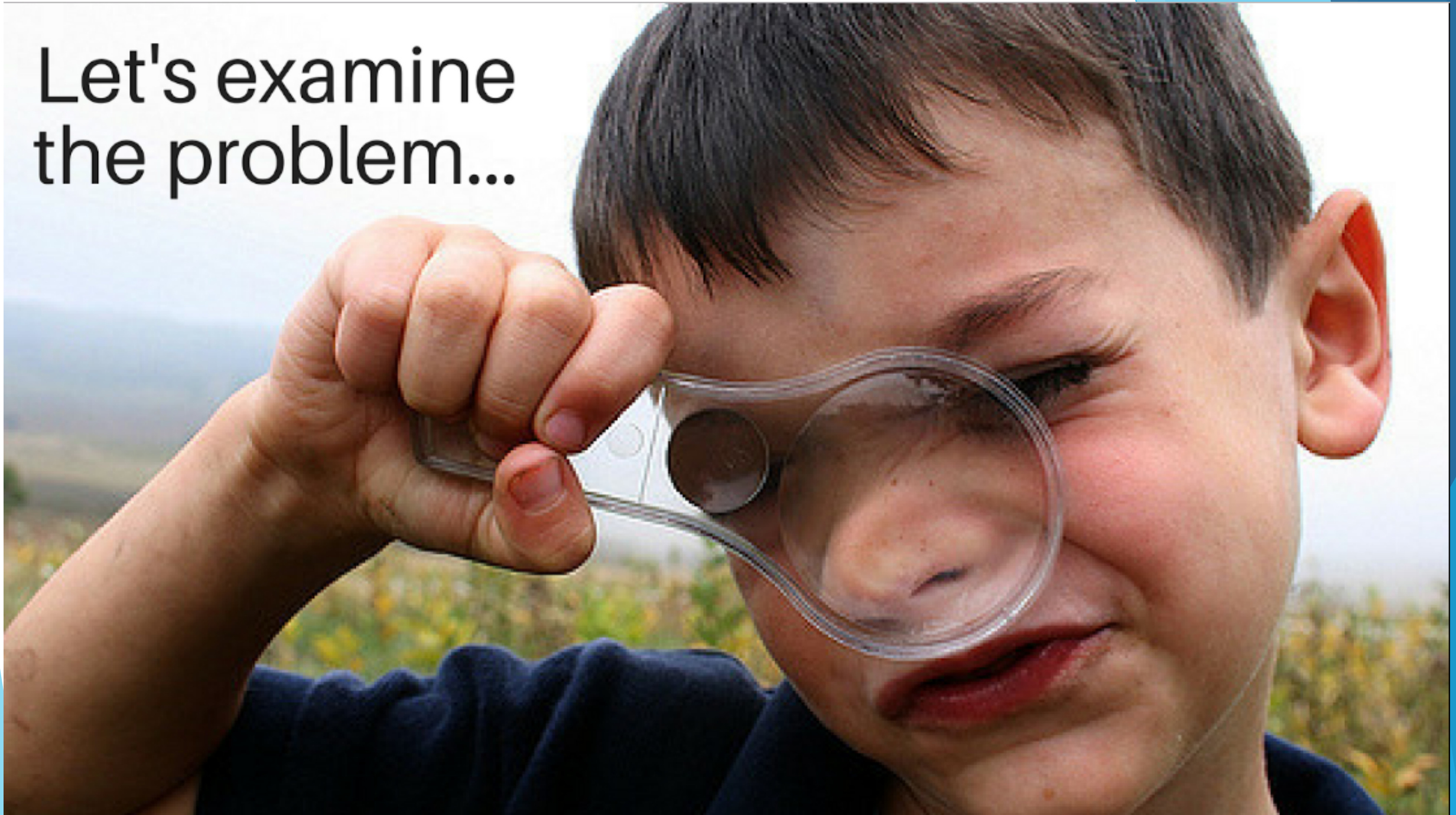



# Fake News and Digital Media: What are our kids doing with the information?

Shari Dunn and Dr. Jessica Stepaniak, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Department, WCSD

Link to the full presentation: <http://tinyurl.com/WCSD-SEL-21CL>

Let's examine  
the problem...



