



# Cyberbullying Bias and reliability

HILLVIEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL – YEAR 7

# Lesson Outcomes

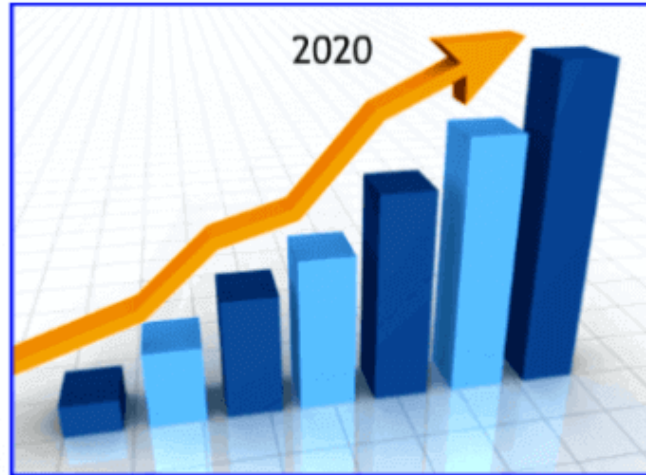
By the end of this lesson, you will:

- ▶ Be aware of cyberbullying and what to do about it
- ▶ Understand what is meant by bias and reliability
  - ▶ Know how to recognise bias
  - ▶ Recognise the difference between facts and opinions
- ▶ Be aware of the problems of “fake news” and “Alt facts”
- ▶ Appreciate the role of social media

# What is cyberbullying

- ▶ **Cyberbullying** is the bullying of another person using the internet, mobile phones and other digital devices.
- ▶ Cyberbullying can take the form of posts on forums or social media, text messages or emails, all with the aim of hurting the victim.

# Cyberbullying Statistics



“In 2016, more than one half of minors were cyberbullied and almost half reported cyberbullying. More than one of three reported experiencing cyber threats. If society does nothing, year 2020 will announce cyberbullying as a digital epidemic.”

Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2013)

- 30% of cyberbullied children go on to self-harm
- 10% attempt suicide

Source: nobullying.com

# What to do if you are a victim or you know someone who is

- ▶ Inform your homeroom teacher of what has happened
- ▶ Include all information you have
  - ▶ Who?
  - ▶ When?
  - ▶ How? (social media, instant messaging, etc)
  - ▶ What did they say?
- ▶ If you have evidence, show it to the teacher

# Hillview's approach to cyberbullying

- ▶ It doesn't matter how minor you think it is
  - something small could lead to something much worse
- ▶ If we deal with minor incidents, the likely punishment is detention and a meeting with parents
- ▶ If we have to deal with major incidents, the likely outcome is suspension or expulsion

# Bias and reliability

- ▶ The internet contains a wealth of information. This information can be used to learn about new things or to verify facts.
- ▶ However, much of the information on the internet is either biased in some way or incorrect.
- ▶ Information that is biased or incorrect loses its value. When information has no value, it is of no use to us.
- ▶ We need to be able to distinguish between information that is valuable (of use to us) and that which is not.

# What is bias?

- ▶ Biased information is information that is written from a particular perspective or point of view.
- ▶ When we write, we often – either purposefully or accidentally – introduce bias. Information that contains bias may be:
  - ▶ personal opinion
  - ▶ a statement that has no factual basis
  - ▶ prejudiced in favour of or against a person, product, situation or idea
- ▶ All reviews are biased
- ▶ All news providers are biased



# Examples of bias

Look at the following examples of information about a film:

- ▶ **“I think this film is the best animated film of all time.”**
  - ▶ This statement is clearly personal opinion, and as such should be treated with caution. Someone else might say the film is poor.
- ▶ **“In twenty years’ time, people will say this film is the best animated film ever.”**
  - ▶ There is no factual basis to this statement. How can the person who wrote it know what people will think in the future?
- ▶ **“Like all animated films, this one is great!”**
  - ▶ This information contains prejudice – the writer clearly has a passion for animation. Someone who does not like animation may say all animated films are poor.

In each case, bias has distorted the information about the film.

# What is reliability?

**Incorrect information is information that is wrong, out of date or inaccurate.**

Websites may contain information that is incorrect for any of these reasons:

- ▶ **wrong** – the facts stated are incorrect
- ▶ **out of date** – the facts may have been correct when the website was produced, but are no longer correct
- ▶ **inaccurate** – the facts may be largely correct, but may contain some errors

When information is correct, it is 'reliable'. Reliable information has value. The less reliable the information, the less valuable it is.

# Why should we look for bias?

Biased information also loses its value.

