Fake News Interventions

Learning Objective:

- Students will identify different means of counteracting fake news.

Social media is a big part of students’ lives and their social interactions. **Correcting information means contradicting and correcting their friends and relatives.** It is not just an information problem; it is also an etiquette problem.

**This issue makes a good discussion question.** Create a scenario by presenting students with a piece of fauxtography or fake news that is popular on social media.

**Ask:** “How would you respond if this was forwarded to you by your aunt? Your best friend?”

Potential approaches:

- “Cool picture! You know it’s not real, right?” along with a link to the valid information
- Reshare, but provide the context
  “I know this is fake, but it’s so cute, I wish it was,” along with a link to the valid information

Student interventions can be small (e.g., providing context and sharing a more accurate source on social media) or big (e.g., creating a blog devoted to correcting misinformation on a subject or updating Wikipedia articles on controversial topics).

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