Effects of Fake News

Learning Objectives:

- Students will identify the potential consequences of fake news.

Use a discussion of the effects of fake news as an icebreaker when talking about evaluation techniques. It can also be incorporated into lessons on current events and politics. Frame the discussion around an example of fake news, such as the one below:


Potential consequences of fake news to discuss:

- **Fake news destroys trust.** To have a civilization, we need to trust individuals, systems, and institutions. Fake news undermines trust and replaces it with cynicism and suspicion.
- **Fake news can hurt you.** This is especially true of pseudo-science articles, such as the misinformation that HIV and AIDS are not related. Incorrect information can harm your personal welfare—politically, socially, and physically.
- **Fake news destroys your credibility.** If you share false information, it will be much more difficult for people to believe you in the future.
- **Real news can help you make informed decisions.** If you want to invest or vote wisely, you need accurate information. Fake news can lead to poor decisions.