



# **SPECIAL REPORT**

## **FACT CHECKING THE “OPINIONS” OF FACT-CHECKERS**

### **“SNOPES – COVID 19 CASE”**

Deep societal divisions in the United States over political views has never been more damaging to the nation than in recent years. The nation is essentially divided 50/50 with neither side able to effectively communicate with the other. This is the result of the two sides working with two contrary sets of “facts.”

Fundamentally, a “FACT” is a thing that is known or proved to be true, the significance of something that is the case. It’s not ambiguous or negotiable. It is known by the sum of evidence available for absolute confirmation.

An “OPINION” is a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge, or supported by any real evidence. An opinion can be based strictly on what someone wants to be true, even when all evidence says it’s false. An opinion is often based on how someone “feels” about a subject matter, rather than any associated facts.

Today, far too many Americans address issues facing the nation on the basis of favorable opinions, rather than any set of proven facts. This is not unique to either side of the socio-political divisions in America. Both sides demonstrate a tendency to base their “facts” on the “opinions” of others whom they tend to agree with, ideologically.

As a result, both sides are unable to consider any real facts that are at odds with their chosen belief structure -- their “facts” based on the “opinions” of someone else, often someone who has established themselves as a gatekeeper of truth, a “fact-checker” or “debunker.”

With increasing regularity, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are engaging in a new form of censorship called “fact-checking.” Whatever these social media company operators decide is “FALSE” is FALSE, at least in the management of their platforms. The fact-checkers or debunkers who make these decisions hold no special qualifications to determine what is or isn’t true and in reality, that isn’t even the goal of fact-checking.

The goal of fact-checking (debunking) is to control the flow of information to the general public. The art of debunking or fact-checking, follows a strict set of four rules designed to achieve the real goal, preventing specific types of information from reaching or spreading throughout the general population, in favor of “more desirable content.”

### **DEBUNKER – FACT-CHECKER RULES**

1. Stick to the approved narrative, don't discuss facts
2. Don't tell the people what they don't know
3. Research by proclamation, not investigation
4. When you can't attack the facts, attack the person

The objective is to silence the “undesirable” content. Political operatives and modern journalists refer to the “desirable content” as “the noble truth.” The “noble truth” is not based on truth or fact, but rather upon a reality they are trying to create by debunking “truth” and promoting the “noble truth,” desirable content.

There used to be a difference between urban legend “debunkers” and real “fact-checkers.” The task of a debunker is to discredit something or someone, without any regard for whether or not the something or someone is factually correct. A real “fact-checker” is supposed to allow real investigative work, using real facts, to result in real truth, without any regard for who or what the real truth may favor.

Today, they are one in the same and both operate on “debunker's” rules and tactics... allow the agenda to drive the facts and result in a “noble truth,” not the real truth. The most powerful tool of the modern debunker (aka fact-checker) is ridicule... Proclaim the truth without any regard for the facts and ridicule anyone who dares to disagree.

We have fact-checkers (debunkers) everywhere now. In fact, probably a large part of our population is now a fact-checker of some form. In the sea of competing ideas, controlling the narrative on the broad span requires not only promoting the desirable noble truth, but also silencing any competing information by declaring it FALSE and therefore, undesirable, and “violate community standards.”

There are numerous “fact-checking” organizations out there today, ALL of them political operative organizations. Who are these fact-checkers? What are their special qualifications? What are these gatekeepers of reality, really?

This report looks at one popular fact-checking operation that is used by journalists, politicians and even our courts, as a valid source for “truth,” SNOPEs, the famed Urban Legend Debunking site operated by a left-leaning husband and wife team since 1994.

We are using a current issue, COVID 19, as a prime example of how fact-checking really works and why no one should rely on any fact-checking operation as the gatekeeper of truth in America.

The game is “word parsing” and in the case of our legal professionals, “wordsmithing.” Creating new words, or new definitions for old words, in order to alter the meaning of historical truths.

### **EXAMPLE #1 – SNOPEs OPINION ON 1866 "Ex parte Milligan" CASE**

In the [Ex parte Milligan case \(1866\)](#) before the United States Supreme Court, the court issued a ruling based upon a foundational constitutional fact which still stands today –

**“Neither the legislature nor any executive or judicial officer may disregard the provisions on the Constitution in case of emergency.”** - [Ex parte Milligan case \(1866\)](#)

Clearly, there is nothing at all ambiguous about the plain English statement by the Supreme Court of this land and nothing has changed since. In fact, due to this language, nothing can ever change on this matter, because this ruling clearly establishes that no political office in any branch of government has any authority to change or alter it.

Still, when citizens brought this ruling forward as one of many challenges to governmental authority to strip every healthy American of their most fundamental rights and liberties under the guise of a COVID 19 pandemic, SNOPEs issued the following report in their effort to “debunk” the very language and intent of the Ex parte Milligan ruling.

