


◆ Explore ◆ Discover ◆ Connect ◆ Learn ◆

Library 101

ONLINE SUMMER WORKSHOPS
MAY 15 - JULY 2

- Get the most out of the library
- Create a foundation for using the library
- Learn how to find information fast and easily
- Explore our resources

Reserve your spot: lib.nova.edu/library101



Library 101: Fighting Fake News (in an election year)

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Fighting Fake News

- Different types & different intents
- Similar (serious) outcomes
- Strategies to combat fake news



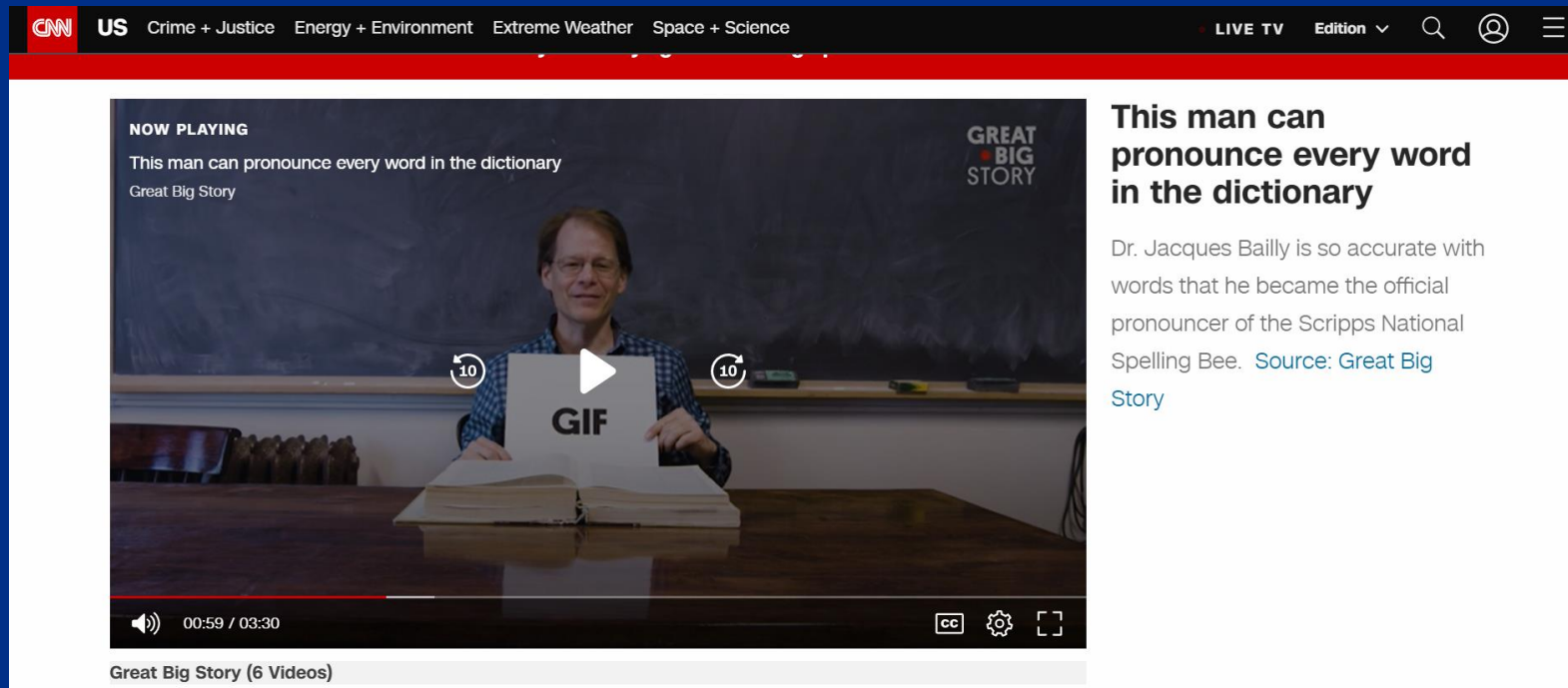
Fake News

- What is fake news?
 - Misinformation (regardless of intent)
 - Scientific reports shared too quickly (so it looks like it has support of someone more reputable)
 - Circular reporting
 - B cites A, C cites B, D cites B & A without reading A, etc.
 - Propaganda
 - Deliberate government or media messages to perpetuate a specific idea
 - The Missourian political cartoon depicting a white woman being mugged by a racist caricature of a black man commenting on defunding police
 - Anti-Semitic (caricature of “physical identifiers”) posters & art exhibitions in Germany WWII
 - Carrots improve eye-sight (WWII British cover up story for RADAR)



What is fake news?

- Clickbait
 - Headline is misleading, or buries the lede



The screenshot shows a CNN website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'US', 'Crime + Justice', 'Energy + Environment', 'Extreme Weather', and 'Space + Science'. On the right, there are links for 'LIVE TV', 'Edition', a search icon, a user profile icon, and a menu icon. The main content area features a video player with the following details:

- NOW PLAYING**
- This man can pronounce every word in the dictionary**
- Great Big Story

The video player shows a man sitting at a desk with an open book, holding a sign that says 'GIF'. The video progress bar indicates 00:59 / 03:30. Below the video player, there is a link to 'Great Big Story (6 Videos)'. To the right of the video player, the headline reads: **This man can pronounce every word in the dictionary**. Below the headline, the text says: 'Dr. Jacques Bailly is so accurate with words that he became the official pronouncer of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. [Source: Great Big Story](#)'.

Fake News – Real Consequences

- Undermining elections
 - Salacious news begets salacious news
 - Confidence in fairness of elections eroded
- Undermining public health efforts
 - Does a mask help or hurt?
 - Does lockdown violate civil liberties?
 - But the stock market!
- Racist posts on social media lead to genocide in Myanmar
 - Myanmar government impersonated pop culture personalities and posted for YEARS inciting violence and sowing hatred
 - Racist memes turns into ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya



Fake News

- Fire Hose technique of distribution
 - Sowing seeds of chaos
 - Distribute so much bad information that it erodes the sense of surety that folks, however gullible or cynical, may have had



Fake News – What Can We Do?



Stop.



Investigate the source.



Find better or other coverage.



Trace back to source; see original context.



SIFT- STOP

- STOP

- Stop and think.
 - Do you know the source of the information? Do you know the website it's from?
 - Do you know the reputation of that website?
-
- Getting overwhelmed with too much information? STOP.
 - Regroup and
 - Think about what you're looking for:
 - Veracity to repost?
 - Source for a research paper?
 - Read satire?



SIFT – INVESTIGATE the source

- INVESTIGATE THE SOURCE

- Think about what you're reading before you read it
- If you're reading about the benefits of a product and the same site is trying to sell you the product, proceed with caution
- If a politician is proclaiming they support _____, proceed with caution
 - Statement: "I support education!"
 - Action: diverted funding away from public schools to build a new statue of themselves
 - Reality: saying you support education sounds good to get you re-elected



SIFT – FIND better or different coverage

- FIND BETTER OR DIFFERENT COVERAGE
 - Does a different news agency cover this event/claim a different way?
 - Is there journalistic spin?
 - Are reputable news sources covering this?
 - Does the account represent a consensus?
 - What are other sources saying about this coverage?



SIFT – TRACE back to the original source

- TRACE BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OR CONTEXT
 - It is easy to take quotes, images, videos out of context



Thanks!

