OFFLINE WORKSHOP: TRUE OR FALSE?

INFORMATION AND DATA LITERACY > 1.2 EVALUATING DATA, INFORMATION AND DIGITAL CONTENT

TARGET GROUP	AGE GROUP	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	FORMAT	COPYRIGHT	LANGUAGE
All, Job seekers, School drop outs	All	Level 1	Activity sheet	Creative Commons (BY-SA)	English, French

Thanks to information printed before hand, participants will learn how to identify fake news. The facilitator will give them information he/she found online and the idea is for participants to guess if the information is true or false.

General Objective	Skillset building
Preparation time for facilitator	less than 1 hour
Competence area	1 - Information and data literacy
Time needed to complete activity (for learner)	0 - 1 hour
Name of author	Adrien Tellier
Resource originally created in	French

WORKSHOP DIRECTIONS

1 Introduction

Fake news are all over the internet. Taking part in this workshop, group members will learn to recognise it. This activity comprises three parts:

1. Presentation of fake news articles found in annex
2. Explanation of the concept of fake news using the 'Fake News/Real News' document
3. Moving debate on fake news

***Facilitation tip**:* For more information on fake news, see '[Fake News and Other Information Manipulation]
'

2 Identifying fake news

For this first part of the activity, print the article in [this document] and put them on the table. Leave a few minutes for them to be read and then ask them to class them by two categories: true and false. Once they have separated them, come back to each article to reveal the answers. Take this opportunity to go over some hints for verifying information:

- Sources
- Articles
- Hypertext links
- Testimony
- …

Be aware that fake news can be very well written and can often fool the reader through convincing presentation. The most important thing is to go to the source and verify that! The first image in annex, from ABC News, is an extract from an article on the suicide of a 12-year old from Florida, Gabbie Green, a victim of school bullying. The second image, apparently from the same source, relays the death of model Pamela Anderson on March 15th 2010. This second article is fake news. Creators of fake news copy the URLs of legitimate information sources to try to increase the credibility of what they publish. For example, the ABC News URL is abcnews.go.com – the fake site shown is abcnews.com. They do this

hoping to generate clicks and interest. The graphic (document 2 in annex) is from Lead Stories which documents fake sites and articles and indicates the number of clicks generated by the news. We can see that in 4 days, the story got nearly 300000 likes (not counting clicks). Once made, spreading this information is really simple! All you need to do is share an article as document 3 shows (in annex).

Facilitation tip: You could also choose to show the articles one by one and to ask participants to raise their hands in answer to 'who thinks it's true?' and 'who thinks it's false?' We recommend you indicate clearly that all these articles really appeared online and that we did not invent them.

3 Defining fake news

To continue, start discussion with the objective of coming to a definition of fake news. Refer to the definition below to fill in the points they may not have been mentioned.

- Fake news denotes deliberately misleading or false information coming from an organisation or individual.
- It can be distributed via social media or traditional media with the intention of harming a person's or organisation's reputation or for leveraging financial or political advantage.
- It often uses clickbait headlines to increase the number of readers and shares (on Facebook timelines for example)
- Often, the writers are anonymous so it is more difficult to accuse an individual of libel
- There are different ideological perspectives between media platforms, political and social movements and political institutions concerning the role that government should play in curating information. For some, pushing back against fake news is contrary to free speech: governments don't have the legitimacy to determine what is true and false, all the more so when they themselves issue fake news.

4 Walking debate

To finish, have a walking debate on fake news. For this, participants should place themselves in a line from which they will establish a position in relation to their response to following statement. Remind

them in this activity there are no right or wrong answers. All opinions are valid.

It is important mainly to expose divisive takes on which to debate and reflect. After each statement, leave some time for participants to debate the question and their points of view (leaving the possibility to change sides if they happen to be convinced by another's argument).

Statements:

1. 'Social media have a duty to censor sensitive information'

2. 'Profit is the only objective of fake news'

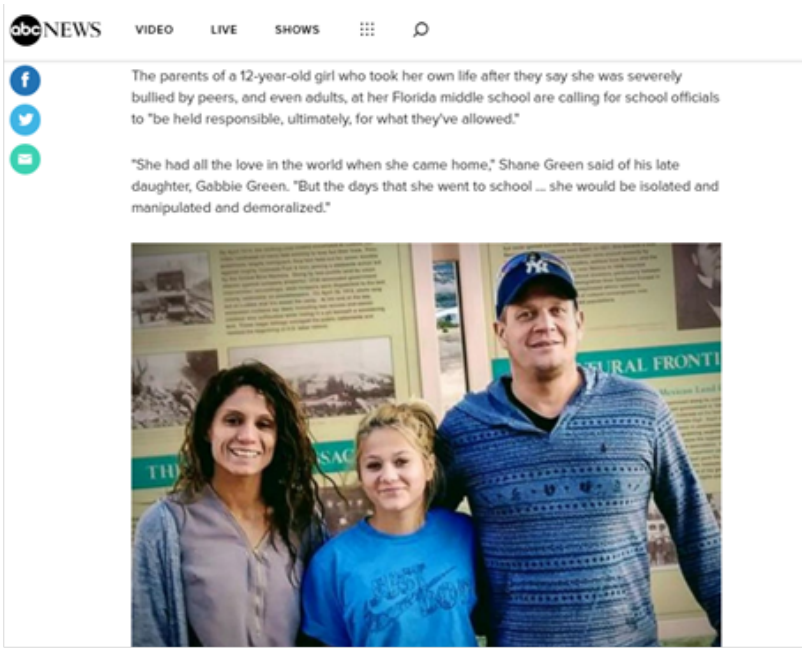
3. 'The state should try to prevent the distribution of fake news'

