How journalists are fighting misinformation ... and accusations of misinformation

Laura Helmuth
Health, Science & Environment Editor
The Washington Post
Twitter: @LauraHelmuth
• How the real news tries to show we’re not fake news

• How we try to compete with fake news

• How we try to equip readers to understand the popularity of fake news
Trump references to outlets as “fake news” on Twitter

Analysis by The Washington Post.

- CNN: 50
- NBC: 30
- New York Times: 20
- ABC: 10
- The Washington Post: 10
- CBS: 5
- MSNBC: 5
- Fox News: 5

(Philip Bump/The Washington Post)
How do you use an anonymous source? The mysteries of journalism everyone should know.
To reframe the narrative of a family in crisis, here are a few good examples of how to approach it.

**Perspective** Discussion of news topics with a point of view, including narratives by individuals regarding their own experiences.
FIRST OPINION

I’m the ideal person to support right to try. But I can’t — it’s a disaster in the making

By MICHAEL D. BECKER / FEBRUARY 1, 2018
INTERNATIONAL FACT-CHECKING DAY

In honor of International Fact-Checking Day, we asked fact-checkers around the world to introduce themselves. And to tell us some examples of the work they’ve done.
Fact-checking President Trump’s claims on the Paris climate change deal

By Glenn Kessler and Michelle Ye Hee Lee  June 1

In his speech announcing his decision to withdraw from the Paris Accord on climate change, President Trump frequently relied on dubious facts and unbalanced claims to make his case that the agreement would hurt the U.S. economy. Notably, he only looked at one side of the scale — claiming the agreement left the United States at a competitive disadvantage, harming U.S. industries. But he often ignored the benefits that would come from climate action, including creating jobs with renewable energy.
Meet the Bottomless Pinocchio, a new rating for a false claim repeated over and over again

President Trump's false and misleading claims that have been repeated more than 20 times led us to create a new Pinocchio rating. (Meg Kelly/The Washington Post)
Miracle cures or modern quackery? Stem cell clinics multiply, with heartbreaking results for some patients.

Doris Taylor, 77, went blind in 2015 after receiving unapproved stem cell injections in her eyes. Now she’s suing. (Video: Monica Mitter, Lisa Milia/Photo: Zack Wittman/The Washington Post)

By Laurie McNamee and William Won

April 20

Doris Taylor lay on the examining table as the doctor stuck a long, thin tube into her belly. The doctor pulled back a plunger, and the syringe quickly filled with yellow blobs tinged with pink.

“Look at that beautiful fat coming out. Liquid gold!” one of the clinic’s staff exclaimed in a video of the procedure provided to The Washington Post.

Hidden in that fat were stem cells with the amazing power to heal, the Stem Cell Center of Georgia had told Taylor. The clinic is one of hundreds that have popped up across the country, many offering treatments for conditions from Parkinson’s disease to autism to multiple sclerosis.
Athletes, Stop Taking Supplements

They’re expensive, they don’t improve performance, and they might make you test positive for dope.

By CHRISTIE ASCHWANDEN
The fat-burning heart-rate zone is a myth: How exercise and weight loss really work
Our vision is to see more scientists engage effectively in the public discourse about the environment. Through communication trainings, coaching and real-world connections, we empower researchers to build the communication skills, networks, and relationships they need to realize this vision. We are a non-profit, non-advocacy organization.
Himalayan Bath Salts Will Not Save Your Life

Why are so many Facebook friends sharing preposterous stories from Natural News?

By Brian Palmer
Anti-vaxxers trolled a doctor’s office. Here’s what scientists learned from the attack.
How to declare war on coal’s emissions without declaring war on coal communities

By Maria T. Zuber  February 24

Maria T. Zuber is the vice president for research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Chair of the National Science Board.
YouTube aids flat earth conspiracy theorists, research suggests
90s scientists: we cloned a sheep! we landed a robot on mars!

scientists today: for the last time, the earth is *round*

12:47 PM - 29 Mar 2019
YouTube Moves to Make Conspiracy Videos Harder to Find
What’s behind the confidence of the incompetent? This suddenly popular psychological phenomenon.

The Dunning-Kruger effect explains why unskilled people think they know it all and tend to be overconfident.
Fake news spreads ‘farther, faster, deeper’ than truth, study finds
Older, right-leaning Twitter users spread the most fake news in 2016, study finds
• It’s up to all of us
• Especially on social media
• Share real news
• Call out fake news, especially with people who know you as a real person
Laura.Helmuth@washpost.com
@laurahelmuth
HOW ‘FAKE NEWS’ CHANGED THE NEW YORK TIMES — AND DIDN’T

BY JIM RUTENBERG

When the country’s most venerable paper found itself in President Trump’s crosshairs, new considerations ensued — and instinct kicked in. New York Times media columnist Jim Rutenberg offers this exclusive, behind-the-scenes look.
Resources science journalists use to evaluate claims and identify expert sources

• PubMed
• Google Scholar
• NSF’s FastLane grants database
• SciLine
• ORCID
• The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine’s membership database
Athletes love icing sore muscles, but that cold therapy might make things worse

By Christie Aschwanden
February 9