

ACADEMIC AWARD FOR BEST PAPER ON FAKE NEWS

INTRODUCTION

Alternative facts have been called many things: Falsehoods, untruths, delusions.

A *fact* is something that actually exists—what we would call “reality” or “truth.”

An *alternative* is one of the choices in a set of given options; typically, the options are opposites of each other.

So, to talk about *alternative facts* is to talk about the opposite of reality, which is delusion, or the opposite of truth, which is untruth.

<<https://www.dictionary.com>>

Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically, often using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership, online sharing, and Internet click revenue. . . . Intentionally misleading and deceptive fake news is different from obvious satire or parody, which is intended to amuse, rather than mislead its audience.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fake_news>

Fake news is frequently used to describe a political story which is seen as damaging to an agency, entity, or person.

<<https://www.meriam-webster.com>>

Fake News is not information with which you disagree. Disagreeing with a fact or piece of information does not make it fake news.

<<https://www.libguides.marshall.edu>>

Fake news also undermines serious media coverage and makes it more difficult for journalists to cover significant news stories.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fake_news>

Smart, fair, independent journalism is essential for a democracy to function well. Journalism is that part of communication that keeps society informed of the changing events, issues, and appeals in the world outside.

. . .

Journalism matters because it provides citizens with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their government, society, community and overall lives. It gives citizens the information needed to be self-governing, well-informed, and free.

<<https://guardianlv.com>>

TOPIC

Based on research and appropriate examples, write a persuasive paper on the following topic:

- (a) How do we distinguish between facts and real news versus “alternative facts” and “fake news,”
- (b) why is it important to fact-check the beliefs and opinions of others, as well as our own beliefs and opinions, and
- (c) why is it important to have evidence-based laws, policies, and beliefs?

AMOUNT OF AWARD

First Place: \$2,000.00
Second Place: \$1,500.00
Third Place: \$1,000.00

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must:

1. Be enrolled in an Idaho public school, grade 9 through 12, effective fall 2018.
2. Complete and sign the application, below.
3. Staple the application to the paper.
4. Mail the application and paper to the following address, postmarked on or before February 1, 2019:

League of Women Voters of Pocatello
12805 West Reservation Road
Pocatello, ID 83202

INFORMATION AND FORMAT

- There is no required length for the paper, but it should reflect depth of research and knowledge of the subject matter.
- The paper must be typed. • The text must be double spaced. • Long quotes must be indented and single spaced.
- The pages must be numbered. • The font size must be 12 point. • The font face must be Times New Roman.
- Citations to authorities and references must be in footnotes.

APPLICATION

Full name:	Home mailing address:
e-mail address:	Name of school:
Telephone number:	

Dated the ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

I hereby affirm that I am the sole author of the attached paper and that the attached paper is my own work-product.