

Science in Social Media

1. Find a scientific claim on a social media site/app (Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, a meme, etc.). Choose something that you're interested in, or you have a strong reaction to (positive or negative). Take a screenshot and paste or retype it onto a Word Document. Block out anything that identifies the individual who posted it.
2. Write a short (under 1 page, please) reaction to the scientific claim you selected that includes:
 - a. your initial feelings about the topic,
 - b. any suspicions you have about the credibility of the claim,
 - c. how the average person might respond to the claim
 - d. why this topic in particular interests you
3. Develop a list of 8-10 "Need to Know" Questions.
4. Investigate each question, being sure to use credible sources (review your "Research Tip, Tricks and Techniques" handout from last semester). Cite your findings for each question.
5. Write a short paper either supporting the scientific claim or refuting it. Your paper must contain:
 - a. A minimum of five credible sources
 - b. Be 2-5 pages in length (Quality, not quantity)
 - c. A detailed explanation of why your sources either refute or confirm this scientific claim
 - d. A personal statement of how your view of the claim has changed or has been confirmed (not important to be right; more important to learn something)
 - e. Correct spelling and grammar, academic language, and scientific vocabulary.
6. Develop a posting/meme/tweet/vine/etc. for the same social media site that demonstrates your findings. This can be a reworking of the original claim with accurate information, or it can be an affirmation for the claim using the sources you discovered. It can also be something completely original on the same topic that you develop after having conducted your research.
7. Present your scientific claim and your findings to the class in a 2-5 minute presentation. You must be able to show both the original scientific claim and your findings from part 6 on Powerpoint, a poster, in a short film, or some other way to the whole class can view it.

You will be asked to turn in the seven parts of this assignment as the weeks progress to ensure you're on the right track. Ask for assistance early and plan ahead.

Initial Claim = 5pts.

Reaction = 10pts

Need to Knows = 10pts

Investigation with sources = 20pts

Paper = 25 pts.

Redesigned posting = 20 pts.

Presentation = 10 pts.

Total Points = 100