Name:

## Assignment: Thinking Critically About Authority--When Authorities Disagree (1)

For this assignment, you will evaluate arguments from two people of comparable authority who disagree on a topic. The assignment is worth 50 points. Refer to the rubric to understand the grading criteria and expectations. This assignment is due in Module 2.

### Instructions

To complete this assignment, read the two articles listed below. Both articles acknowledge problems of social media but reached a different conclusion.

Summarize the main points of each article, including the conclusion reached, and answer the following questions. To investigate the authority of each author:

1. Follow his or her article profile link and, if available, academic institution link. Note that the articles listed within The Conversation are just for that publication.
2. Search for the author’s background and publication~~s~~ record through Google and/or Google Scholar.
3. Search your library catalog for other articles by the author.

### Articles

Romzek, Barbara, et al. “Social Media Companies Should Ditch Clickbait, and Compete over Trustworthiness.” The Conversation, The Conversation, 23 July 2018, theconversation.com/social-media-companies-should-ditch-clickbait-and-compete-over-trustworthiness-88827.

<https://theconversation.com/social-media-companies-should-ditch-clickbait-and-compete-over-trustworthiness88827>

Garrett, R. Kelly. “Facebook’s Problem is More Complicated Than Fake News.” *The Conversation,* The Conversation, 24 July 2018, https://theconversation.com/facebooks-problem-is-more-complicated-than-fake-news-68886.

<https://theconversation.com/facebooks-problem-is-more-complicated-than-fake-news-68886>

1. Based on the following, what is the authority of each author? Provide the details for each prompt.

### Author of article 1

* Education
* Experience/Job Title
* Most recent publication on the topic
* Number of Publications by Author
* Years in the field

### Author of article 2

* Education
* Experience/Job Title
* Most recent publication on the topic
* Number of Publications by Author
* Years in the field

2. What are the **main points** supporting each argument, and what **conclusion** was reached?

### Article 1:

### Article 2:

3. In what type of publication does the article appear (scholarly journal, magazine, trade publication, etc.)?

### Article 1:

### Article 2:

4. Does each expert provide data on the topic? Where did the data come from? How were the data collected?

### Article 1:

### Article 2:

5. What are some possible reasons that people with comparable authority on a subject might come to different conclusions?

6. What are some ways you might be able to determine which author has more authority (e.g., seek out more information from other experts)?

(1) Content by Florida State College at Jacksonville is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).