

"A 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!

Created with love & purpose by: claraquinn

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@ClaraQuinnZines

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*Echo chamber - an environment where a person encounters info or opinions that reflect & reinforce their own.

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!!!*

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!"

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.

The Truth About Lies:

Understanding & Fighting Disinformation

Written By: Clara Quinn

Educational Resources:

- Books:
 - The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread by Cailin 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

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

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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.

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[Further Reading:]
 • This Election Year, Fighting misinformation is messier and more important than ever - on www.apa.org
 • The Climate Deception Dossier - on www.ucusa.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

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! *

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.

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?

* 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.

Who Benefits?
 • Corporations & Industry Lobbyists
 • Governments & Political Actors
 • Social media Companies & News outlets
 • Cybercriminals & 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