The background of the slide is a dark field filled with numerous out-of-focus light circles, known as bokeh. These circles are in various colors including white, light blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. They vary in size and brightness, creating a vibrant, abstract pattern. The text is overlaid on the right side of this background.

**First, we  
aren't always  
clear about  
the facts.**

# We confuse truth and fact.

**Facts** are irrefutable. They cannot be denied or argued.

- $1 + 1 = 2$
- Water is wet.
- Polar ice is melting.

We can have alternative truths, but we can't have alternative facts.

**Truth** is something we reason from our experiences and perspectives of the facts at hand. Truth can be denied or argued.

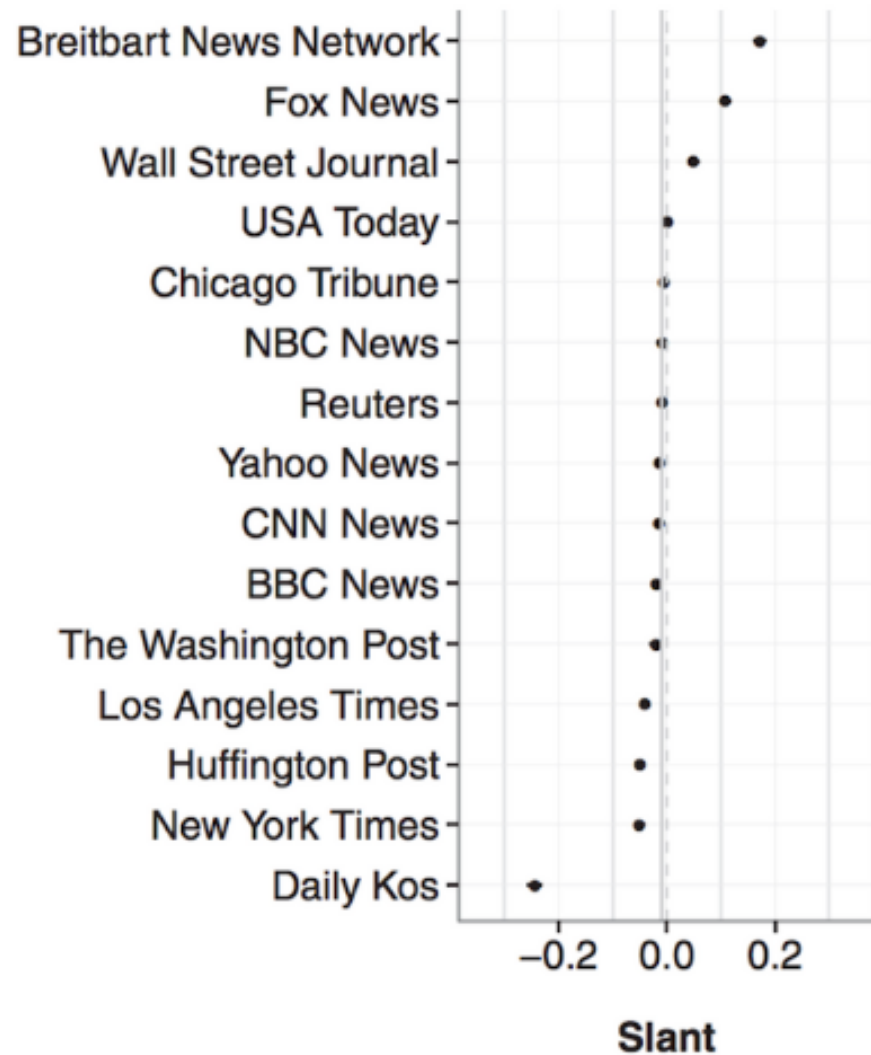
- People have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Man is responsible for climate change.

# We confuse bias with lies.

**Lies** are demonstrably not true based on reason and reference to facts. Lies are consciously stated knowing they are false, and with the intent to deceive.

Both lies and bias can and should be acknowledged and argued with.

