

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:

Ukrainian fighter-ace known as the Ghost of Kyiv s real name is Samuyil Hyde.

Label: pants-fire

Summary Explanation:

Sam Hyde is a comedian whose name has been used as an online meme since 2015, linked to tragic events throughout the world.

There is no evidence that the mysterious “Ghost of Kyiv” pilot in Ukraine actually exists. If the pilot does exist, it’s not Samuyil Hyde.

Read the following explanation

Ghost of Kyiv is not Sam Hyde,
funny or not he’s not the fighter-ace.
Memes about tragic events are worldwide,
his true existence has no trace.

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:

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

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.

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:

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

Differences between candidates
shouldn't be ignored.
Though the similarities are true,
the differences are too.

On taxes,
there is a lot to discuss,
Sanders want to increase
the taxes for the rich.
Biden on the other hand,
isn't too fond of more quids
in the pockets of the plebs.

On free college tuition,
there's a divide between them,
Sanders want to pay for it
through the income crime.
FULL STOP!
Biden is on the record
of being against it.

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:

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

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:

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 A

SARS has been around for a while
and it's still infecting us.
Fauci wants us to take caution,
By vaccinating people for COVID-19.
COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 are two different things,
But it's still unclear if vaccines can prevent
SARS-CoV-2 from infecting you.

Read the following explanation B

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.

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

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.

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

Differences between candidates
shouldn't be ignored.
Though the similarities are true,
the differences are too.

On taxes,
there is a lot to discuss,
Sanders want to increase
the taxes for the rich.
Biden on the other hand,
isn't too fond of more quids
in the pockets of the plebs.

On free college tuition,
there's a divide between them,
Sanders want to pay for it
through the income crime.
FULL STOP!
Biden is on the record
of being against it.

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

Ghost of Kyiv is not Sam Hyde,
funny or not he's not the fighter-ace.
Memes about tragic events are worldwide,
his true existence has no trace.

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

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Your Time :)**

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