

## The Differences On Fake News Then and Now

Thomas Jefferson famously said once, “were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government.” Jefferson worried about false opinions and facts being spread about the government from the newspaper. Even back when our only source of media was newspapers our founding fathers worried about the spread of false information. Today there are many news outlet, and social media sources that spread false news. But even back in the 1780’s our founding fathers worried about the spread of false information.

Thomas Jefferson worried about false information and false opinions being shared. The false facts lead to a threat to the government so he both rejoiced “the public judgment will correct false reasonings and opinions, on a full hearing of all parties.” Jefferson also recommended that state officials use “the salutary coercions of the law” against “false and defamatory publications.”

In 1735 John Peters Zenger was charged with seditious libel for publishing criticism to the Royal governor. His lawyer Alexander Hamilton went to the jury and fought for the freedom of speech. In 1787, the first 85 essays were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay talked about the freedom of press and appeared in the New York independent journals. The reason for this was because people like John Peter Ziegler fought for the freedom of speech but the journals were written to limit what they could say. The relationship from then to now is that people fight for the right of speech, but today we abuse that right.

Today there are media sources and different news channels and the Internet that all tell us a different story. For example, back when the TV was first invented they would just tell the news. But it wasn’t all day it was only for a certain amount of time. Today, the news is all entertainment and it’s on 24 hours.

In conclusion, back in the day people would sometimes receive a warning and they were told to stop spreading false accusations. Back in the day they were trying to stop that false

information before anyone would believe them. But today there's just so many different kinds of false news. Today when someone releases a piece of false information, that we know it's false it should immediately be taken off of the Internet or whatever source it's on to stop the spread of false information. Just like how you would receive a warning if you spread false information in the 1700's. It needs to be monitored carefully so we can stop spreading that false information.