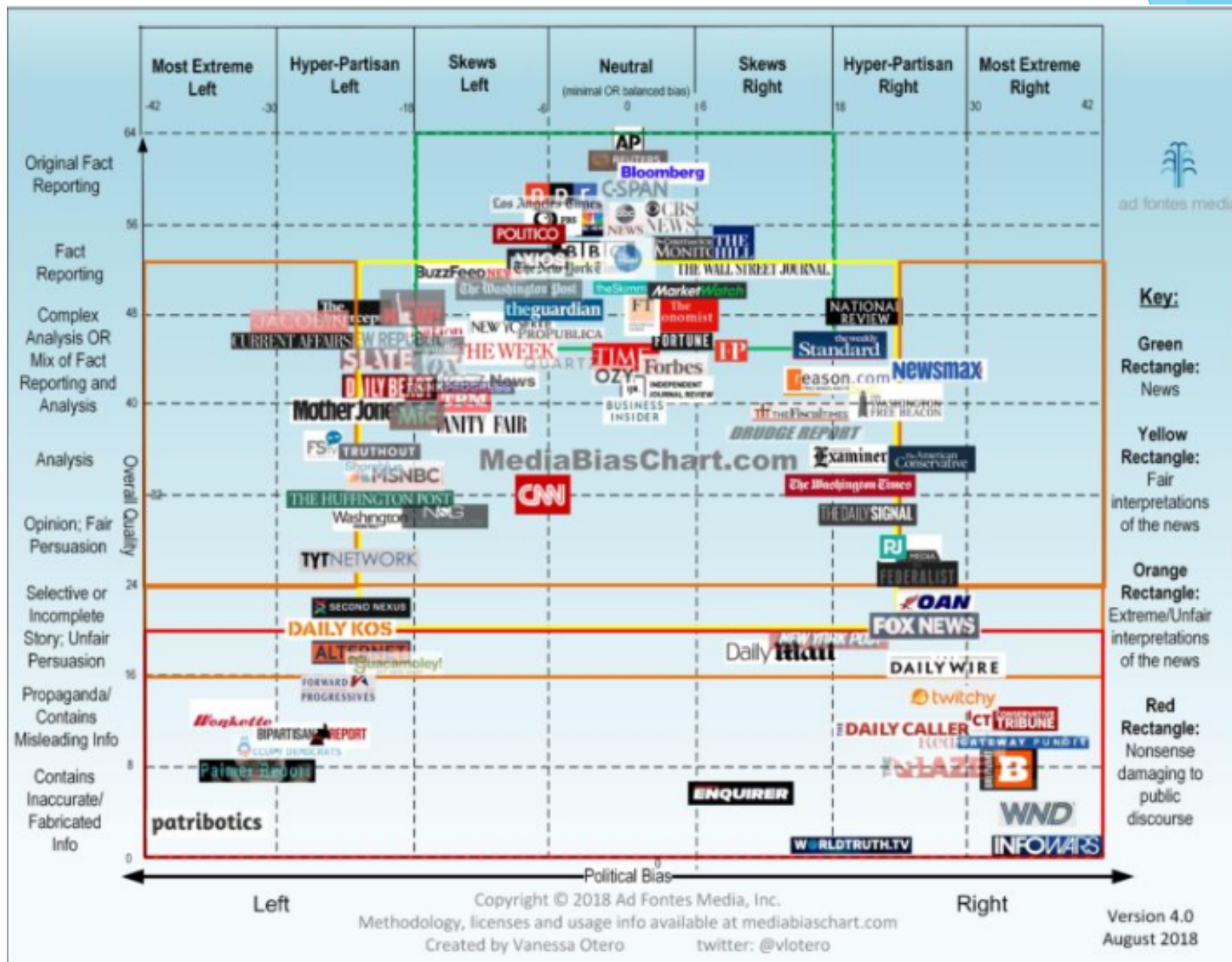
**Bias** is a person or entity's leanings or take on the truth. Bias can lead one to emphasize certain facts over others. Bias is not a conscious misstatement of the truth with the intent to deceive.



Source: "Fair and Balanced? Quantifying Media Bias Through Crowdsourced Content Analysis" in the Public Opinion Quarterly in a 2016 special issue.

