



STUDY GUIDE

WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

KEY TERMS: news
journalist

fake
bias

propaganda
facts

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section during the video. Include definitions and key terms.

CUE COLUMN: Complete this section after the video.

What amount of viewers does ABC, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, and CNN have combined, compared to FOX news?

What is fake news?

What percentage of journalists identify as Republican?

How does the left create fake news?

What did the peaceful Tea Partiers want?

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Klavan argues that, “Mainstream American News is ALL fake because the major news outlets are so consistently biased toward the left that whether any given story they report is factual or not, their overall reportage is essentially leftist propaganda.” What factors do you think contribute to this being the case? Do you agree with Mr. Klavan’s assertion? Why or why not?
- Later in the video, Mr. Klavan shares with us that, “These Journalists claim that despite the fact they’re all Democrats, they can be objective. It just ain’t so. Psychologists have shown that when people associate almost exclusively with those who agree with them, they suffer from groupthink and confirmation bias and lose their ability to see events clearly.” Why do you think that these journalists claim to be able to be objective, when their work demonstrably proves that they can’t be? How do you think this problem could be fixed? Explain.
- Mr. Klavan goes on to explain that, “...it’s not that these journalists are liars (exactly), it’s that their bias skews their reporting in very specific ways... Whenever leftwing prejudices are confirmed by a single event, that event is treated as representative. But whenever leftwing prejudices are contradicted by a single event, that event is treated as an isolated incident – and if you treat it as representative, you are deemed to be hateful... The leftist media cherry picks when an event illustrates a larger narrative. That’s Fake News.” Why do you think that the leftist media operates this way? What exactly is the ‘larger narrative’ that Mr. Klavan refers to?
- When providing the example of how the Tea Party was treated by the media versus how Occupy Wall Street was covered, Mr. Klavan goes on to further point out that, “Individual extremists on the right are highlighted, but the overall extremism of the left is ignored... Peaceful Tea Partiers wanted the small government prescribed by the Constitution- so they were radicals; violent Occupiers wanted the widespread government intrusion of socialism- so they were heroes. Very Fake News.” Why do you think that the leftist media considers such extremists to be heroes? How might the extremist ‘heroes’ fit into the progressive narrative? Explain.
- Mr. Klavan indeed concludes the video by stating, “The Mainstream Media almost always get their leftwing narrative right, whether the facts support it or not. That’s called confirming your own prejudices. It’s called bias. It’s called Fake News.” Why do you think that the mainstream media gets away with skewing so-called journalism towards leftist propaganda- in other words why isn’t the media held accountable for such a farce? Explain. Who should hold the media accountable for reporting facts as objectively as reasonably possible?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: CNN's coverage of Occupy Wall Street

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article "Occupy Wall Street: 5 years later," then answer the questions that follow.

- What event is the article covering? How did the original Occupy Wall Street happen? Who participated in the original Occupy Wall Street? Who is Cecily McMillan and what was she convicted of? Who is Martin Stolar and what did he say about the Occupy movement? Who is Michael Gould-Wartofsky and what does he give the Occupy movement credit for?
- What do you think Professor Gitlin of Columbia University meant when he is quoted as saying, "The way movements work is they sort of enlarge the circle of possibility?" Do you think that the comparison of the Occupy protesters to the Arab Spring uprisers and the pictures in the article contributed to a biased slant towards characterizing the Occupy protesters as heroic? Why or why not? Did anything in the article contribute to characterizing the Occupy protesters as heroic? Explain. Why do you think that the article did not mention the violence, vandalism, and massive amounts of trash attributed to the Occupy protesters? Do you think that this CNN article is an example of Mr. Klavan's point (about ignoring the broad extremism of the left and of Occupy protesters being made to look heroic)? Why or why not? Do you think that this article is fake news? Explain.
- What do you think the long-term consequences of so-called 'journalism' promoting progressive agendas for so long will be? The role of media has traditionally been to hold government accountable for its policies and actions- but what happens when the media openly supports only one side and only scrutinizes and criticizes the other? Why is this wrong?



