

- How it spreads.
- * Social media
- * Fake news webpages
- * Misleading memes or out of context content
- * Bot accounts & Troll farms
- * Psychological tactics using fear, emotional manipulation & echo chambers
- * Echo chamber - an environment where a person encounters info or opinions that reflect & reinforce their own.
- Fighting Disinformation
- * Individual Actions
- Think critically before sharing information
- Cross-check sources before sharing or believing a post
- Educate friends & family about media literacy
- Support real Journalism
- * Tech - Solutions
- Advocate for algorithms to flag or reduce disinformation on platforms
- Support fact-checking organizations

- Reproductive Rights
- Lies about abortion laws & fear-based narratives put women at risk.
- Marginalized communities
- LGBTQ + people, women, & racial minorities are often targeted with harmful fear-based lies.
- Truth Journalism
- Fake news weakens trust in real journalism & makes it hard for people to find reliable information.

Educational Resources:

- Books.
- The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread by Caitlin O'Connor & James Owen Weatherall
- Weapons of Math Destruction by Cathy O'Neil
- Documentaries.
- The Social Dilemma (Netflix)
- After Truth: Disinformation & the Cost of Fake News (HBO)
- Websites.
- Factcheck.org
- Factcheck.com
- Snopes
- MediaBias

- Free speech vs. Disinformation
- Free speech = opinions, debates & expressing ideas - even unpopular ones.
- Disinformation = spreading falsehoods to deceive, suppress votes, incite hate, or undermine facts.
- Examples
- Free speech: "I don't agree with vaccine mandates."
- Disinformation: "The COVID vaccine contains microchips controlled by Bill Gates!"

The Truth About Lies:

Understanding & Fighting Disinformation



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- How to Spot Disinformation:
- * Red Flags
- Emotional language
- Lack of credible sources
- Photos or videos that seem edited or out of context
- * Fact-checking Tools
- Websites like Snopes, PolitiFact, & Factcheck
- Reverse Image Source tools (Google, TinEye)
- * Check Sources
- Look for reliable, well-sourced reporting
- * Recognize Manipulation Tactics
- Fear-mongering
- Scapegoating
- Misquoting experts
- * Diversify your News Intake!!

"All lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes."

- Jonathan Swift

Together, we can fight for truth. Start by sharing this Zine!

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for the Free Zine Library

& how you can join

Operation Newsstand!

Media Literacy Basics:
 Questions to ask yourself when reading the news:
 1. Who is the source?
 Are they credible?
 2. What's their bias or motivation?
 3. Are there other sources reporting this story?
 4. Does it appeal to emotion over evidence?

The Impact of Disinformation:
 • Democracy & Elections.
 False claims manipulate voters, suppress turnout, & erode trust in fair elections.
 • Public Health.
 Vaccine misinformation, fake cures, & public health lies put lives at risk.
 • The Environment.
 Climate denial delays action while our planet suffers & corporations profit.

Who Benefits?
 • Corporations & Industry Lobbyists
 • Governments & Political Actors
 • Social media companies & news outlets
 • Cybercriminals & AI manipulators
 • Religious & Ideological groups
 Why Does it Work?
 • People trust what aligns with their beliefs
 • Fear spreads faster than facts
 • Corporations & big money depend on public confusion

Advocacy & Action
 • Advocate for stronger policies to regulate false advertising & disinformation online!
 • Support independent Journalism!!!
 • Push for our schools to teach media literacy!
 Organizations like First Draft, Media Matters, & PenAmerica are already fighting the good fight!
 • Check them out! *

* Election Lies & Jan 6 (2021) *
 Trumps "Stop the Steal" disinformation campaign fueled the Capitol attack, showing how false claims can incite violence.
 • "Grooming" Narrative Against LGBTQ+ People *
 Far-right groups falsely claim LGBTQ+ individuals & even teachers are "grooming" children, fueling hate & violence.

What is Disinformation?
 • Disinformation is FALSE information spread intentionally to deceive.
 • Differs from misinformation which is false information spread without intent to deceive.
 • Examples include political propaganda, AI-generated fake news, health misinformation, corporate lies, fake flyers & brochures, etc.

'Disinformation' In Action:
 • Covid-19 "Cures" *
 False claims about drinking bleach, ivermectin, & hydroxychloroquine spread rapidly, leading to hospitalizations & deaths.
 • Climate Denial For Profit *
 Fossil fuel companies spread doubt about climate change for decades to delay regulations & maximize profits.

Further Reading:
 • This Election Year, Fighting misinformation is messier and more important than ever - on www.apa.org
 • The Climate Deception Dossier - on www.ucsusa.org
 • Exxon Disputed Climate findings for years. Its scientists knew better - on news.harvard.edu
 • Vaccine misinformation outpaces efforts to counter it - on www.publichealth.columbia.edu