

NAME _____

DATE _____

Whose Fake News

Directions: Part 1

Read the dilemma below.

WHOSE FAKE NEWS

John makes his living by hosting several fake news sites. The names of the sites look and sound legitimate, but they're completely made up and filled with untrue stories written just to get people to click on them. He buys ad space on other sites and places the stories as clickbait. Every time someone clicks on one of his stories, he earns money in advertising revenue. Some of his headlines have been shared millions of times on social media and have gotten even more in clicks and impressions.

Does John have the right to make money spreading false information, or should he have a responsibility to be accurate and not spread disinformation?

Directions: Part 2

Complete the steps below to take a stand on the issue. Some steps are done by yourself, and others with the class.

TAKE A STAND

(On your own.) What do you think? Explain your perspective.

STAND BACK

(As a group.) Where do your classmates stand? Listen to their perspectives.



Whose Fake News

LOOK AGAIN

(On your own.) Look again at your original response. What had you not considered that other people brought up? (Maybe you changed your mind, maybe you didn't -- that's OK! Either way, you heard other views. How has your thinking shifted after hearing your classmates' perspectives, even if you haven't changed your mind?)

LOOK BEYOND

(As a group.) Look beyond this specific case. How does this dilemma remind you of other situations we've explored in class or that you've seen, heard about, or experienced?

Directions: Part 3 (optional)

In your group, pick and discuss one of the questions below.

- What if the revenue from the fake news site was being used to support a worthy social cause or charity?
- What if John's popular false articles help change public opinion on a topic?
- Should the websites or platforms that place John's stories as ads be held accountable for helping spread disinformation?