Information of little value may:

- ▶ mislead us
- ▶ misinform us
- ▶ cause us to make an incorrect deduction
- ▶ cause us to make a poor decision

# How to gauge reliability

Biased information is influenced by a point of view.

When analysing information for bias, there are certain factors to look for:

- ▶ Source – who produced it?
- ▶ Opinion or fact?
- ▶ Date of publication / last update

# Source – who produced it?



- ▶ Information from an authoritative, well-known organisation or person is likely to have value.
- ▶ Information from wikis and blogs may be less valuable because they are not authoritative – anyone can update a wiki or write a blog.
- ▶ As such, they may contain bias or inaccuracies.
- ▶ Remember, though, that a company may overstate claims about their products or services, whilst understating those of their competitors.

# Opinion or fact?

- ▶ Does the website state facts or opinions?
- ▶ Opinions are points of view, not facts.
- ▶ Whilst opinions should be considered and may be interesting, as information they have less value than facts.
- ▶ **Does the website contain statements that cannot be backed up by facts?**
  - ▶ Such statements are opinions, and have little value.

# Date of publication / last update

- ▶ When was the content published?
- ▶ When was the content last updated?
- ▶ Websites that have not been updated for a long time may no longer be accurate.

# Fake news

- ▶ Rumours and hearsay
  - ▶ Sometimes malicious intent – not always
  - ▶ Often to generate ad revenue – clickbait
- ▶ From blogs and microblogs (Twitter)
- ▶ Spread through social media
- ▶ Sometimes picked up by mainstream media

 **Ngumbau Wa Ngumbau** shared a link to the group: Lets do Business Malawi.  
10 hrs · 🌐

Sad news as South Sudan's President shot dead this morning



**Breaking! S.Sudan's President Salva Kiir Shot Dead Near Presidential Palace**

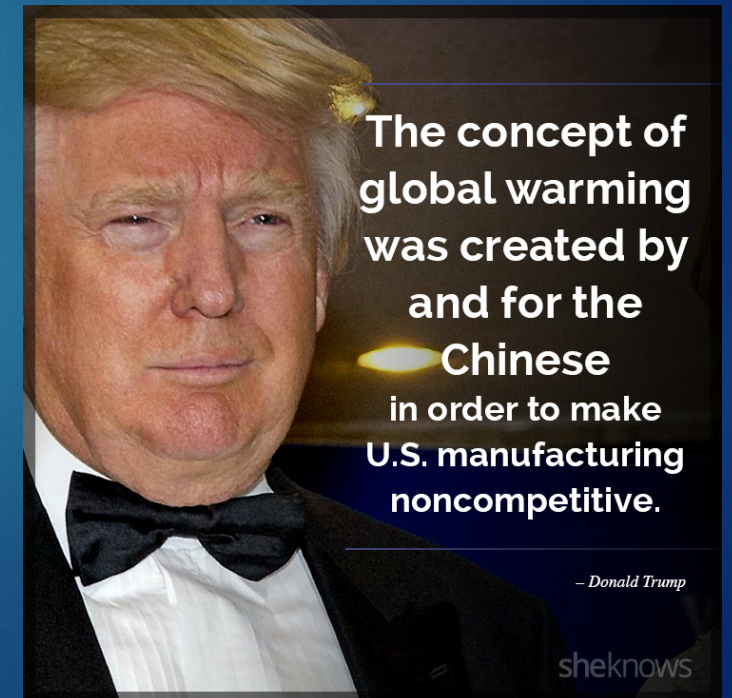
JUBA--South Sudan's President Salva Kiir dies a day after sacking his army chief, Paul Malong. Kiir dies after four members of Sudan People's Liberation Army...

THET1MES.COM



# “Alternative facts” and “post-truth”

- ▶ “Alternative facts” first used by Kellyanne Conway when she defended White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer's false statement about the attendance at Donald Trump's inauguration.
- ▶ “Alternative facts” are lies with little or no basis in truth
- ▶ Driven by people’s emotions rather than rationality
- ▶ Heavily used in the recent Brexit and Trump campaigns



# Review Lesson Outcomes

You should now:

- ▶ Be aware of cyberbullying and what to do about it
- ▶ Understand what is meant by bias and reliability
  - ▶ Know how to recognise bias
  - ▶ Recognise the difference between facts and opinions
- ▶ Be aware of the problems of “fake news” and “Alt facts”
- ▶ Appreciate the role of social media

# Next week

- ▶ Malware
  - ▶ Viruses
  - ▶ Trojans
  - ▶ Worms
  - ▶ Spyware
  - ▶ Adware
  - ▶ Ransomware and scareware
  
- ▶ Phishing scams