Disinformation, Misinformation, or Fake News?

> How can you spot or stop the spread of disinformation, misinformation, or fake news?

Disinformation is false, inaccurate, manipulated, confusing, or misleading information deliberately spread with the intent to deceive and manipulate. It promotes disagreement, sows discord, creates distrust of government institutions and undermines the democratic process. In more extreme cases, disinformation incites violence and harms the values of our democracy.

Misinformation is false, inaccurate, or misleading information that is shared regardless of the intent to deceive or manipulate.

Fake news includes news stories that are completely false - the information is invented, with no verifiable sources, facts, or quotes. This can include satire that can be mistaken as factual.

None of these include legitimate criticism, protest, or censure of government actions, institutions, or processes.

Analyze and Research

- ✓ Is it fact, opinion, entertainment, education, or something else?
- ✓ Is the data valid and from a reputable source?
- ✓ Is the headline trying too hard to get your attention?
- ✓ What can you learn about the author(s)?
    - Are they trying to influence you?
    - Were they paid to create or contribute to the information?
    - Are they qualified and credible subject matter experts?

Check Facts and Sources

- ✓ Investigate the original source.
- ✓ Don't forward information if the source is anonymous.
- ✓ Check the website domain. The material on the site reflects its host. *.gov* and *.edu* sites tend to be more trustworthy.
- ✓ Consider using non-profit, non-partisan fact checking sites.
- ✓ Ask a librarian or law librarian for help.
- ✓ Beware of "deep fakes."

Consider Bias

Bias is a belief, attitude, or prejudice in favor of or against a thing, person, issue, or group.

If the information and data highlight only one position and exclude balanced facts and context, it is biased.

"Arizona's courts recognize that there are people, organizations, and foreign interests that intentionally instigate or seed misinformation using social media platforms, bots, and artificial intelligence tools with the goal of undermining public confidence in government institutions, including courts."

– Chief Justice Robert Brutinel

To learn more and to read the final report from the Arizona Supreme Court's Task Force on Countering Disinformation visit the Arizona Judicial Branch website at: https://www.azcourts.gov/cscommittees/Task-Force-on-Countering-Disinformation.