

False, Misleading, Clickbait-y, and Satirical “News” Sources

Disclaimer 1: All of the contents in this document reflect the opinion of the author and are for educational purposes only. This resource was split into categories around 8:00pm EST on 11/15/16.

CATEGORY 1: Below is a list of fake, false, or regularly misleading websites that are shared on Facebook and social media. Some of these websites may rely on “outrage” by using distorted headlines and decontextualized or dubious information in order to generate likes, shares, and profits. These websites are categorized with the number 1 next to them.

CATEGORY 2: Some websites on this list may circulate misleading and/or potentially unreliable information, or present opinion pieces as news, and they are marked with a 2.

CATEGORY 3: Other websites on this list sometimes use hyperbolic or clickbait-y headlines and/or social media descriptions, but may otherwise circulate reliable and/or verifiable information. These websites are marked with a 3.

CATEGORY 4: Other sources on this list are purposefully fake with the intent of satire/comedy, which can offer important critical commentary on politics and society, but have the potential to be shared as actual/literal news. I’m including them here, for now, because 1.) they have the potential to perpetuate misinformation based on different audience (mis)interpretations and 2.) to make sure anyone who reads a story by *The Onion*, for example, understands its purpose. If you think this is unnecessary, please see [Literally Unbelievable](#).

Note: I will be updating the categorizations and adding links gradually through the next couple of days. Many of the websites on this list continue to offer valuable journalism and/or satirical commentary. For example, a website included on this list wrote an [overall thoughtful piece about the list](#), but the headline suggests that every source on this list is fake, which misrepresents the list. Finally, I do not condone plug-ins that automatically **block** any of the websites listed below. And as a reminder, not all of the sources listed below should be considered fake.

100PercentFedUp.com (2,3)	EnduringVision.com (1)	PoliticalBlindSpot.com
21stCenturyWire.com (2, 3)	FPRNradio.com	PoliticalEars.com
7onews.wordpress.com (1)	The Free Thought Project (3)	Politicalo (1)
Abcnews.com.co (1)	GeoEngineeringWatch.org	PoliticusUSA
ActivistPost.com (2, 3)	GlobalResearch.ca	Printly (1)
Addicting Info (3)	GovtSlaves.info	PrisonPlanet.com
AmericanNews.com (1)	GulagBound.com	PrisonPlanet.tv
AnonNews.co (3)	HangTheBankers.com	*website temporarily removed*
Associated Media Coverage	HumansAreFree.com	ProjectVeritas
Attn (3)	Huzlers (4)	*website temporarily removed*
BeforeItsNews.com	IfYouOnlyNews.com	ProudDemocrat.com (3)
Being Liberal	Indecision Forever (1)	React 365

BigAmericanNews.com	IJR (Independent Journal Review)	RealFarmacy.com
BigPZone.com	InfoWars (1, 2)	RealNewsRightNow.com (1, 4)
Bipartisan Report	Infowars.com	RedFlagNews.com
BizPac Review	IntelliHub.com	Red State (3)
Blue Nation Review (2,3)	Inquisitr.com	Reductress (4)
Breitbart (3)	JonesReport.com	RileNews.com (1, 4)
Cap News (4)	LandoverBaptist.org (4)	Satira Tribune
ChristWire.org (4)	LewRockwell.com	Sprotspickle.com (4)
Chronicle.su	Liberal America	The Blaze
CivicTribune.com (1)	LibertyTalk.fm	The Free Thought Project (3)
ClickHole.com (4)	LibertyUnyielding	Borowitz Report (4)
CoastToCoastAM.com (2)	LibertyVideos.org	The Onion (4)
CollectiveEvolution (3)	LMR/LibertyMovementRadio.com	The Other 98% (3)
ConsciousLifeNews.com (2)	MediaMass.net (1)	The Reporterz
ConservativeOutfitters.com (2)	MegynKelly.us (1)	The Stately Harold
ConspiracyWire (WideAwakeAmerica.com) (2)	MSNBC.com.co (1)	TheDailySheeple.com
CountdownToZeroTime.com (2)	Naha Daily (4)	TheNewsNerd.com
CounterPsyOps.com	National Report	TheRunDownLive.com
website temporarily removed	NationalReport.net (1)	TheUsPatriot.com
CreamBMP.com (1)	NaturalNews.com	TruthFrequencyRadio.com
DailyBuzzLive.com	nbc.com.co	Twitchy.com (3)
DailyCurrant.com (4)	NC Scooper	UnconfirmedSources.com
website temporarily removed	NCT (New Century Times)	*website temporarily removed*
Daily Wire	News Examiner	United Media Publishing (1)
DCClothesLine.com	News-Hound.com (1)	USA Supreme
DCGazette.com (1)	NewsBiscuit.com (1)	US.Blasting.News
Denver Guardian (1)	Newslo (1, 4)	US Uncut (3)
DerfMagazine.com	NewsMutiny.com (1, 4)	VeteransToday.com
Disclose.tv	Newswatch 28	Walking Times
DrudgeReport.com.co (1)	Newswatch 33	WakingUpWisconsin.com
DuffleBlog.com (4)	NewsWire-24.com	Winning Democrats
DuhProgressive.com	NoDisInfo.com	WitScience.org
Embols.com	Now8News	World Net Daily

