**Name: Opoola Daniel Oluwaseyi**

**Matric No: 19/ENG05/056**

**Department: Mechatronics**

**Topic: Fake News and the Spread of Misinformation**

**Fake News and the Spread of Misinformation**

Fake news is a form of news consisting of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional news media (print and broadcast) or online social media. Fake news can take different faces. They can also have major impact on the society because information shapes our world view: we make important decisions based on information.

**Impacts of Fake News**

Over the course of times, fake news also known as pseudo-news have caused people to make the wrong decision and given people wrong impression towards popular view. For instance:

Financial impact or health impact: Advertising a product and adding feature it doesn’t have to convince people to get it when the product compromise the health of the buyers.

Racist or tribalist ideas: If this post leads me to believe that blacks are drug dealers or Igbo’s are fraudsters, that will make me be angry at the government for letting them leave around me doing business or cause other race to belief that blacks shouldn’t be in their country. Bullying and violence against innocent people: false rumors that target specific individuals can have major consequences. These individuals may be harassed on social media and targeted by insults and threats that sometimes have real life impacts. You must never rely on social media to decide that a person is guilty. Political impact: this can cause political crisis. We can spot a good example of this with our country Nigeria. The spread of fake news in this country is because a lot of people are ignorant of the consequence. They sometimes fail to go through the content and just forward as received or sometimes just believe it without confirming from reliable source.

**The Spread of Fake News**

Fake news written and published usually with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity or person and/or gain financially and politically. Most of the time fake new competes with legitimate news stories because it is what people like or prefer to belief. Sometimes false news that occurs when we jump to conclusion misinterpret a story and is caused as a result of an honest mistake is know as misinformation. But when deliberate is known as disinformation.

**How to Identify Fake News**

Firstly, consider the source to understand the whole story. Then read beyond the headline to understand the whole story. Check the authors to see if they are real and credible and assess the supporting sources to ensure they support the claims. Check the date of publication to see if it is meant to be satire. Review your biases to see if they are affecting your judgment. Lastly, ask experts to get confirmation from independent people with knowledge.

**How to Stop the Spread of Fake News**

Social media platform should me monitored to check those creating fake news and those spreading it. Curbing the spread of fake news must be a joint effort. How individuals can contribute is by knowing how to identify it when spotted. This could do great in reducing the spread of fake news which sometimes can be called hate speech. You can also read an article in full before spreading incomplete information which sometimes could be false.

*The Aspen Institute, Encyclopedia; Identifying fake news and How to stop the spread of false information 2014.*