M **Gmail**   **Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>**

IFCN error reporting Pew Research findings
3 messages

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>   Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 2:24 PM
To: tips@poynter.org

Dear Poynter Institute,

A July 3, 2019 IFCN article by Daniela Flamini features careless reporting about a Pew Research survey.

Flamini reported:

> Almost half of Americans believe that fact-checkers are biased, and the majority of these skeptics are Republican.

Flamini apparently overlooked the demographics of the report. While it's true that nearly 70 percent of Republicans believe fact checkers favor one side, Pew Research shows Republicans as a smaller group than either Independents or Democrats. As I showed in a response to Flamini's post, it appears Republicans make up a minority of the skeptical population. If the math may be made to support Flamini's claim then somebody should take the time to do it. Otherwise, a correction or clarification is in order (it might be claimed a plurality may be called a "majority," though that seems misleading in this context).

In the third paragraph, Flamini claims "exactly half" of Americans believe fact checkers are unbiased (that is, do not favor one side). Flamini's language encourages misunderstanding about the reliability of polling. Any margin of error for a survey should discourage a journalist from suggesting the survey figures are exact. Simply saying "half" should have sufficed.

Fact checkers care about accuracy, correct?

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
editor
zebrafactcheck.com

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>   Fri, Aug 9, 2019 at 3:47 PM
To: International Fact-Checking Network <factchecknet@poynter.org>, Baybars Orsek <baybars@poynter.org>

I am forwarding this message sent to the "tips" address at Poynter, which I obtained through a prominent search result while trying to find the best means to report an error to Poynter.

Poynter ought to have a better description of how to report an error, assuming the instructions and email address I used are out of date. Archived pages should point readers toward the current pages Poynter uses to cover its ethical procedures.

Cheers.
[Quoted text hidden]

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>   Tue, Aug 13, 2019 at 1:15 PM
To: International Fact-Checking Network <factchecknet@poynter.org>, Baybars Orsek <baybars@poynter.org>,
info@poynter.org, webstaff@poynter.org

(one last try, adding link to the article this time)

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