CORECON

The Coverage and Reception of
the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

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UNIVERSITATEA LUCIAN BLAGA DIN SIBIU

How do we know when we are disinformed by mass media?

How do we avoid disinformation?

A Workshop for High School and Secondary School Students

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Acknowledgements

The study is part of the **CORECON** project (The coverage and reception of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Polish, Romanian and English-language media: A comparative critical discourse study with recommendations for journalism training).

Findings – An Example

word/2-gram	BBC	CNN	EN corpus total	Antena 3	Romania TV	RO corpus total
nuclear	37	45	82	16	27	43
nuclear war	0	1	1	6	17	23
nuclear attack(s)	0	0	0	3	5	8
nuclear conflict	0	0	0	1	3	4
nuclear blackmail	0	0	0	1	1	2
nuclear terrorism	0	0	0	1	0	1
third/new world war	0	1	1	3	6	9
first/second world war	11	13	24	6	10	16
nuclear power (plant)	15	13	28	12	3	15
nuclear weapon(s)	6	10	16	6	6	12

What We're Doing Today

- How to identify fake news

- Media puzzle

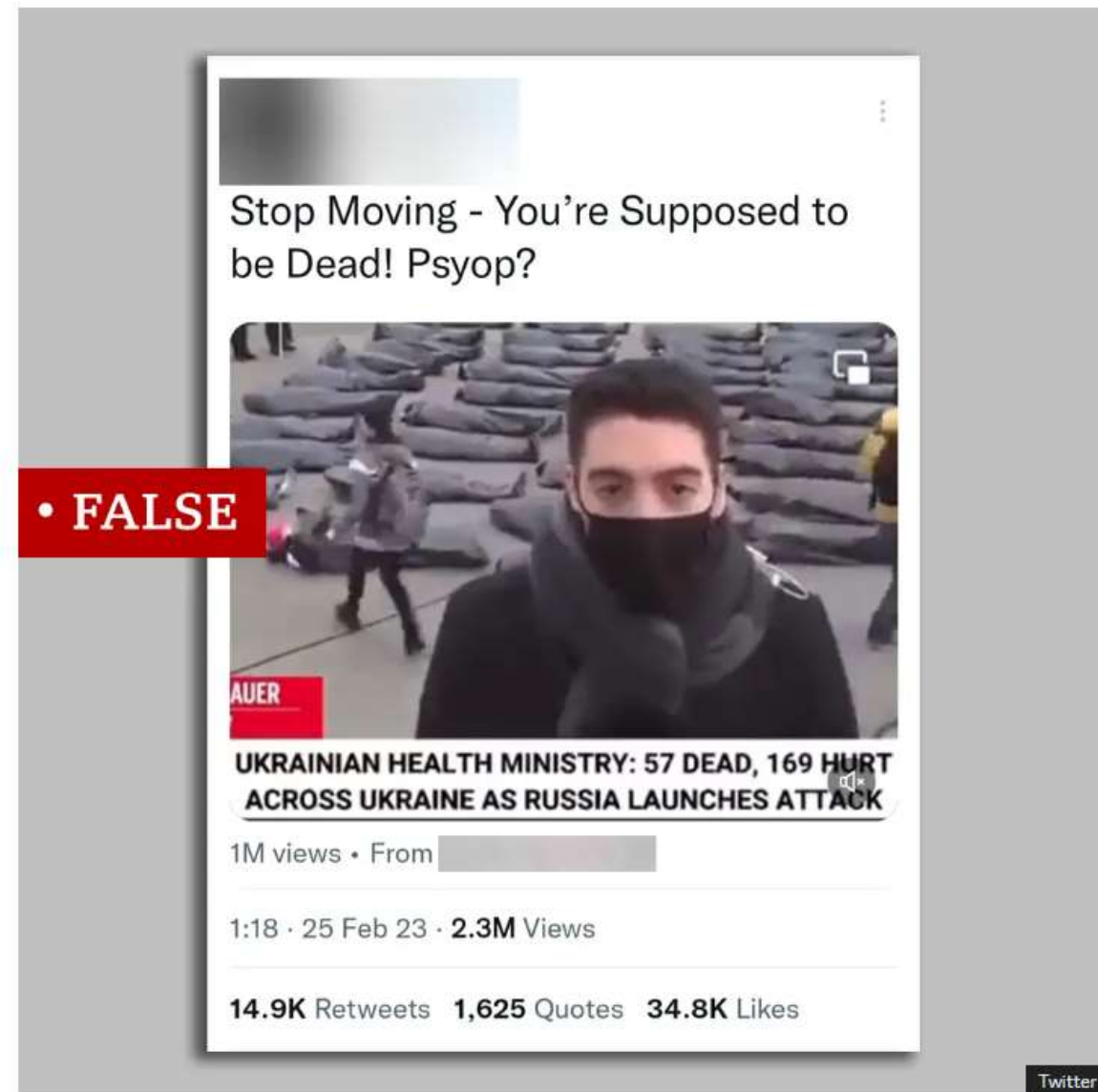- Press conference simulation

- News writing based on a war photograph

1. Fake News

"when the rich wage war it's the poor who die".
#Donbass #PUTIN #NATO #USA #JoeBiden
#RussiaUkraineCrisis #RussiaUcraina #StopWar
#StandWithUkraine #Biden