QUIZ

WHAT IS FAKE NEWS

1. Left-wing ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC and CNN have, combined, almost ____ times the viewers as Fox News.

- a. six
- b. eight
- c. ten
- d. twelve

2. What percentage of American journalists identify as Republican?

- a. 7%
- b. 21%
- c. 63%
- d. 96%

3. Mainstream American news is ALL fake because _____.

- a. the major news outlets are so consistently biased toward the right
- b. the major news outlets are so consistently biased toward the left.
- c. the major news outlets aren't consistently biased toward the right
- d. the major news outlets aren't consistently biased toward the left

4. The mainstream media almost always get their left-wing narrative right, whether the facts support it or not.

- a. True
- b. False

5. Individual extremists on the right are _____, but the overall extremism of the left is _____.

- a. highlighted; ignored
- b. down-played; revered
- c. interrogated; exposed
- d. inconsequential; irrelevant



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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'Interplay between the digital and physical space'

Protesters rally in 2012 near the New York Stock Exchange on Occupy Wall Street's second anniversary.

Kalle Lasn, co-founder of the counterculture magazine Adbusters, took to Twitter and some websites in 2011 to help organize a campaign encouraging tens of thousands of Americans to hold nonviolent protests in Lower Manhattan.

The campaign was inspired by the social-media fueled uprisings in places such as Egypt and Tunisia. The populist demonstrations against authoritarian regimes in North Africa and the Middle East became known as the Arab Spring.

"There was a kind of interplay between the digital and the physical space there, and social media was a tool, among others, that was very effective in bringing large numbers of people out," says Michael Gould-Wartofsky, author of "The Occupiers: The Making of the 99 Percent Movement."

Adbusters' protest campaign, with the hashtag #occupywallstreet, began with the launch of a website calling for a march through the streets of Lower Manhattan and a sit-in at the stock exchange -- just as demonstrators did in Tunis' November 7 Square and Cairo's Tahrir Square.

The New York campaign got a sizable boost from the hacktivist group Anonymous, which released a short video urging supporters to participate in Occupy Wall Street.

Drawing fascination and ridicule

On September 17, 2011, a few hundred protesters descended on the ultimate symbol of American capitalism: the Financial District in Manhattan. Drawing both fascination and ridicule, the movement quickly spread to encompass headline-grabbing protests around the globe.

"Obviously there was dry tinder all over the place that could get ignited without much trouble," Gitlin says. "That's why you very quickly got these hundreds of encampments."

Large labor unions, including the AFL-CIO and Service Employees International Union, came on board. Solidarity protests sprouted up in Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, Denver and Chicago, among dozens of other cities. President Barack Obama expressed sympathy for the protesters' views. Celebrities flocked to the encampments. Mass Occupy arrests made the news every week.

The 99% were pitted against the 1%.

"That's now part of our folklore," Gitlin says of the catchphrase "We are the 99%."

But Occupy as a political project had already begun to fray by the time the New York Police Department, acting on orders from then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg, cleared the park, arresting more than 240 protesters nearly two months after the "occupation" had begun.



A New York police officer scuffles with Occupy Wall Street protesters in November 2011.

Many activists had become baffled or frustrated by the avant-garde in their midst and had largely soured on the spectacle.

Despite the inner tumult and outside mockery, aspects of the message behind the protests -- which eventually spanned more than 1,000 locations across the country -- have become part of the current political discussion.



The Occupy protesters made the catchphrase "We are the 99%" part of the national conversation.

"The movement as a whole is no more dead than the people who participated in it," Gould-Wartofsky says. "It brought a lot of young people into the streets and into a kind of a political consciousness that has only evolved since 2011."

Conversation about 'white role in black oppression'



Activist Cecily McMillan speaks with reporters after her release from the Rikers Island jail in July 2014.

