

## **Persuasive Speech About Social Media**

“Don’t believe everything you read on the internet just because there is a picture with a quote next to it.” This was a warning given by Abraham Lincoln after witnessing how people were shifting to social media as the primary source of information. When people would read newspapers during breakfast or watch television, news in the evening is gone, and with the advancing technology and busy lifestyles adopted by modern people, social media has gained popularity as a means of communication and information source. Given a chance and a channel, most people will post anything just to draw attention regardless of the facts surrounding that specific situation. Social media allows an irrefutable level of freedom of expression with little or no regulation on the information posted. People can share their extreme opinions on matters such as sexism, religion, race, etc. Social media posts should not be trusted just as they are, but it is good to research and confirm the information first.

One reason why you should not trust social media posts blindly is the issue of time. Most of the posts seen on the social media sites like Facebook or Twitter were posted years ago and are outdated. If you cannot consume an expired piece of bread, why trust obsolete posts. Most outdated posts are out of context and may be totally irrelevant in real-time. Even when the date was present in the original post, social media allows unlimited sharing and reposting of the same posts, thus messing up with the original date.

Technology has enabled people to create lies that almost look like truths. For example, Photoshop allows people to modify their pictures or create photos of others in various scenes that had not happened in reality. For example, a person can just download an image of President Donald Trump and, with editing features, position it next to his own with captions-(Dinner at the Whitehouse). Before you trust any post on the internet, it is important to clarify its origin and the

facts associated with it. Also, we have witnessed outright lies about dead celebrities. Someone starts a chat somewhere, and before you know it, everybody is sending condolences messages to friends and families of the deceased. A good example is what has been happening with a movie star- Jack Chan.

In most cases, social media posts are out of context. Information can go through extensive modification and edition such that the current version is totally different from the original version. This particularly happens when an influential person like a politician says something and social media users decide to take just a section of the whole message that serves their purpose. Since everybody has become a news reporter through social media, the corrupted message is shared, tweeted, and retweeted until everyone believes it is the truth. Also, it is possible to see memes and other posts that are attributed to a certain person, but in reality, that person never said any of that. For example, there have been many quotes attributed to Morgan Freeman, who denies having said any of it.

In conclusion, everyone has a right to choose what source of information to trust but selecting social media as a reliable source of information is not a wise move. Helping spread a lie or misinform others by forwarding and sharing fake news on social media makes you a liar, while commenting on old posts just because you have just seen them now makes you seem outdated and less cool to your followers. Why not be realistic and select other reputable sources of information in order to help you screen and sort out true and untrue posts on social media? This is the best way to ensure you are in the know and effectively informed.