24 February at 10:02 ·
Russia bombed the Ukrainian headquarters

我的抖音号: JanYe1985

Misleading videos from Tianjin (L) and Beirut (R) claimed to show explosions in Ukraine. - Euronews via Twitter/Facebook

1. Fake News

Misleading moving corpse video returns

- Claim: news reporter in Ukraine; rows of corpses in body bags, with one of the bodies "moving" => "proof" of actors being hired to play dead bodies to support the Western narrative on the Ukraine war

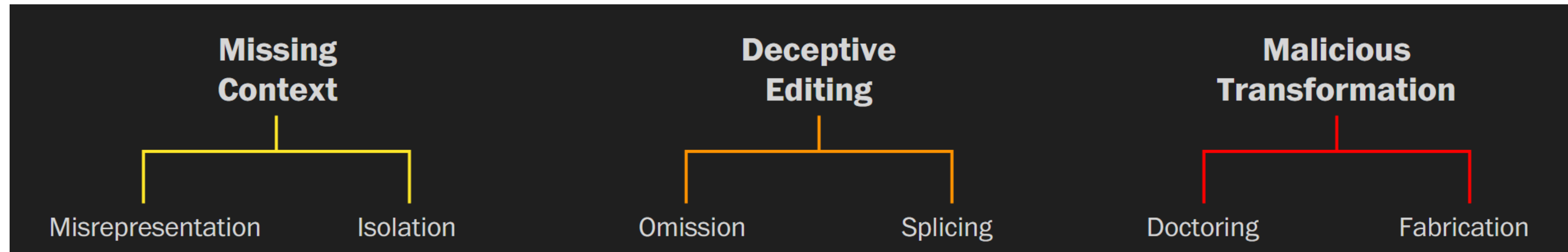- Real context: Vienna climate policy protest

1. Fake News

- Paul Kochadie
- Chinese influencer from Henan
- 400.000 followers on Douyin (Chinese equivalent of TikTok)
- Deepfake filter

1. Fake Photos/Videos

Seeing is believing?

Missing Context	Deceptive Editing	Malicious Transformation
Misrepresentation Isolation	Omission Splicing	Doctoring Fabrication

1. Fake or Not?

1. Fake News – How to Identify Them

Fact checkers:

https://www.factcheck.org/

https://apnews.com/ap-fact-check

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fact-checker/

Reverse image search engines:

https://tineye.com/

https://rootabout.com/

Image/ video analysis tools:

https://fotoforensics.com/

https://scanner.deepware.ai/

1. Fake News

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?

CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

CHECK THE DATE
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

IFLA
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK
FAKE NEWS EDITION

1. Big red flags for fake news: ALL CAPS, or obviously photoshopped pics.

2. A glut of pop-ups and banner ads? Good sign the story is pure clickbait.

3. Check the domain! Fake sites often add ".co" to trusted brands to steal their luster. (Think: "abcnews.com.co")

4. If you land on an unknown site, check its "About" page. Then, Google it with the word "fake" and see what comes up.

5. If a story offers links, follow them. (Garbage leads to worse garbage.) No links, quotes, or references? Another telltale sign.

6. Verify an unlikely story by finding a reputable outlet reporting the same thing.

7. Check the date. Social media often resurrects outdated stories.

8. Read past headlines. Often they bear no resemblance to what lies beneath.

9. Photos may be misidentified and dated. Use a reverse image search engine like TinEye to see where an image *really* comes from.

10. Gut check. If a story makes you angry, it's probably designed that way.

11. Finally, if you're not sure it's true, don't share it! *Don't. Share. It.*

ON THE MEDIA   ONTHEMEDIA.ORG

Source: https://library.csi.cuny.edu/c.php?g=619342&p=4376665

1. Fake News – Game

https://www.getbadnews.com/en

1. Fake News – Game

IMPERSONATION

Impersonating someone else and disguising yourself as a credible news source can be highly effective. Most people pay little attention to sources. As a purveyor of disinformation, you can use that to your advantage. A minute ago you were just an angry citizen, now you're a big shot editor-in-chief running a real news site.

EMOTION

Playing into basic emotions such as fear, anger and empathy make people more susceptible to your message.

