

## Understanding Differences-AI Research Risks

### Understanding Misinformation, Disinformation, and AI Hallucination

This chart helps you understand the differences between misinformation, disinformation, and AI hallucinations—especially when conducting research for speeches. Use this as a guide to stay sharp and fact-check everything.

| Term             | What It Means                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Where It Comes From                            | Intent to Mislead? | Risk                                                                            |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Misinformation   | False or misleading information that is spread without the intent to deceive. It often comes from people who believe what they're sharing is true, but they haven't fact-checked it.                                                                                                                    | People sharing without checking                | No                 | You might unknowingly repeat bad info in a speech or cite an unreliable source. |
| Disinformation   | False or misleading content written by a real person or created using artificial intelligence (AI), often on purpose, to deceive or manipulate people. It can include fake news articles, deepfake videos, or made-up quotes that appear real.                                                          | Real person writing or using AI to create lies | Yes                | You may find fake quotes, stories, or images from sources that look real.       |
| AI Hallucination | AI hallucination is false or inaccurate information generated by an artificial intelligence tool, not on purpose, but because the AI system fills in gaps or guesses based on patterns in data, even when it's wrong. Hallucinations often sound confident and believable, even though they're made up. | The AI itself (e.g., ChatGPT)                  | No                 | If you don't double-check, you could cite fake authors, stats, or sources.      |

## **Examples**

- Misinformation: A friend shares a health tip on TikTok that turns out to be outdated or misinterpreted.
- Disinformation: A fake news site with an article quoting a doctor who doesn't exist, written by a real person or created by AI.
- AI Hallucination: ChatGPT confidently tells you that a study was published in a journal that doesn't actually exist.

## **Reflection Question**

Think about a time you read something online that turned out to be false. Which category did it fall into? How could lateral reading have helped you catch it?