

# 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:**

An email from Dr. Anthony Fauci shows everyone was lied to about wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Label:** false

**Summary Explanation:**

The email from Fauci is from February 2020, when masks weren't widely recommended to fight COVID-19.

By April 2020, Fauci and other leading public health authorities recommended mask wearing.

Read the following explanation

Fauci was once a man  
Who wouldn't recommend masks.  
But by April, masks were a must,  
so let's get the facts straight.

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	
Definitely No	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Definitely 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:**

Video suggests Dr. Anthony Fauci said vaccines don't protect against COVID-19.

**Label:** false

**Summary Explanation:**

The video shows real clips of Dr. Anthony Fauci, but misleading voiceovers have been added.

Some confusion stems from Fauci's distinction between the disease, COVID-19, and the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes the disease.

Research shows that the COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting the disease, but it is still unclear whether or not the vaccines will prevent people from becoming infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and transmitting it to others.

Read the following explanation

---

Don't let the voiceovers get you mislead,  
 Dr. Fauci has been very clear.  
 The vaccines don't seem to stop the spread,  
 They just help you not getting sick, so don't be in fear.

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:**

Says Joe Biden has issued more executive fiats 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.



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:**

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 A

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.

Read the following explanation B

Learning loss is a big issue,  
masking on the other hand, is not.  
Just because an article said so,  
doesn't mean it's true.

Health officials explained,  
"it's nothing more than an opinion piece",  
Masking doesn't affect emotional or language development,  
so there's no reason to whine.

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:**

Research illustrates a clear correlation between vitamin D deficiencies and (higher) COVID-19 mortality rates.

**Label:** true

**Summary Explanation:**

U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman touted a correlation between vitamin D deficiencies and COVID-19 deaths, suggesting the supplement may help combat the virus.

Early research verifies that correlation, but more work needs to be done.

Grothman emphasized that point and didn't imply vitamin D is a cure for COVID-19.



Read the following explanation A

Correlation is an early step,  
but by no means the end.  
Vitamin D and COVID-19 still are in a relationship,  
but more work needs to be done.

Grothman didn't imply  
that the vitamin is a cure,  
all he said was that it's a small but significant bump,  
for which more research is required.

Read the following explanation B

From the moment we are born  
Our doctors and mothers say  
You should eat fruits and vegetables  
Including oranges

There is a clear correlation  
Between COVID deaths  
And lack of proper D vitamination  
Along with more tests

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

Don't let the voiceovers get you mislead,  
Dr. Fauci has been very clear.  
The vaccines don't seem to stop the spread,  
They just help you not getting sick, so don't be in fear.

47. How would you classify this explanation? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

1      2      3      4      5

Definitely machine generated ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Definitely human written

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.

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

Fauci was once a man  
Who wouldn't recommend masks.  
But by April, masks were a must,  
so let's get the facts straight.

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 :)**

Please press the 'Submit' button below in order to  
complete this form.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

# Google Forms