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Mrs. White

Fighting Fake News

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1. **Do you agree that it is problematic if people can't distinguish between real news and propaganda? Why/why not?**

I agree it is problematic if people can’t tell the difference between real news and propaganda. It is getting harder and harder to tell the difference between actual news and propaganda in today's digital environment. This is a significant issue because it can result in the dissemination of incorrect information and the widespread acceptance of untrue information. Polarization and the propagation of misleading information frequently result from people's inability to discriminate between legitimate news and propaganda. When people are exposed to misleading information, this may cause them to base their decisions on inaccurate information, which may have negative effects. Furthermore, spreading misleading information has the potential to result in confusion and anarchy. The public may be deceived as a result of people's inability to make decisions based on genuine information. As a result, society may become even more polarized, with a "us-versus-them" mentality and an increase in distrust and division. In general, it is extremely troublesome when individuals are unable to tell the difference between the truth and propaganda since it can result in confusion, anarchy, misleading information, and increased polarization and mistrust. Therefore, it's crucial that people are taught how to distinguish between legitimate news and propaganda.

1. **How do you think fake news could influence individuals beliefs or even presidential elections?**

Fake news could influence individuals in many ways. Studies indicate that fake news has a significant impact on people's attitudes and perhaps even presidential elections, making it a problem that is becoming more ubiquitous in politics. Information that is intentionally incorrect or inaccurate, or that is presented in a way that deceives and distorts the truth, is considered fake news. Both conventional print media outlets and online distribution channels like social media and messaging apps can disseminate this. Fake news frequently presents itself as factual with little to no investigation, which can be harmful to people's views and attitudes. People may be more likely to believe misleading or biased information as they depend more and more on readily available information from the internet. This would imply that people are less inclined to verify the information they find and more likely to create opinions based on erroneous information. During election times, the implications of fake news are even more worrisome. According to studies, the proliferation of fake news may significantly affect how people view politicians and candidates and how they cast their votes. This is especially problematic when you consider the role of foreign actors, who have been known to alter public opinion and utilize fake news to their advantage. As a result, it's critical to be aware of the influence fake news can have on people's perceptions and how it may potentially affect presidential election results.

1. **Do you think tech giants like Google and Facebook should have some responsibility to weed out fake news? What should these companies do about fake news websites?**

Yes, tech giants such as Google and Facebook should have responsibility in weeding out fake news. They have a big influence on society, and it should be their job to cut fake information. Companies can develop algorithms to weed out fake news by looking at their history of reliability, reviews and other sources.

1. **What websites do you trust for your news? Why?**

I use Ground News to look at world events because they break each story down by media outlets and have a neutral stance on events. It presents readers with information from different sources and users can filter which political bias they want to hear.

1. **How can you verify whether a news article is real or fake?**

I verify whether a news article is real or fake through research and looking at the history of the website.