

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:

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

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

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:

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

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.

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:

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

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.

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:

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

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.

Read the following explanation B

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.

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:

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 A

Wear your mask
and stay safe.
It's a simple task,
Have a little faith.
It helps preventing the spread,
Fauci didn't lie.
Help fight the virus instead,
or do you read the news high?
On health authorities you can rely.
On Feb 2020, they weren't widely recommended,
By April 2020 that idea was suspended.

Read the following explanation B

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

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:

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 A

Ukraine is in turmoil,
a fighter pilot appeared out of the blue,
tied to a comedian with a meme
and only death to show.

The only thing set in stone is
that the pilot doesn't have a name,
and if it was Sam Hyde,
the meme would have claim.

Read the following explanation B

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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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