INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article first to try to understand the main ideas. Then, complete the article with the sentences A-E. THERE IS AN EXTRA SENTENCE.

The Echo Chamber: How Modern News Has Changed

In the modern digital landscape, the speed at which news travels has increased exponentially. While traditional news outlets relied on rigorous fact-checking and editorial review processes before publishing, modern digital platforms prioritize immediacy. **[1]** _____ Consequently, the line between verified journalism and unvetted rumor has become increasingly blurred.

One major driver of this shift is the click-driven business model of online media. Web publications depend on user engagement to generate ad revenue, which incentivizes dramatic and sensationalist headlines. **[2]** _____ As a result, sensational claims frequently go viral long before official investigations can take place or facts can be confirmed.

This rapid dissemination of unverified information creates significant challenges for readers trying to navigate the news. When individuals are exposed to conflicting reports across social media feeds, distinguishing reality from speculation requires critical analysis. **[3]** _____ Furthermore, cognitive tendencies like confirmation bias cause readers to accept claims that align with their existing beliefs without question.

To combat this issue, digital literacy experts advocate for active reading strategies. Rather than consuming headlines passively, readers are encouraged to verify sources, check publication dates, and seek out opposing viewpoints. **[4]** _____ Only by cultivating these critical habits can news consumers protect themselves from falling prey to misinformation.

Removed Sentences Options (A–E — One Extra Sentence):

- **A.** These platforms often publish breaking alerts within minutes of an incident occurring, leaving little time for thorough verification.

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- **B.** Readers should also take note of whether an article clearly distinguishes between objective facts and personal opinions.
- **C.** Most printed newspapers have completely stopped publishing daily editions due to rising operational costs. *(Distractor)*
- **D.** Such attention-grabbing titles are deliberately designed to provoke strong emotional reactions rather than convey balanced facts.
- **E.** Without these evaluation tools, audiences can easily mistake persuasive opinion pieces or viral rumors for established truth.

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