Empire Herald	NowTheEndBegins.com	World News Daily Report (4)
Empire News (1)	Now This (3)	WorldTruth.tv
EmpireNews.com	Occupy Democrats (3)	ZeroHedge
Endingthefed.com	PakAlertPress.com	

Tips for analyzing news sources:

- Avoid websites that end in “lo” ex: Newslo (above). These sites take pieces of accurate information and then packaging that information with other false or misleading “facts” (sometimes for the purposes of satire or comedy).
- Watch out for websites that end in “.com.co” as they are often fake versions of real news sources
- Watch out if known/reputable news sites are not also reporting on the story. Sometimes lack of coverage is the result of corporate media bias and other factors, but there should typically be more than one source reporting on a topic or event.
- Odd domain names generally equal odd and rarely truthful news.
- Lack of author attribution may, but not always, signify that the news story is suspect and requires verification.
- Some news organizations are also letting bloggers post under the banner of particular news brands; however, many of these posts do not go through the same editing process (ex: BuzzFeed Community Posts, Kinja blogs, *Forbes* blogs).
- Check the “About Us” tab on websites or look up the website on Snopes or Wikipedia for more information about the source.
- Bad web design and use of ALL CAPS can also be a sign that the source you’re looking at should be verified and/or read in conjunction with other sources.
- If the story makes you REALLY ANGRY it’s probably a good idea to keep reading about the topic via other sources to make sure the story you read wasn’t purposefully trying to make you angry (with potentially misleading or false information) in order to generate shares and ad revenue.
- If the website you’re reading encourages you to DOX individuals, it’s unlikely to be a legitimate source of news.
- It’s always best to read multiple sources of information to get a variety of viewpoints and media frames. Some sources not yet included in this list (although their practices at times may qualify them for addition), such as *The Daily Kos*, *The Huffington Post*, and Fox News, vacillate between providing important, legitimate, problematic, and/or hyperbolic news coverage, requiring readers and viewers to verify and contextualize information with other sources.

Bio: I am an assistant professor of communication & media, and this list started as a resource for my students, who are learning about journalism/social media/media literacy.

Update 1: I’ve received hundreds of emails with suggestions, very few of which are duplicates, so it will take me a while to sift through and verify them. I will add them as appropriate. (EDIT 11/15/2016 @ 3:42 EST: I have a list of sources, suggested by all of you, that will take me a long time to get through)

Update 2: Yes, I am considering further coding/categorizing these sources for clarity and creating a more durable/dynamic database. This is likely just step 1.

Update 3: Some people are asking which news sources I trust, and all I can say is that I read/watch/listen very widely, from mainstream, corporate owned sources (*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*) as well as *The Atlantic*, National Public Radio, and various local and alternative sources with different political perspectives, some of which are included on this list. The problem: Even typically reliable sources, whether mainstream or alternative, corporate or nonprofit, rely on particular media frames to report stories and select stories based on different notions of newsworthiness. The best thing to do in our contemporary media environment is to read/watch/listen widely and often, and to be critical of the sources we share and engage with on social media.

Update 4: A group of AWESOME librarians will be working with this list to provide more detail, examples of the news articles in question, etc. I will post what they make here when it is complete.

Update 5: It should be noted I'm not the first person to call out some of these websites. When I first started compiling this specific large list on Monday, some friends alerted me to many websites doing similar and great work, such as [Ed Brayton](#)'s recent post at Patheos (I included many of the websites on his list after checking them myself if I was unfamiliar). I plan on providing more links to outside resources in the near future.