

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Lies, Facts, Truth, and Consequences

How can you tell the difference between a lie and the truth?

I will start with a simple example:

- **Claim:** The people in Gaza have no water to drink
 - **Fact:** Without water, people live about 2 days.
 - **Fact:** The about 2 million people living in Gaza are not dead after 30 days.
 - **Truth:** The people of Gaza have water to drink.
 - **Consequence:** The people saying the lie should not be believed anymore.

If you cannot see this, open your eyes.

Another example

That was fun... let's try again.

On the right is a picture taken from Gaza in the last few days and put online by Al Jazeera. See the people doing cleanup duty? According to Scientific American (Nov 8, 2004), almost nobody survives without eating for 30 days.

- **Claim:** The people of Gaza are starving to death.
 - **Fact:** Without food people live about a month.
 - **Fact:** The 2 million people of Gaza are not dead or almost dead after 30 days.
 - **Truth:** The people of Gaza have food to eat.
 - **Consequence:** The people saying the lie should not be believed anymore.



Shall we go on?

False facts you can find easily if you just look are rampant. Try these claims about Gaza:

- Gaza has no fuel.
- Gaza has no electricity.
- Identify other claims for yourself... look at every claim from every side.

If you look at each of these and every other claim being made in the popular media, you should be able to sort it out by this simple method:

1. Identify the claim of fact ignoring the emotional content.
2. Find and examine relevant facts that could refute the claim – demonstrate it is false.
3. If the claims are refuted, they are false, and after identified as false, if repeated, a lie.

Who are you going to believe? Me or your lying eyes?

Now I used Gaza as an example because it is so rampant and apparent in the news today. All you have to do is see what you are looking at to tell that the things being said are lies. But this is hardly the first or only example of obvious lies told every day and widely believed.

But here is the trick

Once you identify a lie:

- **Identify the source AND**
 - **Do not believe them any more**

It's pretty tricky, I admit that. Because many people are telling what they believe to be the truth. That's why it's important to identify the claims without the emotion and ...

Victims of lies

It's also important to recognize the difference between a lie and a victim of a lie. The liar knows they are lying, while the victim of a lie merely repeats what they believe to be true.

We are all victims of lies, and should recognize it in ourselves as in others. We are lied to and we lie to ourselves, even though we should know better. Emotions tend to do that. And that's why it's so important to identify the claims and take out the emotions.

The facts applied to the claims should also be done with as little emotion as you can muster. It's hard to sort out facts when you feel hurt. And we should all feel hurt by the pain of others. Except of course not all of us do. Propaganda and disinformation are intended to cause us to not be able to sort out emotions and look for facts.

Yo – the media – stop it

People in the public media are professionals. It is their job, and they are paid for it. If they claim to be news, their job is to sort out the facts and the claims and report to the rest of us on what is actually going on. It is their job to separate opinion from fact, to separate emotion from logic, and to overcome the propaganda and disinformation for us.

Just kidding... Really, their job is to make money for themselves by making money for the companies they work for.

The way they make money is by triggering emotional responses in us to keep us watching so we stay and watch the commercials, because the advertisers pay them to do it.

However, they should be able to tell the difference between having no fuel and being able to use heavy equipment to clear out damaged buildings. And they should be able to tell that the pictures they are showing are taken from cell phones that use batteries that get recharged from a power source that uses fuel. And they should be able to tell the difference between living and dead people when the people are walking around. And they should be able to tell the difference between starving people and well-fed people. And... and... and...

Conclusions

It takes a very small amount of critical thinking to identify the obvious lies being put in front of you. But as a general rule, we don't do that. And we should. Open your eyes and ears, find the lies, and stop believing the liars.