CPSS220

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Introduction

During the fall semester, I took a class that focused on effectively communicating science and detecting fake news throughout the scientific media. We learned how to determine the authenticity of certain scientific research as well as how to overcome falsified information.

Site Information: University of Maryland Bee Research Lab

Name of Site: University of Maryland Bee Research Lab

Address:

Your supervisor: Nicole Mogul

The site mission was to show us how the UMD Bee center was monitoring the bee population and their contribution to the environment .The particular goals of the site was to show us how they determine which bees they found belonged to which type of bee species and what they each do to pollinate the environment. This field trip taught us how UMD uses proper research about the local types of bees to infer accurate conclusions about the environment and what we will need to do to fix it.

Issues Confronting Site:

The only problem was that the visit was structured poorly and we never had a chance to fully understand what each station did with the bees they collected and how they used them to determine their impact to the Maryland environment

Activities:

We did many activities that helped us understand the importance of effectively communicating science. We watched a video of how scientists were appreciating research that was conducted ethically. The video showed us how ethical research helps us get important necessities such as medicine and certain foods. This video went in detail showing several scientists talking about denialism, especially when it comes to climate change. For example, several scientists debunked theories from other scientists denying climate change and using misleading graphs to support their point.

Impact:

This taught me how to understand when denialism or falsified information is apart of a theory. Several scientists gave in-depth description on how to locate falsified information.They specifically pointed to how misleading graphs work.Without this knowledge, I wouldn't know what information to trust and I would be constantly vulnerable to believing everything on the internet. After learning how to detect fake news, I feel more comfortable with dealing with all the new different platforms of information.

Discussion:

Furthermore, I really appreciate all the practicum classes where we sat down and talked about how the problems of modern day science. However, I really enjoyed how on top of addressing problems, we discussed ideas on how to potentially fix these problems. Our discussions went to great length talking about how we can avoid opinions on climate change and other scientific facts that aren't supported by legitimate research.
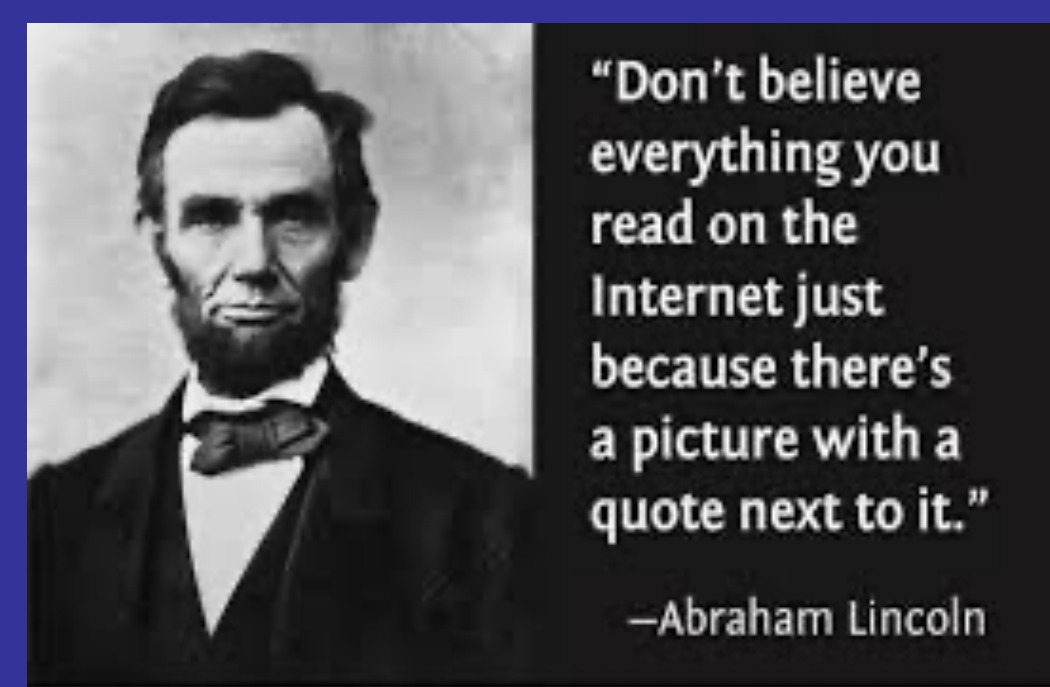
Acknowledgments:

I will forever be grateful to Dr.Mogul for educating us on how to avoid misleading information. Furthermore, I really enjoyed how Dr.Mogul's class really related to what Dr.Holtz and Dr.Merck were explaining to us in sophomore year colloquium. In addition, I would love to thank Dr.Merck and Dr.Holtz for three great semesters. They have been so supportive and so encouraging throughout the duration of the program. I am going to miss their passionate lectures about important scientific concepts.