### **SNOPEs OPINION – THE WORD PARSING**

[SNOPEs declared the Ex parte Milligan ruling “FALSE”](#) and moot as it pertains to the right of government officials to strip American citizens of their fundamental rights and liberties under the guise of a State of Emergency.

Because SNOPEs could not deny the existence, text or intent of [Ex parte Milligan](#), they had to develop a logical argument to render the ruling moot in the matter of governmental abuses of power in denying Americans their rights and liberties due to COVID 19. SNOPEs had to parse words to create the appearance, that the Milligan case had no bearing on COVID 19 emergency powers.

In short, [SNOPEs claims](#) that because the Milligan case (1866) does not mention “social distancing” in the text, the ruling doesn’t apply to social distancing today. Of course, in 1866, social distancing existed in the form of “quarantine” during health threats present during that time. However, quarantine powers of government, then and now, pertains only to isolation of the sick, not the healthy.

**Had SNOPEs asked the real question at hand** -- *does any governmental body or officer hold the power to infringe upon the basic constitutionally protected rights and liberties of the people under a state of emergency?* -- Even SNOPEs would have been forced to answer that question, NO, according to the Milligan case ruling, rendering the Milligan argument against governmental power TRUE, not false.

So, instead, SNOPEs asked and answered a different question – *Does the 1866 case mention or apply to “social distancing?”* – and of course, it makes no specific mention... it was 1866. The careful and purposeful parsing of words by SNOPEs, asking the wrong question, totally at odds with the text and intent of the actual ruling, allowed SNOPEs to stamp FALSE on the TRUE Milligan argument.

Then, the new standard for “truth in journalism,” news outlets like [USA Today quote the SNOPEs opinion](#) as their “proof” that the Milligan case is moot on the matter, the public reads it and people who believe SNOPEs and USA Today because they like them, share it all over social media and BINGO, we have a new truth, a “noble truth” that is factually entirely FALSE.

**FACTUAL TRUTH** – Ex parte Milligan (1866) still stands and applies today, because the ruling itself, made it impossible for anyone in government to ever change it.

**SNOPEs - FALSE**

### **EXAMPLE #2 – SNOPEs OPINION ON THE 8/26/20 CDC REPORT**

On August 26, 2020 – after more than six-months of nationwide government mandated wreckage from the total shutdown of the U.S. economy on the basis of over 160,000 “alleged” COVID deaths, the CDC issued its [weekly update](#) on COVID, wherein the CDC finally admitted that [only 6% of all deaths marked COVID over the past six-months, were deaths by COVID alone](#).

[According to that CDC Report](#), 94% of all COVID marked deaths were already dying of 2.6 (average) other life-threatening illnesses, the vast majority of them at a very advanced age, most of them in nursing homes.

Once again, in their agenda driven effort to “debunk” those who were shocked and angered by this earthshattering news from the CDC, SNOPEs takes their standard word-parsing approach to the subject to achieve the debunkers sole agenda... bury the truth in favor of the “noble truth.”

Here again, because SNOPEs could not deny the existence of the CDC Report, or what is stated and meant in it, SNOPEs had to address the issue a different way to achieve their agenda goal of declaring the matter FALSE... *(NOTE: The “noble truth” is an outright lie)*

**SNOPEs writer Jessica Lee posed the question this way – [“Did CDC ‘Quietly Update’ COVID-19 Deaths To Say Only 6% Are Legitimate?”](#)**

First, no one ever made the claim that only the 6% of COVID deaths were “legitimate” deaths. So, Ms. Lee based her entire story on a “strawman” accusation that no one ever made. Then, the word parsing continues on that basis.

What the CDC Report really reveals is that for six-months of nation-wrecking, the CDC and government officials were telling Americans that over 160,000 people died of COVID 19, when in fact, 94% of those deaths were due to other causes, on average, 2.6 other causes per patient. Of the 160,000 deaths recorded as COVID deaths, only approximately 9600 of those deaths were directly and solely related to COVID 19.

There is no avoiding the reality that it’s totally insane we ever shut the entire country down for even 160,000 COVID deaths (.04%), the level of insanity that would shut an entire country down for an entire year over 9600 (.0029%) virus deaths by COVID is off the charts! Even more insane that we still allow this to continue today!

Because this very (six-month late) breaking news from the CDC is causing a massive public backlash against all the politicians involved in the unprecedented fraudulent shutdown of our entire country, SNOPEs, doing its job as a left-wing pro-government debunking site, had to find a way to settle the nerves of even left-wing voters that are currently shifting away from democrats towards republicans in the polls.

**Word-parsing was the strategy, again...** finding the “noble truth” that would allow SNOPEs and everyone who quotes SNOPEs as a reliable gatekeeper of fact and truth, to stay the course and hold the nation on lockdown until there is no nation left to reopen.

However, this time, mere word-parsing wouldn't work, as the CDC Report was simply just too damning and public, to overcome by just altering the meaning of the report that had a very clear meaning to anyone with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading comprehension skill or better.

