wear masks,
Especially when there's no requirement to.
A return to normal,
Is easily obtained.

However,
Only the individual schools matter,
Not the states,
So the ones at school still wear them,
Not for the fun, but for the safety.

Read the following explanation B

We all want the same,
to go back to normality,
but like this claim,
that's still not the reality.

The majority of states,
do not have statewide
school mask mandates.
However,
individual school districts abide
since they still have mandates.

If mask rules evaporated,
that doesn't mean
normality would be stated
in most schools scene.

26. Do you consider explanation A to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

27. Do you consider explanation B to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

28. Which one did you like the most? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

29. Which one do you think is funnier? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

30. Which one do you think is more creative? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

31. Which one would you accept as an explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

32. Which one explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label better? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

Exercise 5

Read the following item

Claim:

There is over a trillion dollars of money unspent from previous (coronavirus) relief bills ... still sitting in a bank account.

Label: half-true

Summary Explanation:

About \$1 trillion remains to be disbursed, but a large share of it has been allocated or is scheduled to be spent.

Most of the unspent money was approved in late December, and it takes time to distribute it.

As the economy recovers, some of the money might not be spent.

Read the following explanation A

You know a trillion dollars is a lot of money.
So you wouldn't expect it to be used in such a hurry.
So don't worry, there is a plan of distribution,
And maybe saving it for another time would be the greatest contribution.

Read the following explanation B

Billions of dollars sit in bank accounts,
Allocated or scheduled to be spent.

Money is fungible,
It takes time to distribute it
As the economy recovers
Some of the money might not be spent.

33. Do you consider explanation A to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

34. Do you consider explanation B to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

35. Which one did you like the most? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A

☐ B

☐ Both

☐ None

36. Which one do you think is funnier? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A

☐ B

☐ Both

☐ None

37. Which one do you think is more creative? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A

☐ B

☐ Both

☐ None

38. Which one would you accept as an explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

39. Which one explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label better? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

Exercise 6

Read the following item

Claim:

Four kids who took the coronavirus vaccine died immediately.

Label: false

Summary Explanation:

There is no evidence that children have died because of a COVID-19 vaccine.

No vaccine currently in development has been approved for widespread public use.

There is no evidence the vaccines in development will contain microchips.

Read the following explanation A

Four kids,
died because of the vaccine.

No evidence for this claim was found.
Vaccines in development,
don't contain microchips.

Therefore, there's no evidence
that the vaccines in development will cause death.

Read the following explanation B

To convince people not to take the vaccine,
you need to make people less serene,
death is the scariest argument,
more so if kids are taking the punishment.

But, don't go spreading the lies,
your life won't be compromise.
Vaccines are not the enemy,
they won't contain microchips nor are they deadly.

40. Do you consider explanation A to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

41. Do you consider explanation B to be a poem? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely Yes

42. Which one did you like the most? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

43. Which one do you think is funnier? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

44. Which one do you think is more creative? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

45. Which one would you accept as an explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

46. Which one explains why the Claim was classified with that particular Label better? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ Both
- ☐ None

Exercise 7

Read the following explanation

No one likes to wear masks,
Especially when there's no requirement to.
A return to normal,
Is easily obtained.

However,
Only the individual schools matter,
Not the states,
So the ones at school still wear them,
Not for the fun, but for the safety.

47. How would you classify this explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely machine generated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely human written

Read the following explanation

Yes, children are sick of masks, as we all are,
but it doesn't mean they learn better without them.
Maybe next time before you cause such mayhem,
check if any study supports what you stated so far.

48. How would you classify this explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely machine generated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely human written

Read the following explanation

Billions of dollars sit in bank accounts,
Allocated or scheduled to be spent.

Money is fungible,
It takes time to distribute it
As the economy recovers
Some of the money might not be spent.

49. How would you classify this explanation? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Definitely machine generated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely human written

**Thank You For
Your Time :)**

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