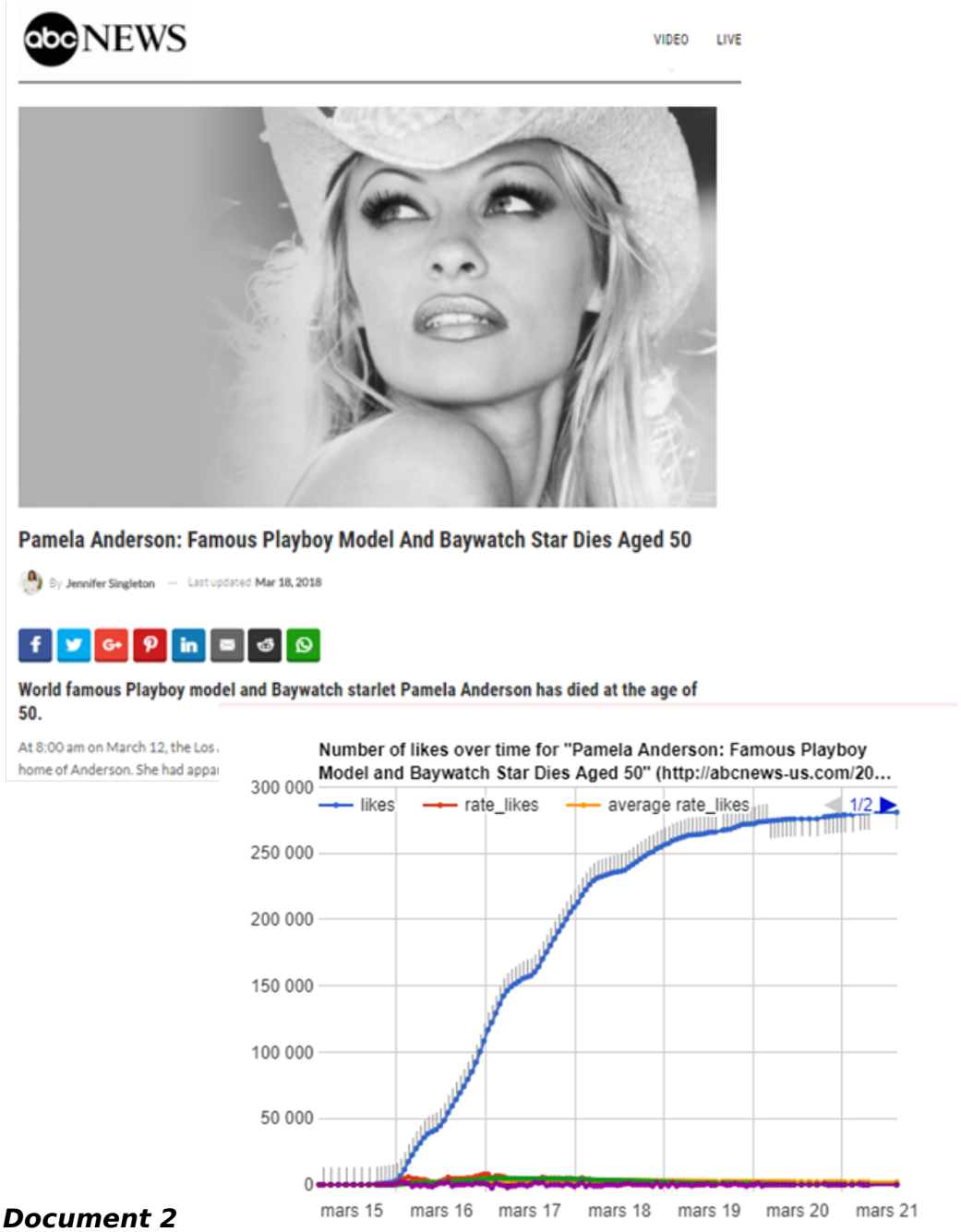
4. 'Fake news are a threat to democracy'

5. 'Traditional media represent a defence against fake news'

5 Annexes

Document 1





abc NEWS VIDEO LIVE

Pamela Anderson: Famous Playboy Model And Baywatch Star Dies Aged 50

By Jennifer Singleton — Last updated Mar 18, 2018

World famous Playboy model and Baywatch starlet Pamela Anderson has died at the age of 50.

At 8:00 am on March 12, the Los
home of Anderson. She had appa

Document 2

Document 3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Pamela Anderson: Famous Playboy Model and Baywatch Star Dies Aged 50
World famous Playboy model and Baywatch starlet Pamela Anderson has died at the age of 50. At 8.00 am on March 12, the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to "a medical...
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15:06
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