Beyond Fake News
news literacy for our students (and ourselves)

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Part 1:
Belief and Uncertainty
Informing my thoughts...

- Journalism Studies
- Science Literacy & Evidence-Based Medicine
- Psychology & Media Theory
- History
If you only teach how to destroy arguments and to spot bad arguments, you’re not doing enough [...] because you also have to teach students how to believe. Not simply how to disregard beliefs, but to come to belief.

-David Weinberger

Circulating Ideas Podcast, Episode 114
Part 2: How We Got Here
Some Things Aren’t New
1968: Edith Efron & liberal media bias against Nixon

1980: Launch of CNN and cable news

1987: Fairness Doctrine rescinded

1990s: Committee of Concerned Journalists

2016: Fake News is Breaking News
Part 3: BREAKING NEWS
1. In the immediate aftermath, news outlets will get it wrong.
2. Don't trust anonymous sources.
3. Don't trust stories that cite another news outlet as the source of the information.
4. There's almost never a second shooter.
5. Pay attention to the language the media uses.
   - "We are getting reports"... could mean anything.
   - "We are seeking confirmation"... means they don't have it.
   - "[News outlet] has learned"... means it has a scoop or is going out on limb.
6. Look for news outlets close to the incident.
7. Compare multiple sources.
8. Big news brings out the fakers. And photoshoppers.
9. Beware reflexive retweeting. Some of this is on you.
http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/newsliteracy/colloquium

goo.gl/9tHnWR
Part 3: The Ideal Journalist
1. Never add anything that was not there
2. Never deceive the audience
3. Be as transparent as possible about your methods and motives
4. Rely on your own original reporting
5. Exercise humility
• Seek truth and report it
• Minimize harm
• Act Independently
• Be accountable and transparent

http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp
• We strive for accuracy and fairness
• We are independent and transparent
• We keep our promises
• We respect diversity
• We are accountable

Kovach and Rosenstiel’s Hierarchy(?) of Journalism

- Journalism of verification
- Journalism of assertion
- Journalism of affirmation
- Interest-group journalism
- (Journalism of aggregation)
Part 4: Evidence
Guidelines for the public:
1. What kind of content am I encountering?
2. Is the information complete, and if not, what is missing?
3. Who and what are the sources, and why should I believe them?
4. What might be an alternative explanation or understanding?
5. Am I learning what I need to?
How do they know that?

http://verificationhandbook.com/
http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/newsliteracy/colloquium

goo.gl/9tHnWR
Thank you!

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Guide: http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/newsliteracy/

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