



Handout: The Spread of Misinformation

TEACHER NOTE: to use this resource in your classroom - click 'file' and then click 'make a copy' to create your own Google Doc version to edit as needed and share with your students.

Warm-Up: *At the beginning of class, "free write" a response to the following question.*

Question:	Response:
How can the spread of false information be harmful to a society?	

Introduction: *View the video clip below and answer the questions.*

Video Clip1: Disinformation and Misinformation on the Internet	
How does Harold Feld define disinformation? What is an example of this?	
How does Harold Feld define misinformation? What is an example of this?	
What are the differences between disinformation, misinformation, and opinion?	
What are potential consequences of disinformation and misinformation?	

Brainstorm Activity: *Make a list of reasons why you think people believe and spread misinformation and disinformation. Include examples that you see in your life as you make your list.*

Why do people believe and spread misinformation and disinformation?

Exploration: Click on the links below to view the video clips. For each video take notes on the categories listed on the chart.

Videos	What factors contribute to the spread of false information?	What challenges do people face when dealing with misinformation?	What examples do you see in your own life?
Video Clip 2: News Literacy Skills and Misinformation			
Video Clip 3: Polarization and Misinformation			
Video Clip 4: Tristan Harris on the Social Media Business Models			
Video Clip 5: The Spread of Misinformation			
Video Clip 6: Cognitive Bias and Misinformation			

Application: *Use your notes from above and your own personal experiences to address the following prompt.*

Why does misinformation spread and what can be done to limit its spread?

Wrap-Up: *As an exit slip, provide an answer to the following question:*

How can the spread of false information be harmful to a society? Support your answer with evidence from the lesson.