

HW7

The instructions for this homework are very simple: find me an example of bad journalism, and tell me why it's bad. Here are two examples I found in the Science section of the Daily Mail:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2505561/Motorcyclist-spends-100k-inventing-Terminator-style-helmet-GPS.html?ico=sciencetech^mostread>

This article is clearly just an advertisement for a new piece of technology coming out next year. The article only interviews the bike HUD's creator, and only says positive things. It is presented with a video that is nothing but the creator describing his product. There's no hint of criticism, even though the real time videos of driving with the helmet are clearly fake: as you can see from the picture of the HUD, it is opaque (you can't see through it), yet it shows up as transparent in the video. The article is a deceptive advertisement presented as news.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2507377/Humans-NOT-come-Earth--sunburn-bad-backs-pain-labour-prove-expert-claims.html?ico=sciencetech^headlines>

This article is an advertisement for a 57 page self-published book by a man who claims to have a PhD (but does not say where the degree is from, or which institution granted it), claims to be an ecologist (but does not say who he works for), and has no biography or information about him anywhere on the internet. His theories are ridiculous and no mainstream scientist is interviewed to provide a different viewpoint.

It's not hard to find similar terrible articles on your own. I suggest the Daily Mail.

Rubric:

1 mark: Student gives me the url of a news article

2 marks: Student briefly describes the main claim in the article

3 marks: Student explains, using the concepts and ideas we learned about in class, why the article is a poor piece of journalism.