Among them was activist Cecily McMillan, who spent 58 days in jail after being convicted in the 2012 assault of a police officer in Zuccotti Park. She recalls many of the early protesters as part of "the most educated, most entitled generation." They were disenchanted and jobless after spending "their entire lives studying the poor, studying the oppressed in graduate school," she says.

"What we had there were people that experienced the emotion of what the suffering of the 99% was," she says. "You were making performance art out of the existence of the oppressed."

But the demographics soon evolved. Labor unions and community groups lent their support. The occupiers joined marches against the New York police's stop-and-frisk policy, which the courts ruled unfairly targeted blacks and Latinos.

"Black and brown people came down and said, 'Listen, you're not doing anything for us,' " McMillan recalls. "It turned into a practice that has led us to have a conversation about what is the white role in black oppression."

McMillan is now an Atlanta-based prisoner rights activist. She chronicled her personal and political transformation in "The Emancipation of Cecily McMillan: An American Memoir." This week, she participated in a New York panel discussion called "Mobilizing Privilege Against the New Jim Crow." "We were able to essentially take our cultural capital, our privilege, and directly transfer it to these movements," she says of the involvement with causes such as Black Lives Matter.

'Language of ... the millennial generation'



Photos: Evolution of Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter started with a hashtag. Now it is a rallying cry, a cause and a movement in the wake of the deaths of black men at the hands of police. The latest police shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile have spurred a new round of protests across the country and worldwide.

The Black Lives Matter network was founded four years ago by three black female activists angry over the death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer as he walked home. They created the #blacklivesmatter hashtag. In addition, there was the Black Lives Matter movement, a more amorphous collection of racial justice groups formed to fight police brutality.

"Both are millennial-led movements and are speaking largely the language of my generation, the millennial generation," Gould-Wartofsky says of Occupy and Black Lives Matter.

"They're also addressing themselves to what they see as institutions that are unaccountable to the public and that kind of exposed, for them, the deficit between the principles of democracy and the reality."

Fight for higher minimum wage

Occupy also helped influence the national conversation about the growing wealth gap. In April, the forces of Occupy Wall Street reunited in support of Bernie Sanders as a presidential candidate. They did traditional canvassing and participated in an Occupy-inspired march in Manhattan before the New York Democratic primary. Prominent Occupy organizer Beka Economopoulos led a phone-banking effort for Sanders from Zuccotti Park.



Bernie Sanders supporters march in Philadelphia during the Democratic National Convention in July.

"Without a doubt, people who had been excited and frustrated by the encampment got sort of agitated to think about what they wanted to do next," Gitlin says.

"Obviously, some of that spirit and some of those persons gravitated into the Bernie Sanders movement." Attorney Martin Stolar, who represented many Occupy protesters, says Sanders' success is partly attributable to the earlier movement.

"Occupy was criticized for not having a program, but the program was to raise the level and change the nature of the conversation," says Stolar, a former president of the New York City chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. "That's what Occupy was about it. They succeeded in that respect."



Workers protest at a New York McDonald's in April 2015 to demand a minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

Occupy organizers got involved in the campaign for the \$15 an hour minimum wage and helped build momentum for a national worker-led movement.

"The 'Fight for \$15' would not have happened without Occupy Wall Street, and they have raised the wage floor now in dozens of cities and states -- not always to \$15 but certainly higher," Gould-Wartofsky says. "A lot of that energy came out of Occupy Wall Street."



San Francisco 49ers Colin Kaepernick, right, and Eric Reid kneel in protest during the national anthem.

Occupy was long criticized as a leaderless group of disaffected young people without a clear objective or agenda, but it's now credited with influencing grass-roots movements addressing a variety of issues -- from the student debt crisis to oil pipelines and fracking to police brutality and racism.

"The new wave of protests that you're seeing ... are testament to the enduring power of the movement's message," Gould-Wartofsky says.

CNN's Gregory Krieg, Heather Long and Julianne Pepitone contributed to this report.