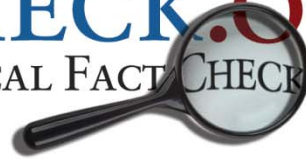




FACTCHECK.ORG
ANNENBERG POLITICAL FACT CHECK



JUST THE FACTS

TITLE: "EPISODE #1"

EPISODE #: 1

HOST

Welcome to the first episode of Just the Facts, our new weekly vid-cast from FactCheck.org. I'm Emi Kolawole.

If you're a regular visitor to FactCheck, you already know we're an equal-opportunity fact-checker. We don't care which side is hauling the hooey – we check 'em all and call 'em the way we see 'em – as fairly and evenly as we know how. And there is plenty of hooey to go around. This year, we've found debate deceptions, chain mail myths, TV-commercial malarkey and mailer mendacities.

Now, we've come a long way since our launch in 2003, with new features like FactCheck Mobile, Ask FactCheck and our Fact of the Day. And we've even added a website just for teachers called FactCheckED.org. Now, with Just the Facts, you can get a quick summary of what we've dug up. We'll post it every Friday morning, and if it's a slow week for political prevarications, we'll offer a "classroom edition" featuring tips on how to dig out deceptions on your own.

GRAPHIC: ARTICLE MONTAGE

HOST

Here's what you can expect: when Mike Huckabee claimed he'd cut taxes even though they went up, when John Edwards claimed polls showed him the only one able to beat every single Republican though they really showed Clinton or Obama could beat them all too, when Rudy Giuliani claimed New York crime was at a record high, though it actually had been declining for years *before* he became mayor, or when Barack Obama used doctored newspaper quotes in his ads –we de-bunked them all.

We also keep an eye on our inbox – whether dubious claims are invading the Internet or slinking through the snail mail we've got an eye on them. For example, that chain e-mail, claiming Barack Obama is a racist Christian and a radical Muslim? Not only does that defy logic, we found it to be false on both counts.

GRAPHIC: MCCAIN MAILER/FACTCHECK ARTICLE

HOST

And if you're in South Carolina, this flier from John McCain may have landed in your mailbox. We found it made misleading claims about Republican rival Mitt Romney. We also keep an eye on the debates, — lots and lots of debates. Whether they're at Dartmouth, or in Vegas, or pleading for votes in the Palmetto state — we are there. Check out this claim made by Hillary Clinton about Barack Obama in the CNN debate from January 21st:

VIDEO: CNN SOUTH CAROLINA DEBATE

SEN. HILLARY CLINTON

The Facts are that he has said in the last week that he really liked the ideas of the Republicans over the last 10 to 15 years.

HOST

We found that Senator Obama *actually* said that the “Republican approach has played itself out,” He praised Republicans for *having* ideas, but *didn't* say he *approved* of their ideas, and certainly didn't endorse private Social Security accounts or deficit spending. Clinton was just wrong to suggest that.

We're checking the online video world too — so YouTube misleaders beware. For example, we found Senator Clinton is a victim of a false smear video that's been seen by close to 4 million people. It's a perfect example of fact-twisting.

These are the types of stories we cover at FactCheck.org, and here on Just the Facts we look forward to getting you a brief summary of our findings every week.

Now that you know what we're about and what to expect, we hope you enjoy this new addition to the FactCheck.org family. And when you want more details, or links to additional sources, check out our website at www.factcheck.org. Thanks for watching. I'm Emi Kolawole. See you next week.