HS Intro to Social and Online Media
Lesson: Media Literacy Pt. 2
Learning Target: Understanding the
difference between misinformation and
disinformation and why they are
problematic.
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[Video Option for today's lesson.](https://youtu.be/4EzCWZrL61E)
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Bell Ringer

1. Do you feel like the internet's ability to provide you access to more information than prior generations makes you more informed than prior generations? Explain your reasoning.

The power of information

Information Power

- Information is one of the most powerful forces on the planet. Those with information have used it to keep entire populations in check since the beginning of societies.
- Access to accurate information is one of the core ways journalism helps a democracy function and the reason dictators will always attack the free press.

1.

Misinformation & Disinformation

What's the difference

Misinformation

- Misinformation is any inaccurate information spread without the intention of misleading.
- Misinformation can be dangerous depending on what the information is, however the intention of the information is not to misinform.

Why it exists

- Misinformation is much more widespread due to the internet. Within seconds anyone can have access to billions of possible viewers.
- The gatekeepers such as editors who used to exist for mass media no longer exist for many people, so mistakes and bad information more easily get distributed to the populous in general.

Disinformation

■ Disinformation is the intentional spread of information that is false with the hopes that it will either be believed or cause people to question more trusted information.

Why it exists

- The main purpose behind most disinformation is for a controlling government to keep its populous confused and therefore easy to control.
- We also see disinformation from foreign governments used as attacks to try and keep opposing societies confused and more fragile to manipulation.

Assignment

Media organizations have began running fact-checks on President Trump's press conferences in an effort to combat disinformation.

Here is a link to fact check from March 30th:
https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/politics/fact-check-trump-coronavirus-briefing-march-30/index.html

Choose TWO of the facts that were checked and explain why each bit of disinformation could be dangerous to the public. Then write a paragraph about whether or not you believe fact checking is an effective way to combat disinformation.