

# Appendix (G5D10)

*“For in a treacherous world  
nothing is truth nor lies:  
all depends on the colour  
of the glass through which we look.”*

**Ramón de Campoamor (1846)**

## SCALE OF CERTAINTIES<sup>1</sup>

- a) Everyone I meet tomorrow will be wearing a face mask.
- b) Tomorrow I will have salad for lunch.
- c) I will never die.
- d) Extraterrestrial life exists.
- e) A coronavirus vaccine will be discovered tomorrow.
- f) Barça will win the Spanish league.
- g) I will win an all expenses paid weekend at Disneyland Paris.
- h) If I toss a coin it will come up heads.
- i) The global temperature of the planet will continue to rise.
- j) Tomorrow I will get up at the same time as today.

**Where would you place the above propositions on this table in order of their certainty?**

VERY CERTAIN		
Propositions	Why?	Type of truthfulness argument
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
NOT AT ALL CERTAIN		

**We essentially use four types of argument to determine the certainty of information:**

**Authority:** It is true because a reliable person or institution asserts it. For example: “The car won’t start because the mechanic says it needs fixing”.

**Model:** It is true because it corresponds to what we know about why things happen. For example: “The car won’t start because it has a locking device which can only be deactivated by inserting the ignition key”.

**Data:** It is true because it is supported by data or statistics. For example: “86% of cars won’t start even if the contacts are hotwired”.

**Habits:** It is true because it is the typical dynamic. For example: “In films you always see that cars start when they are hotwired”.

The scale of certainties is an original idea from the [CalamarsGegants node of Betacamp17](#), subsequently developed by [Jordi Domènech](#) and adapted from the [Myth Hunters node of Betacamp19](#)

## Main information manipulation strategies <sup>2</sup>

- Invented content.
- Audiovisual content with the original doctored.
- Presented as a different time or place.
- Headline does not reflect the contents of the news item.
- Relevant information omitted.
- Opinion presented as fact.
- Use of anecdotes presented as a general rule.
- Use of assertions by "pseudo-experts".
- Use of messages from unprofessional sources (blogs, social media...).
- Use of humour, parody or satire as if it were real news.

<sup>2</sup>This table forms part of the output of the [Myth Hunters node of Betacamp19](#), which provided our inspiration in devising this dynamic.

## Ten rules of the campaign produced by FORTA (Federation of Spanish Autonomous Regions Radio and Television Organisations)

**FAKE NEWS: IF IN DOUBT, DON'T SHARE**  
10 tips to spot fake news

- 1 | THE HEADLINE**  
Truth is stranger than fiction... just sometimes.  
The headlines of fake news are typically very striking, and hard to believe.
- 2 | THE AUTHOR**  
If the news is not signed, that could be suspicious.  
Fake news is typically anonymous.
- 3 | THE SOURCE AND MEDIA CHANNEL**  
Fake news typically comes from unknown media sources, that you will often never have heard of.
- 4 | THE EXCLUSIVITY**  
If the news is genuine it will normally not be exclusive and is likely to be reflected in different media outlets.
- 5 | THE FORMAT**  
Fake news typically has a different format, with excessively striking colours and font sizes...
- 6 | THE DATE**  
Fake news overlooks this aspect, with past dates or no date information.
- 7 | THE WRITING**  
If the information contains spelling and punctuation errors... Be wary.
- 8 | THE IMAGES AND VIDEOS**  
Fake news uses images taken out of context or with excessive doctored, defects, poor quality...
- 9 | THE LINKS**  
Fake news simulates the URLs of regular media, but the links normally don't work and give an error message.
- 10 | THE FACTS**  
Fake publications refer to facts, data... that are difficult to verify.