BONUS VIDEO:
FAKE NEWS IS OLD NEWS

Segment Length: 3:50 minutes

Description:

Fake News is Old News is a good video to spark discussion in a government, U.S. history, journalism, or critical thinking class.

The term "fake news" has been in the news a lot the past few years. What does it mean? Is it really fake or does it just present a side to a story that some people don't agree with? Fake News is Old News presents a historical view of reporting that puts "fake news" in perspective.

Preview Activity and Questions:

Use Think, Pair, Share to have students answer the preview questions. After a few minutes, poll the students and ask them to discuss their answers.

What is fake news? Who decides what news is fake? If people claim a news story is fake, how do we know they are right?

OR

There is a saying that there are two sides to every story. What does that mean? Do you agree?

Discussion and Analysis:

1. According to the video, what accounts for the use of the term "fake news"?
2. What are some other terms that were used in the video that are synonymous with fake news?
3. Do you think we're more likely to use the term "fake news" when we agree or don't agree with a story?
4. Why would we disagree with a story? A story is a story, right? Isn't a story just based on facts? Explain.
5. Was there ever an era of truth? Why / Why not?
6. What can we do to avoid being fooled by fake news? How can we recognize that we are getting just one side of a story?

Post-Viewing Activities:

1. Cut out an article about the same event from two different newspapers. Do the articles report the news the same way? What is different about the story? Can an author's views be detected based on what is included and what is left out?
2. It is said that fake news contributed to the Spanish American War and to the expanded role of the U.S. military in the Vietnam War. Research one or both of these incidents.