

# in TRUTH we TRUST

team YB55

SIPA attendees respond to biased news pouring into the media

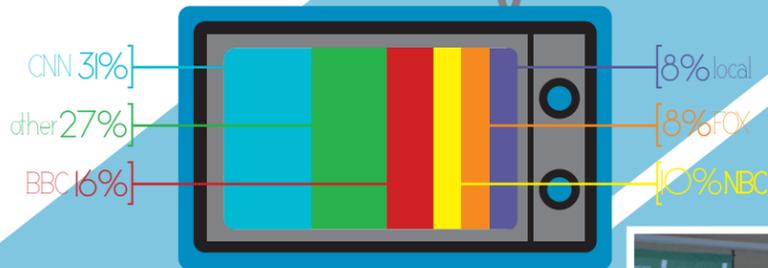
In a world where headlines could not be believed, the truth was lost between the many voices claiming to be right. Within the first 100 days of Donald Trump's presidency, the term "fake news" began to flood the internet, establishing a troubled relationship between the media and its audience and representing the growing presence of inaccurate information in the news. "It puts a gap between the media and the people to the point where people don't want to listen to the media as much as they used to," sophomore Dontrell Whetsell said. "We need to get back to the way the media used to be and just tell the story how it was." The growing distrust in the media spread: many tuned out the news stations, turned a blind eye to printed stories, and got lost while searching for unopinionated, hard facts. "As a parent, I have to keep making sure [my son] understands that just because you see it doesn't mean it's true. Then it becomes, how do you find out what the truth is?" Karen McDowell said.

two extremes: two convoluted sides of the same story. "We don't want to have one side of the story shown; we want to show both sides evenly. We're supposed to report the news, not tell you what you're supposed to think," Whetsell said. Students concerned with bias plaguing the press decided to print just the facts. Rather than operate in a gray area, they were determined to check their facts and scan for partiality to find one truth amidst two conflicting opinions. "Sometimes I think about it from both points of view, and I tell that through my story. Other times, I try to be completely factual in everything that I say though my interviews might be biased. In the end, I try to bring it all together to be unbiased," Collins said. Even if media bias were inevitable, awareness was necessary. Something had to be done. "It's something you can't really help," Kayla Sobas, senior, said. "It's going to be there no matter what, but it's our responsibility to decipher what's accurate and unbiased."

In search for the truth, individuals encountered

## [TUNING IN]

which news outlets do SIPA students trust?



(statistics gathered from 58 people)

Browsing the selection of newspapers, SIPA attendee Eric Maddigan and his friend compare layouts. "I think it's a neat idea to have papers from different schools on display," Maddigan said. | In between sessions, SIPA student Ashton Mullinax and a friend search for books to buy. "The book sale always has a great selection," Mullinax said. (Photos by Allison Killinger)



During the Soda City market, SIPA students Wade Fletcher and Malcom Tyson conduct an interview. "I love being able to go out into the field and do real interviews," Tyson said. | Looking through a newspaper, SIPA attendee Montana Murphy discusses the content with her friends. "Seeing other schools' publications is great for inspiration," Murphy said. | While teaching an activity during a social media session, SIPA student Hannah Gale answers a question. "It's important to have an established social media presence to make your publication known," Gale said. (Photos by Allison Killinger)

