

Fake News: Finding Independent Clauses Answers

Reread the following paragraphs from the article and find **subjects** and **verbs**. Identify the independent clauses. Every sentence must have at least one independent clause. Next, find the dependent clauses, connector words, and phrases.

How do these extra parts relate to the meaning of the independent clause?

1. **These questions** have become more urgent in recent years, not least because of revelations about the Russian campaign to influence the 2016 United States presidential election by disseminating propaganda through social media platforms.
2. **One group** claims that our ability to reason is hijacked by our partisan convictions: that is, we're prone to rationalization.
3. Once **we** understand how much of **the problem** is a result of rationalization and how much a result of laziness, and as **we** learn more about which **factor** plays a role in what types of situations, we'll be better able to design policy solutions to help combat the problem.
4. **The rationalization camp**, which has gained considerable prominence in recent years, is built around a set of theories contending that when **it** comes to politically charged issues, **people** use their intellectual abilities to persuade themselves to believe what **they** want to be true rather than attempting to actually discover the truth.
5. According to this view, **political passions** essentially make people unreasonable, even – indeed, especially – if **they** tend to be good at reasoning in other contexts. (Roughly: The smarter **you** are, the better **you** are at rationalizing.)
6. Some of the most striking **evidence** used to support this position comes from an influential 2012 study in which the law professor **Dan Kahan and his colleagues** found that **the degree** of political polarization on the issue of climate change was greater among **people** who scored higher on measures of science literacy and numerical ability than **it was** among **those** who scored lower on these tests.
7. Apparently, more “analytical” **Democrats** were better able to convince themselves that **climate change** was a problem, while more “analytical” **Republicans** were

better able to convince themselves that climate change was not a problem.

8. Further evidence cited in support of this of argument comes from a 2010 study by the political scientists Brendan Nyhan and Jason Reifler, who found that appending corrections to misleading claims in news articles can sometimes backfire: Not only did corrections fail to reduce misperceptions, but they also sometimes increased them.
9. For example, people who think more analytically (those who are more likely to exercise their analytic skills and not just trust their "gut" response) are less superstitious, less likely to believe in conspiracy theories and less receptive to seemingly profound but actually empty assertions (like "Wholeness quiets infinite phenomena").
10. This body of evidence suggests that the main factor explaining the acceptance of fake news could be cognitive laziness, especially in the context of social media, where news items are often skimmed or merely glanced at.