Media Script – resource

Person A: Have you seen this story about refugees? It says that our country is becoming overloaded with 'em. Blooming cheek! They're only coming over here to steal our jobs and claim our benefits.

Person B: Why do you think that?

Person A: It's common knowledge. They're only here for free handouts.

Person B: That's a bit extreme. I doubt they wanted to leave their country in the first place.

Person A: Of course they did! They get benefits, free healthcare with the NHS, free education, free housing. With all of these handouts, who wouldn't want to move here and scrounge off the system?

Person B: Scroungers? That's a bit harsh.

Person A: Well that's what they are. Charity begins at home. Fact!

Person B: Refugees are often forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries. Fact! If we don't step up and help, then many wouldn't survive. Fact!

Person A: So how come all I'm told is how bad it is for our country?

Person B: Because you are reading a lot of biased, far-right views or fake news.

Person A: How on Earth can it be fake news?!

Person B: Sometimes the stories may have *some* truth to them, like the photo of the refugee filled boat next to the so called 'news' story that you're talking about. But the stories aren't always completely accurate. The people writing them don't always check all of the facts before publishing the story, or they might exaggerate some of it. They might sway people to think the way they do. It's like saying that pineapple on a pizza is wrong. You might think so, but it's not a fact, it's just an opinion.

Person A: Rubbish! Pineapple on a pizza is a matter of *taste*. This is a matter of *fact*. There *are* refugees coming here to reap the benefits of free handouts. Just look at this Tweet, it'll tell you the same thing.

Person B: Oh, please don't tell me you believe everything you read on Twitter?

Person A: Of course I do, what's wrong with that? It's by the people, for the people.

Person B: Next, you'll be telling me you believe everything you read on Facebook too.

Person A: There are some really interesting stories and facts on Facebook

Person B: Facts?! Facebook and Instagram removed about 7 million posts during Covid because of the spread of fake news. Fake news, not facts. I can only imagine what harmful fake news has been spread about refugees!

Person A: Are you saying that refugees don't exist?

Person B: No. But there are so many reasons why it is vital for people to seek refuge and safety in another country. Some people believe everything they see in social media, then they end up forming an opinion without having all of the facts.

Person A: So are you saying that everything I read in the papers or on social media is false?

Person B: No, I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying, you can't believe *everything*. Yes, there may be some element of truth, but sometimes the facts are exaggerated or written in a bias way to sway an opinion. Just be mindful of what you're reading or hearing, that's all. A some of the time it *is* truth, but some of the time it's fake and that is when it can be damaging to others.