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Historical Questions and Informational Literacy

Robert D. Taber

Fayetteville State University

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Historical Questions and Informational Literacy

Robert D. Taber

Fayetteville State University



Current challenges in information consumption & the history classroom



Op-Ed History isn't a 'useless' major. It teaches critical thinking, something America needs plenty more of



Qeios

POPULAR QUARTZ OBSESSIO

History classes are our best hope for teaching Americans to question fake news and Donald Trump

The Comey firing revealed what is real news and what is propaganda

Is your news biased? Try the Comey test.

Updated by Jeffrey Guo | @_jeffguo | May 15, 2017, 4:30pm EST

Who Chose to Fail?



Kevin

May 15, 2017

History, Pedagogy, Reflective Practice, Table-Thumping, Teaching

There are two articles in the most recent issue of the American Historical Association's [Perspectives on History](#) that clearly demonstrate that we academic historians have failed—consistently and spectacularly—in one of our most essential undertakings. For all the talk about making History accessible to a broader public, the value of historical literacy for an educated citizenry and the health of a democracy, we have failed, and seem determined to continue that failure. *to provide an adequate grounding in History to one of our*



How ACRL standards can help



- Enabling assessment
- Help students complete research paper (core curricular assessment)
- Build student capacity as life-long learners



America to 1865



- Part of ethics and civic engagement core
 - Ethics of information gathering and use
 - Informational literacy crucial for active citizenship
- Fodder of “just-so” stories to deconstruct
- Teach general student body historian’s craft, info literacy
- Current pillar of personal teaching repertoire

+ Restructuring the syllabus

- Stepping stones to complete the term paper
- Time in the library
 - Workshop with Ms. Whitfield
 - Library Scavenger Hunt



+ Media literacy component



This Is How Your Hyperpartisan Political News Gets Made

BuzzFeed News traced a group of liberal and conservative websites back to the same company. "The product they're pitching is outrage," said one liberal writer.

posted on Feb. 27, 2017, at 7:16 p.m.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Blue Feed, Red Feed

See Liberal Facebook and Conservative Facebook, Side by Side

By Jan Kregel

Published May 18, 2016 at 11:01 a.m. ET | Updated hourly

FILTER FEEDS BY TOPIC:

PRESIDENT TRUMP HEALTH CARE GUNS ABDORTION ISIS BUDGET EXECUTIVE ORDER IMMIGRATION

LIBERAL

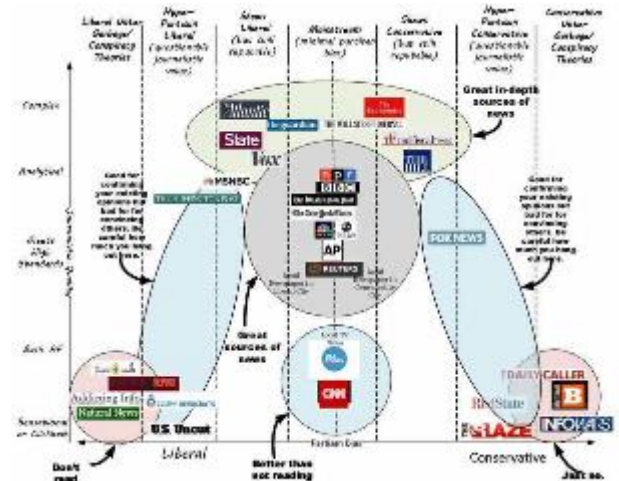
CommonDreams
15 hours ago

As the radical right wing in Washington try to disguise a \$600 billion dollar tax cut for the super-rich and insurance giants as a healthcare bill, the New York State Assembly is leading the way with the only kind of healthcare bill that will put people before profits, and make healthcare what it should be, a human right.

CONSERVATIVE

Conservative News Today
10 hours ago

ICYMI



+ Pre-test vs. post-test

- General gains in competency (but not Boolean searching)
- Notable gains in confidence – making the public sphere legible to the students





Student voices



“Learning how to use the library site and how to find sources will stick with me for years to come. I will be able to use these skills to find facts for educational and personal use.”

“The library tour and using it as a source of research and a wealth of literacy information should always be kept in your treasure box.”

"Having the class present the Term Paper in stages - library visit, questions, outline, draft and final. For those of us who are a bit more challenged of putting thoughts to paper, it makes the tasks being broken down more doable."

“The most significant thing I can take away from this class is how I go about researching information, also saw the emphasis on informational literacy as beneficial. I've learned to be more skeptical and question what I'm [reading]. And I have a better understanding of how to properly do that.”

+ Papers improved (or bad in better ways)

- More students using primary sources
- Many more students using books from the Chesnutt Library
- Students now writing “locomotive” papers



+ Benefit of getting this early

- Adapting syllabus changes
- Pairs well with new faculty workshop and Bronco Star Component B – skills over content



+ Conclusion

Gaining or improving informational literacy skills one of the most crucial benefits of a university education.

