

EXAMPLE LONG FICTION STORY BASED ON RESEARCH

Prompt: Write a long imaginary story focused on a current event. Show the challenges that are faced and what happens as a result. Make sure that the story contains at least eight paragraphs and all the elements of a story. Provide at least three references and footnotes as needed. Use the MLA style.

TITLE OF THE STORY: Fake News

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Fake News

The planned trip to Antarctica would be a new experience for Kareem and Alex, as would be checking out some “fake news.” Six weeks ago, they had signed a contract with the MythBusters television show to check out a mysterious peak in the middle of the continent. Kareem was a petroleum geologist, and his wife, Alex, was a professional photojournalist. By the age of 32, Kareem had done research on every continent except Antarctica. Now he would have a complete set of continents, which was really almost the only reason he had agreed to make this trip. Nevertheless, there really was another reason. Kareem was hungry for novelty. He always secretly hoped that some day he and Alex would run into a truly astonishing story.

Indeed, the Antarctica trip had especially appealed to Kareem because some people were claiming that satellite photos revealed an alien pyramid on Antarctica.¹ The Internet was full of imaginative speculation like this and new theories. Interestingly, the theory about this mysterious pyramid was that extraterrestrials had built a huge base under the ice hundreds of years ago. This base had gone undetected until the invention of satellite surveillance. Ever the skeptic, Alex was not impressed by the weird photos on Google Earth. In her opinion, this was just another wild goose chase and the result of some good Photoshop work. Her husband agreed. "It's a daffy Internet hoax," Kareem said, "but they're paying us to check it out, so let's go check it out!"²

¹ "Carpinetti," 2016, p. 1

² "Traylor," 2017, p. 1

Once the two explorers had arrived at the designated location on Antarctica, they decked themselves out in high-tech, subzero outfits. Now, they were plowing across the snow in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). The sun was shining, and they were surrounded by a winter wonderland. Around noon, the GPS display showed that they were approaching the coordinates of the so-called pyramid or whatever it was. Kareem stopped the ATV. "Do you see anything yet?" Kareem asked his wife. Alex raised a pair of binoculars to her eyes. She replied, "Actually, yes, I do. I see something about 15 degrees to the right and maybe 2500 meters out." She started her video camera. As they closed in, they saw what appeared to be a *nunatak*, that is, a peak of rock sticking out above the glacier.³ It was covered in ice and snow. When the ATV was 100 meters from the peak, the ATV stopped and powered down. Alex asked, "Why are you stopping?" Kareem replied in a frustrated voice, "I didn't do anything. I swear!" Kareem restarted the motor and put it into reverse. He backed up the ATV. He shifted back into forward gear. When they returned to the original stopping point, the ATV shut down again. "This is nuts!" said an exasperated Kareem. "It will go every direction but forward!"

After looking at the mysterious Antarctica peak for a few minutes and seeing nothing worrisome or remarkable, Alex suggested, "Let's get out and have a look." After a nod from Kareem, they jumped down into the snow on either side of the vehicle and started to walk toward the peak. Alex started taking some still photos. "You can see why they think it's a pyramid," said Kareem. The two sides of the rock facing the explorers were perfectly smooth and white. Suddenly, a cracking noise reverberated around them. Alex asked, "What's that noise?" Kareem thought the sound was coming from the ice in front of and under them. They both stopped walking, and Alex started filming again. Almost immediately, a blue light appeared under the

3 "Nunatak," 2017, p. 1

snow, tracing a thin but intense line from where they stood to the leftmost corner of the pyramid. For half a minute neither person said anything. "Rocks don't do stuff like this," observed Alex, turning to face Kareem. "If this were a movie, we would be the idiots that followed that blue line and wished we hadn't."

Of course, Kareem really did want to follow the blue line and resolve the fake news reports about the pyramid in Antarctica. This was huge, and it was unbelievable, but it was also a problem. Basically, following strange lights in the middle of nowhere was not what they had agreed to do. They had friends and family back in the states. They didn't agree to risk their lives. They came to bust a myth, and that was what they were going to do. Quickly, he made a decision and announced it to Alex. "Alex, they can send the Marines out here to tangle with this thing. Let's get back in the tractor." They jumped back into the ATV and put on their seat-belts. Kareem started the motor and put the ATV in reverse. When he had enough space, he turned the vehicle around 180 degrees and headed back to the base station.

As they drove, Alex was wondering how to explain their Antarctic adventure to the Mythbusters people. Naturally, she was worried. She wanted Kareem to agree on the story they would tell. "What shall we tell them?" she asked. After thinking a bit, Kareem replied, "Let's tell them just as much of the truth as they can stand. We saw a big white rock, and it looked like a pyramid, but that was all. You can send them some photos. We can report our other observations to NASA when we get back stateside." Immediately, Alex agreed. She did not want any part of going back for a second look. Nonetheless, she hoped that her other photos and films would back up the rest of their tale at NASA.

When they were sitting in the warmth and comfort of the Antarctica research station, they told the Mythbusters representative about their day trip. "Yeah, that's about the size of it,"

Kareem concluded. Of course, the producer was especially eager to learn more details about what they saw when they got to the peak. She asked for more information. "We were kind of disappointed, actually," replied Alex, trying to look glum. Then she continued, "We're always kind of hoping something really quirky will turn up." Taking his turn, Kareem said, "I think it will make a great episode, but it probably won't do anything to shut up all those conspiracy theorists. I mean, seriously, *alien pyramids*?!"

After their interview with the Mythbusters representative had ended late in the evening, Kareem and Alex had said goodnight. Now, they were changing into their thermal pajamas to get ready for bed. Looking puzzled, Kareem asked, "Wasn't there something we wanted to remember to do when we got back to the states?" Alex replied, "Yeah, but I'm darned if I can remember what it was! I wish I had taken some meaningful photos. They just look like lots of snow!" Unfortunately, that was the truth as far as she knew it. Altering some photographs and films as well as the memory circuits in the brains of a couple of humanoids was a delicate procedure. Nevertheless, it was well within the technical capabilities of "The Visitors"!

Works Cited

- Carpinetti, Alfredo. "The Truth About The Mysterious 'Pyramid' Discovered In Antarctica." *IFL Science*, 27 Nov. 2016, <http://www.iflscience.com/editors-blog/the-truth-about-the-mysterious-pyramid-discovered-in-antarctica/>.
- "Nunatak," *Wikipedia*, 22 Jan. 2018, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nunatak>.
- Traylor, Dean. "Debunking the Pyramids of Antarctica Myth." *Owlcation*, 6 Ap. 2017, <https://owlcation.com/humanities/Debunking-the-Pyramids-of-Antarctica-myth>.