**Fake News Detection Project**

**English 2E—Lycke**

For this assignment, you will explore and research a news story that you are interested in, investigating its truthfulness through several sources using the skills and tools we have been discussing in class. You will submit a report about your investigation along with the news story itself.

Follow these steps for successful completion of the assignment:

**Due Friday, January 27:** Locate a news story that catches your attention and that **includes an image**. You may use a print or non-print source. If you use a print source, obtain the original article or make a legible copy that you can turn in. If it is non-print (electronic), copy the exact link to the source and print out the article.

**Friday, January 27, and Monday January 30:** You will have some time in class on Friday and Monday to work on your research and writing your report. You will investigate the facts of the article and write a report about your findings. Complete the following tasks:

* Read the article and annotate it paying special attention to the ideas that it is presenting and any questions you have about the authenticity of the information.
* Mark any words you do not know and look them up. Make sure you understand them in the context of the article.
* Analyze the headline, the image, and the article using several of the following resources:
	+ Ten Questions for Fake News Detection handout
	+ Snopes.com, FactCheck.org, PolitiFact.com
	+ Reverse image searching with Tineye.com or Reverse Google Image Search (ctrlq.org/google/images).
	+ The source of the news story itself (byline and credentials of the author, the About page, the source’s editorial standards, the Contact Us page, etc.)
	+ Other sources that report the same or related news

**Due Wednesday, February 1**: Write a report that explains whether your news is fake or real. Your report should explain your investigative **process** (how you learned) as well as what you learned. Cite your sources in your report using MLA style. Below, I have outlined the report and explained what you should include in each part.

* Paragraph 1: Introduce the news story you researched. Include the full title and author of the story and its source. Explain how you located your article and why you chose it. Explain why you were suspicious from the beginning about whether it was fake or not—why was it worth your time and attention for this project? What was it about the headline, image, by line, or something else that drew your attention?
* Paragraph 2: Summarize the big ideas in the article. Provide enough detail to help your reader understand what the article says and to show why you are interested in it.Describe the image and explain how it supports (or doesn’t) the ideas in the article.
* Paragraph 3: Explain in detail your research **process and findings**. Describe what you did to check the facts, investigate your suspicions, and verify the validity of the content of the news story, the image, and the story’s source. Report your findings from your research. What is real news and what is fake? What information is partly true or has been altered to suit a particular audience or purpose?
* Paragraph 4: Close your report by explaining what you learned from this unit. What did you learn about how to read and look at news, what news sources you might use in the future, and how to investigate whether news is fake or not. Did you learn about something in the news you didn’t know about before or only knew about it superficially? Did your views change regarding particular news sources or the topic of the news story you investigated?
* Works Cited: Provide a list of the sources you cited in your report using MLA style.
* Carefully edit your report. Check for clarity as well as any grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Your report should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font.

Include the standard 4-part heading (name, date, period and course/instructor) on the first page and a title (**not** the name of the article you researched).

**Basic Style for Citations of Electronic Sources (Including Online Databases)**

From Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every Web page will provide all of the following information. However, **collect as much of the following information as possible both for your citations and for your research notes**:

* Author and/or editor names
* Article name **in quotation marks**.
* Title of the website, project, or book **in italics**.
* Any version numbers available, including editions (ed.), revisions, posting dates, volumes (vol.), or issue numbers (no.).
* Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.
* Take note of any page numbers (p. or pp.) or paragraph numbers (par. or pars.).
* Date you accessed the material (Date Accessed).
* **URL** (without the https://).
* Remember to cite **containers** after your regular citation. Examples of containers are collections of short stories or poems, a television series, or even a website. A container is anything that is a part of a larger body of works.

Use the following format:

Author. Title. Title of container (self contained if book), Other contributors (translators or editors), Version (edition), Number (vol. and/or no.), Publisher, Publication Date, Location (pages, paragraphs and/or URL, DOI or permalink). 2nd container’s title, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location, Date of Access.

**Citing an Entire Web Site**

Editor, author, or compiler name. *Name of Site*. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation, URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access.

*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003, www.cla.purdue.edu/english/theory/. Accessed 10 May 2006.

**A Page on a Web Site**

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. If the publisher is the same as the website name, only list it once.

"Athlete's Foot - Topic Overview." *WebMD*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/tc/athletes-foot-topic-overview.

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*, www.ehow.com/how\_10727\_make-vegetarian-chili.html. Accessed 6 July 2015.

**An Image (Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph)**

Provide the artist's name, the work of art italicized, the date of creation, the institution and city where the work is housed. Follow this initial entry with the name of the Website in italics, and the date of access. If the work is cited on the web only, then provide the name of the artist, the title of the work, and then follow the citation format for a website. If the work is posted via a username, use that username for the author.

Adams, Clifton R. “People relax beside a swimming pool at a country estate near Phoenix, Arizona, 1928.” *Found,* National Geographic Creative, 2 June 2016, natgeofound.tumblr.com/.

**An Article in a Web Magazine**

Provide the author name, article name in quotation marks, title of the web magazine in italics, publisher name, publication date, URL, and the date of access.

Bernstein, Mark. "10 Tips on Writing the Living Web." *A List Apart: For People Who Make Websites*, 16 Aug. 2002, alistapart.com/article/writeliving. Accessed 4 May 2009.

**A Tweet**

Begin with the user's Twitter handle in place of the author’s name. Next, place the tweet in its entirety in quotations, inserting a period after the tweet within the quotations. Include the date and time of posting, using the reader's time zone; separate the date and time with a comma and end with a period. Include the date accessed if you deem necessary.

@tombrokaw. "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." *Twitter,* 22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m., twitter.com/tombrokaw/status/160996868971704320.

@PurdueWLab. "Spring break is around the corner, and all our locations will be open next week." *Twitter*, 5 Mar. 2012, 12:58 p.m., twitter.com/PurdueWLab/status/176728308736737282.

**A *YouTube* Video (similar for other videos and audio sources)**

Video and audio sources need to be documented using the same basic guidelines for citing print sources in MLA style. Include as much descriptive information as necessary to help readers understand the type and nature of the source you are citing. If the author’s name is the same as the uploader, only cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploaded, cite the author’s name before the title.

 “8 Hot Dog Gadgets put to the Test.” *YouTube,* uploaded by Crazy Russian Hacker, 6 June 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBlpjSEtELs.

McGonigal, Jane. “Gaming and Productivity.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.