Types of Fake News

According to Melissa Zimdars at Merrimack College, there are a number of categories of fake news. Here are some to look out for:

**Fake News:** These are news sources that publish articles that spread falsehoods. They may do so for a number of reasons, and may include some accurate news on their site to appear credible. Fake News is often shared on social media sites, and rely on either outraging the reader or confirming their suspicions.

**Satire:** One effective way of commenting on political or cultural events is through satire. These articles are not true, but are not designed to mislead you for more than a moment. They should include disclaimers on their website, often in the header or on their "About Us" page.

**Extreme Bias:** Some sites will use pieces of accurate information and discard other accurate information that may disprove their point or provide another point of view. Even though they use some factual information, they are still unreliable sources of information due to their limited scope.

**Clickbait:** Articles that use a shocking headline to drive traffic to their site are considered clickbait. Often, these headlines are not even supported by the article they link to, and may be about a completely different subject. Clickbait generates significant advertising revenue for the website due to the high volume of clicks.

**Conspiracy:** Websites that include fake news may also try to link unrelated events together to prove that there is a conspiracy. They often rely on the argument that "It hasn't been disproved, so it must be true." Find positive evidence before believing these types of claims.

**State News (Propaganda):** States may produce their own misinformation in order to maintain control of a country, or give power to a leader. Any news source that is produced, published, or written by the government or politician should be verified by an external and unbiased source.