

Appendix 1: Excerpts from news articles

Excerpt One

El Tiempo (secondary source)—published on August 15, 2016

A news article published this week by the *New York Times* shows that watery pits of mines of the neighboring country [Venezuela] are breeding ground for the mosquito that spreads malaria.

[...]

An important piece of information that the newspaper reports is that according to the World Health Organization, Venezuela was the first nation in the world to be certified for eradicating this **virus**, beating the United States and other developed countries to that milestone in 1961.

Available at: eltiempo.com/mundo/latinoamerica/reportaje-de-the-new-york-times-sobre-la-malaria-en-las-minas-de-venezuela-43819

The *New York Times* (primary source)—published on August 14, 2016

Venezuela was the first nation in the world to be certified by the World Health Organization for eradicating malaria in its most populated areas, beating the United States and other developed countries to that milestone in 1961.

Available at: nytimes.com/2016/08/15/world/venezuela-malaria-mines.html?_r=

False Scientific Information: *El Tiempo* used the term “virus” to refer to malaria. This scientific information is false for two reasons: (1) malaria is a protozoa not a virus, and (2) the *New York Times* did not use the term virus.

Excerpt Two

El Tiempo (secondary source)—published on August 15, 2016

A news article published this week by the *New York Times* shows that watery pits of mines of the neighboring country [Venezuela] are breeding ground for the mosquito that spreads malaria.

[...]

According to this newspaper, in the first six months of the year, malaria cases increased 72 percent. Moreover, according to the “Times”, “among the malaria strains present here is **Plasmodium Falciparum**, the parasite that causes the most fatal form of the disease”

Available at: eltiempo.com/mundo/latinoamerica/reportaje-de-the-new-york-times-sobre-la-malaria-en-las-minas-de-venezuela-43819

The *New York Times* (primary source)—published on August 14, 2016

In the first six months of the year, malaria cases rose 72 percent, to a total of 125,000, according to the figures. The disease cut a wide path through the country, with cases present in more than half of its 23 states. And among the malaria strains present here is *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite that causes the most fatal form of the disease.

Available at: nytimes.com/2016/08/15/world/venezuela-malaria-mines.html?_r=

Inaccurate Scientific Information: *El Tiempo* referred to *Plasmodium Falciparum*. This scientific information is inaccurate. One reason for this is that, in this case, and according to the rules of biological nomenclature, the term “falciparum” should be written in lowercase letters as the *New York Times* did. The most correct form would be *Plasmodium falciparum* (in italics).

Excerpt Three

El Tiempo (secondary source)—published on March 21, 2017

How does a Mars volcano **relate** to the extinction of dinosaurs?

Available at: eltiempo.com/vida/ciencia/volcan-en-marte-y-dinosaurios-en-la-tierra-habrian-extinto-al-tiempo-segun-estudio-de-la-nasa-69692

NASA (primary source)—published on March 20, 2017

Mars volcano, Earth’s dinosaurs went extinct about the same time.

Available at: nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/mars-volcano-earths-dinosaurs-went-extinct-about-the-same-time

Inaccurate Scientific Information: *El Tiempo* used a sensationalist headline. This headline might make (naïve) readers think that a volcano on Mars caused the extinction of the Earth's dinosaurs, and thus, they would become interested in reading this news article. NASA used a headline that introduces the reader more accurately to the content of the news article.

Excerpt Four

El Tiempo (secondary source)—published on September 9, 2016

Scientists at Harvard University (USA) presented a model that shows the resistance of bacteria to antibiotics designed to stop or eliminate them.

For their experiment, published this Friday in *Science*, the researchers created a **four-feet (122 centimeters)** long, **two-feet (61 centimeters)** wide rectangular “Petri” dish with nine horizontal compartments.

Available at: eltiempo.com/vida/ciencia/resistencia-bacteriana-a-los-antibioticos-29267

Science (primary source)—published on September 9, 2016

The microbial evolution and growth arena (MEGA-plate) consists of a rectangular acrylic dish, 120×60 cm, in which successive regions of black-colored agar containing different concentrations of antibiotics are overlaid by soft agar allowing bacterial motility.

Available at: science.sciencemag.org/content/353/6304/1147

False Scientific Information: *El Tiempo* wrote 122 x 61 cm. This scientific information is false. The reason for this is that in the primary source (*Science*) wrote that the dimension of the antibiotic landscape used in the experiment was 120×60 cm.