

Pre-Truth/  
Present-Truth  
/Post-Truth

Navigating the World of Fake (and Real) News

Ben Himmelfarb  
White Plains Public Library

NewsNews**Satire**NewsNewsNewsNewsNe  
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News**Clickbait**NewsNewsNewsNews  
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NewsNewsNews**Mislead**News

We are drowning.



# Truth

Of a statement, idea, belief, etc.:

in accordance with fact;

agreeing with reality;

Correct.

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

First cited use from 1250 C.E.

# Post-Truth

Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

First cited use from 1992 C.E.

# Objective

Of people or their judgements:  
not influenced by personal feelings or opinions  
in considering and representing facts;  
impartial, detached.

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

First cited use from 1838 C.E.

# Bias

An inclination, leaning, tendency, bent;  
a preponderating disposition or propensity;  
predisposition towards; predilection;  
prejudice.

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

First cited use from 1571 C.E.

# News

The report or account of recent  
(esp. important or interesting)  
events or occurrences,  
brought or coming to one as new information;  
new occurrences as a subject of report or talk;  
tidings.

*-Oxford English Dictionary*

First cited use from 1417 C.E.



Red Flags:

-ALL CAPS

-Obviously Photoshopped

-Pop-up Ads

-Tweeted or shared

*but not sourced  
or clicked on*

3 MILLION ILLEGAL ALIENS Under Investigation For Voting...After Obama Told Them It Was Ok

By 100% FED Up · Nov 14, 2016



96.8K



Share



Tweet



Plus



**Ryan Chapman**

@chapmanchapman

Follow

The est. security cost for Melania living 200mi away from Trump is double the annual budget for the National Endowment for the Arts.

RETWEETS  
46,306

LIKES  
46,708



12:11 PM - 31 Jan 2017

1.3K

46K

47K

# Domain Names



Donald J. Trump Retweeted

 **AmericaFirstPolicies**  @AmericaFirstPol · Mar 12

MAJOR IMPACT: @POTUS Trump is 50 Days in and moving swiftly to get America back on the right track. #MAGA

 **Major Impact: President Donald Trump's First 50 ...**  
Major Impact: President Donald Trump's First 50 Days in Office  
breitbart.com

← 3.2K ↻ 5.6K ❤️ 25K

## Top 5 Fake Election Stories by Facebook Engagement (three months before election)

**"Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement"**  
(960,000, *Ending the Fed*)

**"WikiLeaks CONFIRMS Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS... Then Drops Another BOMBHELL! Breaking News"**  
(789,000, *The Political Insider*)

**"IT'S OVER: Hillary's ISIS Email Just Leaked & It's Worse Than Anyone Could Have Imagined"**  
(754,000, *Ending the Fed*)

**"Just Read the Law: Hillary is Disqualified From Holding Any Federal Office"**  
(701,000, *Ending the Fed*)

**"FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead in Apparent Murder-Suicide"** (567,000, *Denver Guardian*)

ENGAGEMENT REFERS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES, REACTIONS, AND COMMENTS FOR A PIECE OF CONTENT ON FACEBOOK SOURCE: FACEBOOK DATA VIA BUZZSUMO

# Verify!



## TRUMP-O-METER



The Trump-O-Meter is following the promises made by President Donald J. Trump in the 2016 presidential campaign.

The latest from the Trump-O-Meter

Promise Kept		8 (8%)
Compromise		1 (1%)
Promise Broken		3 (3%)
Stalled		27 (27%)
In the Works		39 (39%)
Not yet rated		23 (23%)

## Obameter



### The Obameter Scorecard

Promise Kept		239 (47%)
Compromise		130 (26%)
Promise Broken		119 (23%)
Stalled		2 (0%)
In the Works		18 (4%)

## REPORT: STATE DEPARTMENT REVERSES VISA BAN, ALLOWS TRAVELERS WITH VISAS INTO U.S.



SHARE

3455



EMAIL



SHARE

4



TWEET

#POLITICS FEBRUARY 4, 2017 / 10:14 AM / 8 MONTHS AGO

### State Department reverses visa ban, allows travelers with visas into U.S.: official



# Check The Date



Share on Facebook

Share on your own Timeline ▾



## Donald Trump immigration plan: The specifics 🌐

Donald Trump announced Sunday in a policy paper his plans to will reform the U.S. immigration system and secure the southern border.

CNN.COM | BY JEREMY DIAMOND AND SARA MURRAY, CNN



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# Read Past Headlines

## Opposition to Trump travel ban grows as key court decision looms

Ten former high-ranking diplomatic and national security officials, nearly 100 Silicon Valley tech companies, more than 280 law professors, and a host of civil liberties and other organizations have formally lent their support to the legal bid to block President Trump's immigration order.

By Matt Zapotosky and Brian Murphy



STORY FEB 06, 2017

**Lawyers Urge Appeals Court Not to "Unleash Chaos Again" by Reinstating Trump's Muslim Ban**



STORY FEB 06, 2017

**Seattle Lawyer Challenging Trump's Muslim Ban: "The Outpouring of Support is Unprecedented"**

## Trump declares 'any negative polls are fake news'

In an early Monday tweet, the president signaled to his supporters that they are to dismiss any bad news about him.

By Aaron Blake · **The Fix**

## HEADED TO SUPREME COURT Regardless of ruling, top justices likely to decide on Trump travel order



- Trump blames leaks of call transcripts with Mexico, Australia on "Obama people"
- VIDEO: President Trump calls leaked transcripts "disgraceful"
- TRUMP TWEETS: POTUS hits "fake" polls on immigration order
- Graham "will do whatever is necessary" to get Gorsuch confirmed to Supreme Court
- Newt Gingrich: Gorsuch is a superb nominee who would have made Justice Scalia proud
- Report: Trump not fully briefed on exec order that gave Bannon seat at NSC meetings
- FOX NEWS HALFTIME REPORT: How Republicans got into the ObamaCare quagmire
- FULL LIST OF TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS
- 'EXPLORE TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS'

No, President Trump, negative polls are not 'fake news'



by Brian Stelter @brianstelter

February 6, 2017: 8:50 AM ET



## Trump's Travel Ban, Aimed at Terrorists, Has Blocked Doctors

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr. 11:38 AM ET

Across the United States, over 15,000 physicians are from the seven affected countries. Many work in small towns, poor urban neighborhoods and V.A. hospitals.



# Gut Check

**Does it make you really angry?**

**Do you think "I knew it!"?**

**Do some investigating.**

# Sharing Is Not Necessarily Caring





**Read  
Think  
Ask  
Listen**

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Think  
Ask  
Listen**