POLARIZATION

By finding existing grievances and blowing them up, you can drive people apart and make them think a story is much more important than it really is. Left and right are now

By finding existing grievances and blowing them up, you can drive people apart and make them think a story is much more important than it really is. Left and right are now much further apart than before. This can be easily exploited by content producers.

CONSPIRACY

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Conspiracy theories are a big part of online news sites. They can be defined as the belief that unexplained events are orchestrated by a covert group or organisation.

DISCREDIT

Discrediting your opponents is an important part of disinformation because it
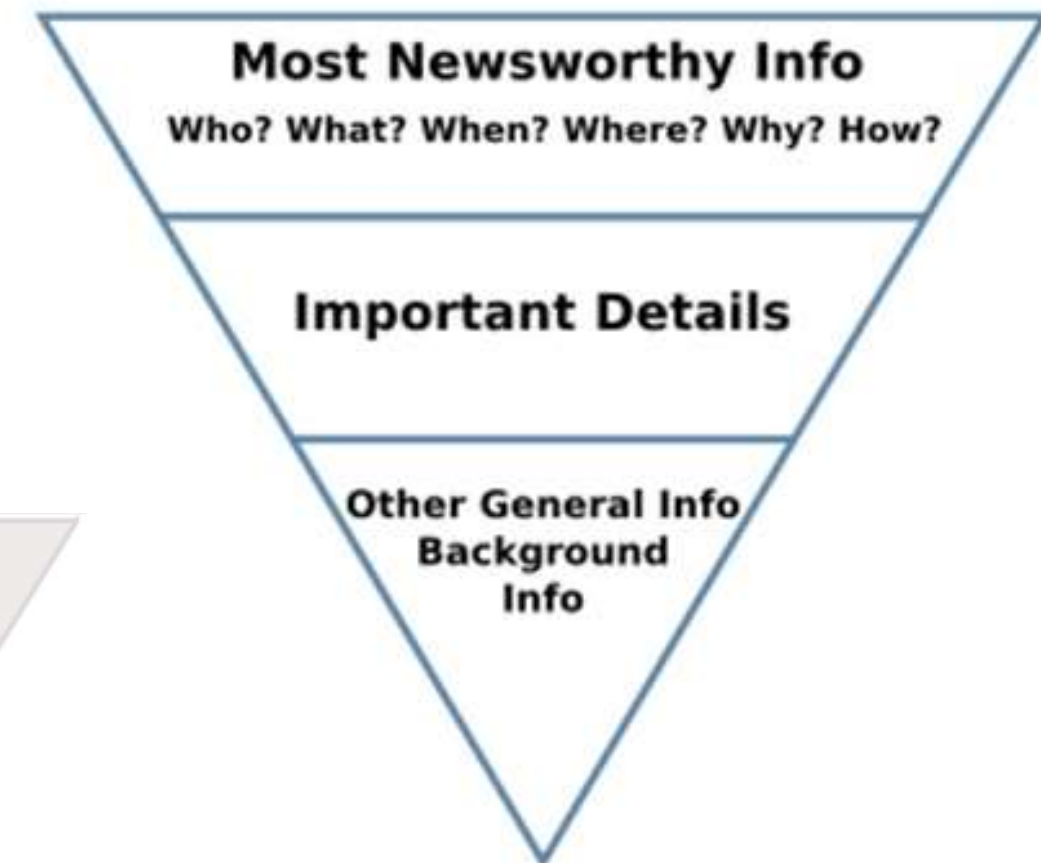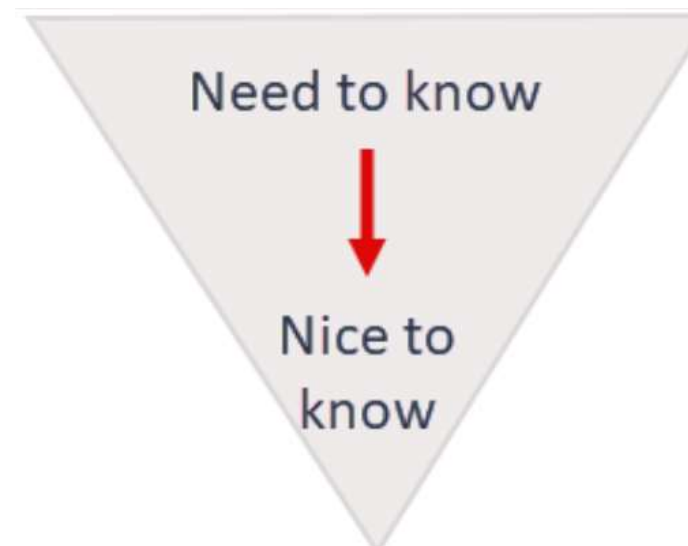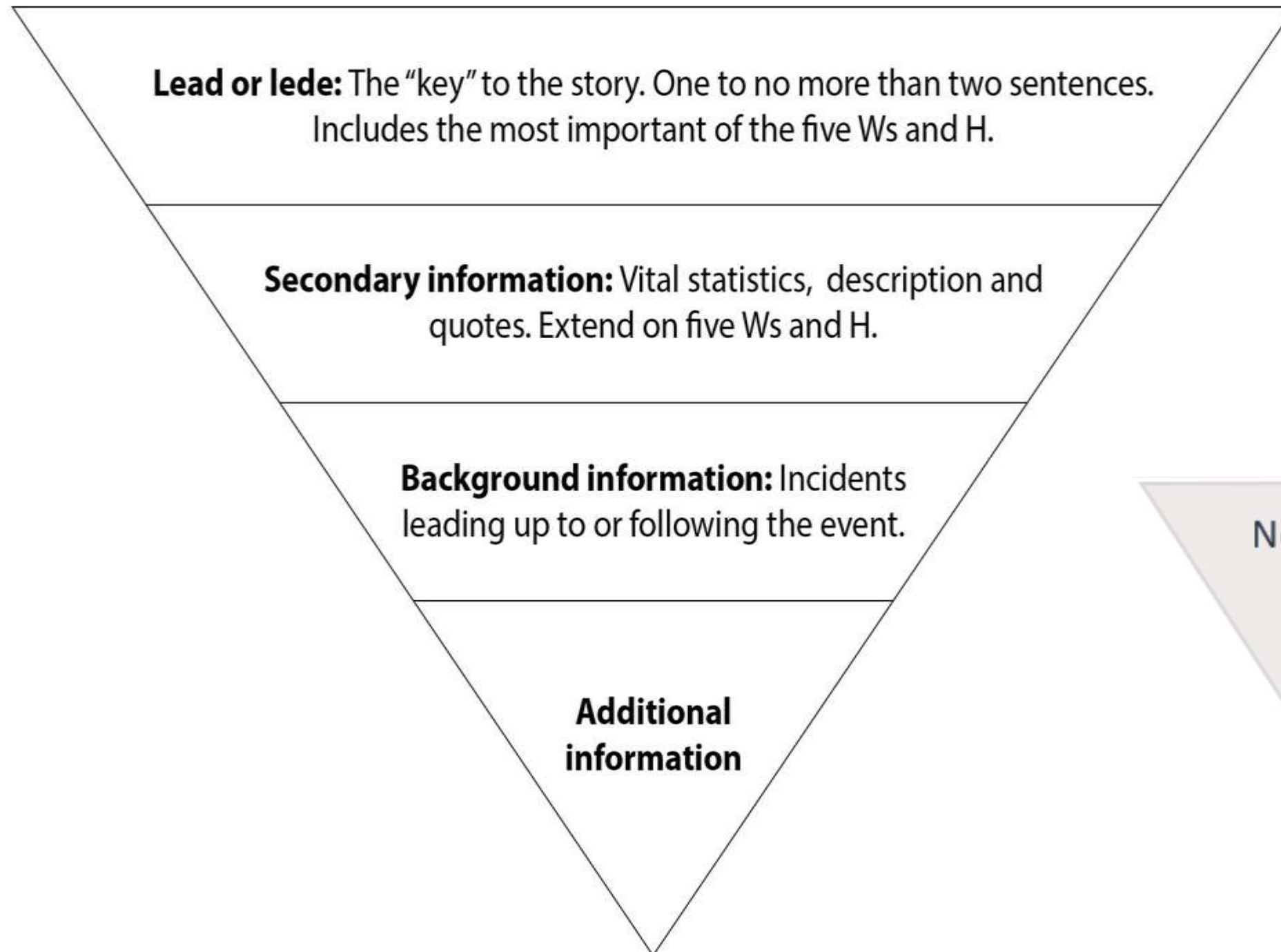
the untruths you are spreading.

TROLLING

Trolls exploit people's emotions and deliberately blur the line between truth and untruth. Engaging in a discussion with a troll means wasting precious time and energy, but that's exactly what they want!

PLAY AGAIN

2. News Report Structure <= Puzzle

Lead or lede: The "key" to the story. One to no more than two sentences. Includes the most important of the five Ws and H.

Secondary information: Vital statistics, description and quotes. Extend on five Ws and H.

Background information: Incidents leading up to or following the event.

Additional information

Need to know

Nice to know

Most Newsworthy Info
Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Important Details

Other General Info
Background Info

3. Press Conference Simulation

At the age of 18, Noelle Martin, now aged 24, discovered that sexual predators had stolen images of her from social media, editing them onto pornographic images and videos, adding her name and details of where she lived.

3. Press Conference Simulation

Press conference roles/ teams:

- Noelle Martin & her family

- Ivy League U.S. university developing deepfake technology

- Deepfake user (caught by authorities)

- Legislators (law makers)

4. News Writing Based on a War Photo

Contact

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