

“Debunking a Bad Science Website” Guide

DUE: 3/31/2020

Goal: To find, read, critique, and correct where you can (basically debunk) a bad science website (<https://realhumanhistory.weebly.com/>, for example).

Format: You are to build a website/blog for this epic take down. Why? It will help you hone the ever-important skill of producing web content. Also, websites/blogs are a more accessible form for people to consume information.

What Website to Choose: You can choose any website that is clearly based on bad or no science at all, but attempting to sway people to their thinking.

Teamwork Statement: **No one can cover the same parts of the website.** However, you can absolutely work together to help one another out with blog design and bounce ideas off one another.

Website Guidance: You can (but do not have to) use ND Sites to make this site. Here is a link to ND sites (<http://sites.nd.edu/create-a-blog/>). You can also use any free website builder you like. However, you should review the following to make sure you are building this website in an ethically appropriate way (e.g. not plagiarizing)

Appropriate use:

https://policy.nd.edu/assets/185268/responsible_use_it_resources_2015.pdf

Copyright: <https://policy.nd.edu/assets/203061/intellectualpropertypolicy.pdf>

Remix at the Hesburgh Libraries is a wonderful resource on help for projects like this: <https://remix.nd.edu/>

Remix Media Corps: group of people at Remix there to help you! They have “office hours” Sunday-Thursday from 3:30pm-9:30pm in 256 Hesburgh Library. You can book a consultation with them as well: <https://remix.nd.edu/media-corps/index.html>

Here are some excellent examples from last semester: <http://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/book-review-website/>

Guidance on Producing a Book Review

Style: as this is your own personal blog about a book, I am giving you complete creative license (again follow appropriate use & copyright guidelines) to design this blog anyway you like.

Things to Think about for Content:

1. Who is your audience for the website you are constructing? Define it and make sure to tailor it to them.
2. What website have you chosen to debunk (include a link on your own website)? Why do you think this is worth a debunking?
3. What theories are the website promoting? What do you think the site author's motivation is and why?
4. Who do you think the audience is for this bad science website? Do you think they are effective at reaching that audience? Why?
5. What types of theories are they claiming to be true? Or conversely which theories are THEY trying to debunk? **Please try to address AT LEAST 3-5!**
6. What evidence are they presenting to back up their claims?
7. Are their arguments convincing? Why or why not? Who do you think might be more easily convinced? Who might not be?
8. What did they do or get right?
9. What did they get wrong? Please present counter arguments to the things you think they got wrong
10. If you used additional sources, **include them!**

Be sure to also turn in your self-reflection on this assignment!

1. What did you learn?
2. What challenges did you face while completing this assignment?
3. How did you overcome these challenges?
4. How successful do you think you were with your final product?
5. What do you think you could have done better?

I will be assessing you on your ability to address the points above in "Things to Think about for Content".