**Fake News Synthesis**

## **Learning Outcome #3:**

Given the common concerns of two or more arguments, discuss how the claims of these arguments modify, complicate, or qualify one another; consider how positions advanced in these texts relate to each other and evaluate the persuasiveness of these positions

## **Prompt**

We began the unit by reading Jacob Soll’s article “The Long and Brutal History of Fake News.” Using this article as an “anchor” for the overall topic, please situate and synthesize **three (3)** of the articles listed below. Essentially, a successful paper will give context to what Fake News is, what some of the problems of Fake News are, what possible solutions exist, and demonstrate relationality of the arguments with each other as well as the anchor text.

For each of your chosen texts, please select an example or examples that reinforces the argument of the anchor text. Please discuss some of the main points of connection, disagreement, and contrast between your chosen texts. Please close each section by discussing some of the relative strengths and weaknesses of these positions. Of these chosen texts, the main arguments must be identified in order to discuss how these texts in conversation with each other and with the larger topic, Fake News.

Finally, please conclude by explaining some of the most interesting aspects of Fake News, in your opinion (this is not meant to be blanket opinion, however) using examples from anything we have covered this semester. This may include, but is not limited to, the overlap of demagoguery and fake news, the ability of satire to complicate or clarify, alternative facts, revisionist history, etc.

## **All Texts Found in Course Documents (Essay 3 Texts)**

* Jonathan Lai – “Fake News? Bias? How colleges teach students not to be duped”
* Jessica Lessin – “Facebook Shouldn't Fact Check”
* Nicholas Lemann – “Solving the Problem of Fake News”
* Kalev Leetaru – “Why Stopping Fake News Is Hard”
* Amanda Taub – “The Real Story about Fake News Is Partisanship”
* Jessi Hempel – “Fixing Fake News Won’t Fix Journalism”
* Or choose another text from your own research, please clear your choice with me

## **Format:**

* MLA formatting (1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman, Double Spaced)
* MLA Works Cited Page; **7 pages**
* Use specific quotes and lines of evidence. When doing so, be sure to give credit where credit is due, following MLA in-text citation formatting. Example: In his article, Wells argues, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (5).
* I encourage your taking advantage of the Writing Center, too!

## **Key Dates:**

* **Thurs 3/23: Thesis Paragraph Workshop. 2 Copies**
* **Tues. 4/4: Essay 3 Workshop: 2 drafts**
* **Tues. 4/11: Final Draft due**