

3.2.11

Name Randy Alblitt
Date _____ Per. 5

Fox News Viewers Are The Most Misinformed: Study

First Posted: 12-17-10 09:42 AM | Updated: 12-17-10 04:49 PM

UPDATE: Fox News senior vice president for news Michael Clemente has responded to the study which found that his network's viewers are more misinformed about American political issues than any other channel. In a statement to the New York Times' Brian Stelter, Clemente disparaged the University of Maryland, where the study was done.

"The latest Princeton Review ranked the University of Maryland among the top schools for having 'Students Who Study The Least' and being the 'Best Party School' - given these fine academic distinctions, we'll regard the study with the same level of veracity it was researched with," Clemente said.

"For the record, the Princeton Review says the University of Maryland ranks among the 'Best Northeastern Colleges,' Stelter notes. "It was No. 19 on the Review's list of 'Best Party Schools.'"

ORIGINAL POST: Fox News viewers are much more likely than others to believe false information about American politics, a new study concludes.

The study, conducted by the University of Maryland, judged how likely consumers of various news outlets and publications were to believe misinformation about a wide range of political issues. Overall, 90% of respondents said they felt they had heard false information being given to them during the 2010 election campaign. However, while consumers of just about every news outlet believed some information that was false, the study found that Fox News viewers, regardless of political information, were "significantly more likely" to believe that:

- Most economists estimate the stimulus caused job losses (12 points more likely)
- Most economists have estimated the health care law will worsen the deficit (31 points)
- The economy is getting worse (26 points)
- Most scientists do not agree that climate change is occurring (30 points)
- The stimulus legislation did not include any tax cuts (14 points)
- Their own income taxes have gone up (14 points)
- The auto bailout only occurred under Obama (13 points)
- When TARP came up for a vote most Republicans opposed it (12 points)
- And that it is not clear that Obama was born in the United States (31 points)

In addition, the study said, increased viewership of Fox News led to increased belief in these false stories.



<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/12/17/fox->

① A study done by the Univ. of Maryland shows that viewers of Fox News are more misinformed about American political issues than any other channel. ② Fox News put down the study by stating that it comes from a university that is rated one of the "Best Party Schools" in the nation.

③ Fox News viewers were $\frac{30}{\#}$ points more likely to believe that "most scientists do not agree that climate change is occurring" (which is a false belief). ④ Fox News viewers were $\frac{14}{\#}$ points more likely to believe that "their own income taxes have gone up" (which is a false belief: taxes are the lowest they have been in 50 years).

⑤ Fox News viewers were $\frac{31}{\#}$ points more likely to believe that it is not clear that Obama was Born in the U.S. (which is false because Obama was born in Hawaii).

⑥ The "bad guys" of WWII (the Axis Powers) were Germany, Italy, and Japan.

⑦ The Fourteen Points were suggestions of Pres. Woodrow Wilson.

⑧ In the U.S. Senate, the "talk, talk, talk" that keeps a bill from being voted on is called a filibuster. ⑨ The Senate plus the House of Representatives = Congress (the legislative branch).