**So, Ms. Lee and SNOPEs immediately resorted to the most powerful weapon in the debunker's arsenal, [ridicule](#)...**

EVERYONE who read and understood the CDC Report correctly, was now labeled by Lee and SNOPEs as a “[conspiracy theorist](#).” In other words, there's no legitimate way to counter the information stated by the CDC, so if you can't discredit the facts, you have to discredit the fact tellers.

“Many believers, including *conspiracy theorist* Jeff Berwick, dubbed the alleged change by the CDC evidence that people other than his followers were exaggerating the seriousness of the pandemic, and that everyone should be skeptical of rules on social distancing that halt the economy.” [Jessica Lee, SNOPEs](#)

“The Gateway Pundit page claimed, “the overwhelming majority” of reported COVID-19 deaths were among “very old Americans” — without going into specifics on what age population that meant — and suggested nefarious intentions on the part of the CDC to try to change its guidance without anyone noticing.” [Jessica Lee, SNOPEs](#)

Now that everyone who read, understood and shares the CDC Report as truth is labeled a “conspiracy theorist” by Lee and SNOPEs, that's all their minions in the media, courts and social media need to entirely discount not only those posting the CDC Report, but the CDC Report itself.

**No longer is it relevant that the CDC lied to the American people for six-months of a nation wrecking shutdown, massive fearmongering and added social shaming, once again dividing the nation into two camps that distrust and hate each other.**

**FACTUAL TRUTH** – The Government lied for six-months about the REAL causes of death for more than 160,000 citizens and destroyed an entire nation by doing so. The REAL number was 9600.

**SNOPEs – FALSE** (*Jessica Lee has no background in medicine, science or law*)

But it's all officially labeled “conspiracy theory” by SNOPEs now... so what else is there to talk about?

**How about, WHO and WHAT is SNOPEs?**

SNOPEs started in 1994 as a “URBAN LEGEND” debunking site by husband and wife [David and Barbara Mikkelson](#). It was originally nothing more than a personal vanity page where the couple enjoyed posting their opinions on numerous urban legends as a form of entertainment for themselves and urban legend fans, in other words, “conspiracy theorists.”

SNOPES is actually still a mere “urban legends” site today. But for some strange reason, the news media, courts, and millions of left-leaning fans believe that Mikkelson and his growing cadre of totally unqualified “fact-checkers” (debunkers) are a reliable source for truth, justice and the American way... kind of like the comic book superheroes that Mikkelson and his fans grew up on.

Since 1994, the site and couple were largely funded by advertisers on the site, at least until recently.

In 2016, just in time for the Trump campaign, that changed... in 2016, SNOPES received an award of \$75,000 from the [James Randi Educational Foundation](#), an organization formed to debunk paranormal claims. In 2017, it raised approximately \$700,000 from a crowd-sourced GoFundMe effort and received \$100,000 from Facebook as a part of a fact-checking partnership.

All the way back in 2009, another trusted gatekeeper of truth, FactCheck.org, reviewed a sample of Snopes' responses to political rumors regarding George W. Bush, Sarah Palin, and Barack Obama, and found them to be “free from bias in all cases.” We found it interesting that a competitor “fact-checking” site would endorse another...

It wasn't so odd after all... [Factcheck.org belongs to the Annenberg Public Policy Center](#). Yes, the same center that trained and paid Barack Obama as a “community organizer” for left-wing agenda items. *More about Factcheck.org and the Annenberg Project another time.*

But it's very safe to say that SNOPES and Factcheck.org are both mere politically motivated left-wing public policy communications networks that exist for the sole purpose of controlling public access to information, public opinion. It's also extremely easy to prove that there is nothing “unbiased” – fair, balanced, fact-driven, honest, decent, or trustworthy about any of these so-called “fact-checkers.”

When you want to know any FACTS, check them yourself. Rely on no one else to tell you what truth or reality is... or even what the true meaning of IS is... (lawyer wordsmithing) Verify this report yourself, it's all accurate and true. **Today, ALL U.S. News is “fake news” due to the sources they use.**

In any democratic system of self-governance, wherein all political power rests with the people themselves, NOTHING is more critical than the ability of the people at large, to have unfettered access to reality. A society that makes its political decisions on the basis of “fake news” is doomed to failure, no matter which side of the political aisle you think you belong on.

If you are on that side because of bad information, then you are on the wrong side! Sooner or later, that will cost us all everything!

**In the arena of modern day factchecking.... ALL OF THE FACTCHECKERS FAIL!**

But the truth, reality, does exist. You just have to be willing to investigate for yourself, relying on facts, not opinions, and on first source information, not 3<sup>rd</sup> party information. The future of our nation and way of life depends on this... don't let us down. **DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK. WORK IN FACTS!**

*This is a Special Report researched and prepared by The North American Law Center, an investigative research group committed to uphold, protecting, and preserving the foundations of freedom, liberty and justice for all, as protected by our Charters of Freedom. TNALC.org*