

**VOCABULARY****1. Study the sentences and complete the definitions below with the underlined adjectives.**

- We should not tolerate this biased media coverage.
- The newspaper has been accused of publishing sensationalist stories of the murders.
- The report presented fabricated evidence which was really ridiculous.
- There are so many pseudoscientific beliefs, for example astrology.
- Judges need to be impartial to make objective decisions.

a) **pseudoscientific** : falsely or mistakenly claimed or regarded as being based on scientific method

b) **fabricated** : something false which is invented or produced in order to deceive someone

c) **biased** : preferring one person, thing, or idea to another in a way that is unfair

d) **impartial** : not connected to or influenced by one particular person or group

e) **sensationalist** : presenting events in a way that makes them seem as exciting or shocking as possible

**2. Discuss the following questions?**

- How do you keep up with the news?
- Do you trust the information you get?  
Are media in your country biased?
- How can you know that the information you've read/heard is not fabricated?
- What do you know about fake news?



## How false news can spread by Noah Tavlin

### 3. Read the text below and answer the questions below.

Circular reporting can occur when:

*" (...) publication A publishes misinformation, publication B reprints it, and publication A then cites B as the source for the information. It's also considered a form of circular reporting when multiple publications report on the same initial piece of false information, which then appears to another author as having been verified by multiple sources."*

1. In your own words, what is circular reporting?
2. How do you think it can be avoided?
3. How can it affect our everyday lives?

#### VIDEO & DISCUSSION

### 4. Before watching the video, explain what a quote attributed to Mark Twain means.

*"A lie can travel half way around the world  
while the truth is putting on its shoes."*

### 5. Watch the video and answer the questions.

- What examples of circular reporting does the speaker mention?
  - a pseudoscientific paper published in 1998 arguing that routine vaccination of children causes autism which inspired an entire anti-vaccination movement
  - a joke article in the reputable British Medical Journal entitled "Energy Expenditure in Adolescents Playing New Generation Computer Games"
- How do wikis contribute to circular reporting?
  - As more writers come to rely on such pages for quick information, an unverified fact in a wiki page can make its way into a published article that may later be added as a citation for the very same wiki information, making it much harder to debunk.
- What should we do to avoid circular reporting according to the video?
  - Avoiding sensationalist media, searching for criticisms of suspicious information, and tracing the original source of a report can help slow down a lie, giving the truth more time to put on its shoes.
- Have you seen people sharing fake news on social media pages? What types of behaviors did you notice when it happened?
- What impact do you think fake news has had on you, or on people in your life?
- What impact do you think fake news sites have on elections?

### ADDITIONAL TASK

Give your students these 4 pieces of news and ask them which of them are true (news no. 1 and no. 4 ) and which are fake (news no. 2 and no. 3)

### NEWS NO. 1



## MARKET INSIDER with PATTI DOMM

# Lockheed Martin shares drop after Trump says F-35 program too expensive

Berkeley Lovelace Jr. | @BerkeleyJr

Published 9:02 AM ET Mon, 12 Dec 2016 | Updated 12:32 PM ET Tue, 13 Dec 2016



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# MAJORITY OF AMERICAN TEENS THINK THE G7 IS GOOGLE'S NEW SMART PHONE

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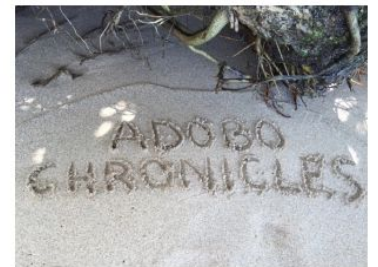
G7 summit meeting in Germany, 2015

LOS ANGELES, California (*The Adobo Chronicles*) – Technology has definitely caught up with America's new generation of teenagers. Or is it the other way around?

Today, the Field Poll released a new nationwide opinion survey involving 5,000 Americans throughout the country – aged 13 to 19 – asking them one open-ended question: "What do you know about the

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The writing's in the sand...

## VIEWS

25,378,117 hits

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### NEWS NO. 3

The screenshot shows a Twitter interface. At the top, there are navigation options: Home, Moments, Search Twitter, and a login link. The main content is a tweet from 'Burrard St. Journal' (@BurrardStreetJ). The tweet text reads: 'Canada consider #JustinBieber as new ambassador to #USA. burrardstreetjournal.com /canada-consider ... #canada #TrumpLeaks #cdnpoli #trudeau'. Below the text is a photograph of Justin Bieber shaking hands with Donald Trump in front of Canadian and US flags. Underneath the photo is a link preview for 'Canada Considering Justin Bieber As New Canadian Ambassador To US' with a brief description: 'Justin Bieber has emerged as the shock front runner to become Canada's new Ambassador to the United States.' The tweet has 1 like and was posted at 6:52 PM on Feb 24, 2017. Below the tweet is a reply from Jason Arruda (@Mjasonaruda) dated Feb 24, which says: '@BurrardStreetJ @FailMuchLive correction, Canadian Government considers Justin beiber for the position. IMO... stupid move if this is true'.

NEWS NO. 4

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# NEWS

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## Indonesian man's body found inside python - police

🕒 29 March 2017 | Asia

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**A missing Indonesian man was found dead inside the body of a python, according to local police.**

Akbar went missing on Sunday on the island of Sulawesi, after leaving to harvest palm oil.

In the search for the 25-year-old, police told BBC Indonesian that they had found a