

The Digital Literacy Series: Fake News

Why Do We Fall for Fake News?

Comprehension Questions

Watch the video carefully, and complete the comprehension questions and activities.

1. Fake news deliberately plays on people's emotional responses.

True

False

2. Explain why people are often tempted to merely skim through news stories and why this is problematic.

3. Explain the term "confirmation bias" and how it can contribute to the spread of fake news.

4. What psychological trick is being used when information is presented as being factual, time and time again?

- a) Fearmongering
- b) Repetition
- c) Celebrity endorsement
- d) Aversion therapy

5. In the context of falling for fake news, what does the term "lazy thinking" mean?

6. The website that published Pope Francis's support for Donald Trump claimed it was:

- a) a factual news source.
- b) an opinion provider.
- c) a website for satire or pure fantasy.
- d) a comedy channel.

7. It would have been easy for people to check whether the Pope Francis and Donald Trump story was true.

True False

8. According to the video, why did people read, share, and spread the fake news story about Pope Francis and Donald Trump?

9. The appearance of dolphins in Venetian canals was attributed to less human activity due to COVID-19.

True False

10. What did the fake news writer interviewed by the BBC say was the top comment on his articles?