## Bringing It Home

- 27% of you are most likely to watch CNN.
- 33% of you are most likely to watch Fox News.
- 20% of you are most likely to read the New York Times
- 3% of you are most likely to read the Chicago Tribune.
- 23.5% of you are most likely to visit the Huffington Post.
- 2% of you are most likely to visit the Drudge Report.



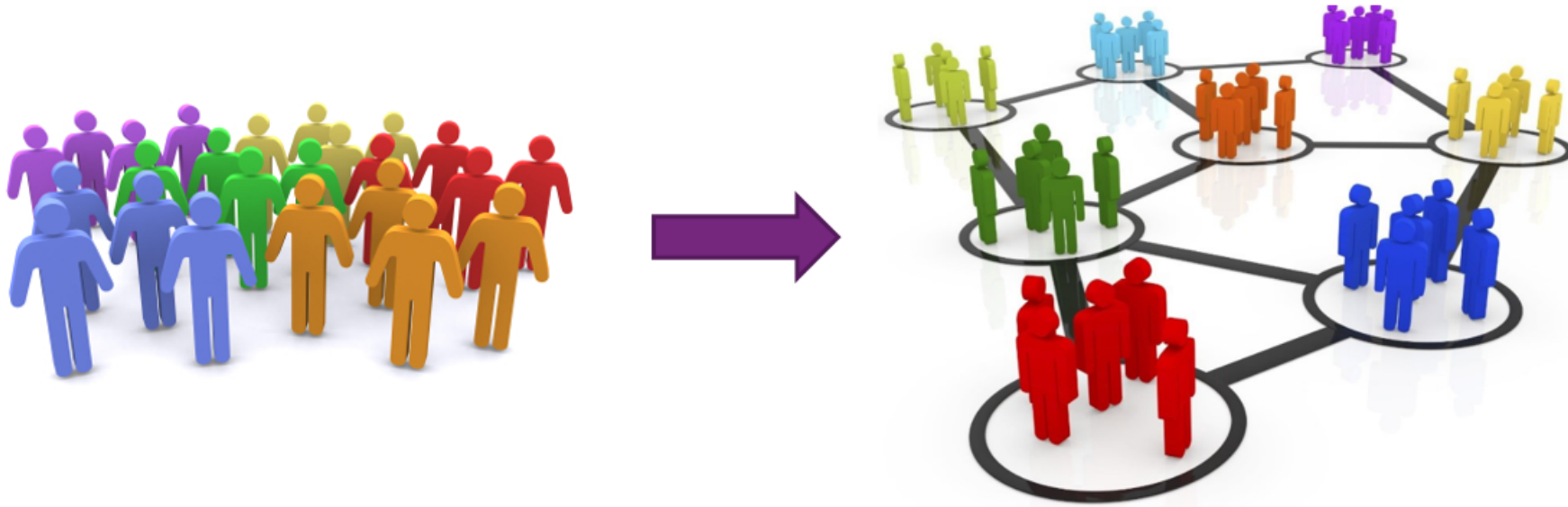
Media Bias Chart 4.0: What's New. Source: <https://www.adfontesmedia.com/> (accessed October 18, 2018).

# We confuse opinion and information.

**Information** is a relaying of facts and details about events. It is often delivered with context that may be biased, but that still has a basis in observable fact. However, information can also be incomplete, misrepresented, or untrue.

**Opinion** is commentary on information that is intended to explore the importance of information. Opinion is by its very nature biased and should be understood as arguable.

Second, while we are all unique, we are also social and we work to fit in.



# **We prefer to surround ourselves with people who are similar to us.**



**29%**

of you say  
that most  
people share  
your values.



**61%**

of you say  
that most of  
your  
friends share  
your values.



**Our tendency group ourselves with people who are similar to us leads us to live in information bubbles.**

# So what as a parent can I do about Fake News and Digital Media Bias?

- ▶ Here are some tips from Common Sense Media
  - ▶ Be aware
  - ▶ Reinforce what they are learning in school
  - ▶ Look at how media cover the same story
  - ▶ Talk about perspectives
  - ▶ Recognize your biases
  - ▶ Expose your kids to a variety of sources
- ▶ If you would like to read the full article, visit [How Do I Teach My Kids about Bias in the News](#) © Common Sense Media.