

Documentary Video Script: “Misinformation and Fake News”

Group Members & Sections:

1. **Ain Nabilah** – Introduction
2. **Fariza** – Causes of the Issue
3. **Fatin** – Effects/Impacts
4. **Danisya** – Suggestions/Solutions
5. **Lutfiah** – Conclusion

Each segment is ~2–3 minutes long. Total runtime: Approx. 10–12 minutes.

1. INTRODUCTION

Speaker: Ain Nabilah

“Hi everyone. Let us begin with a simple question: What is misinformation?”

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that has spread, regardless of intent to deceive. While sometimes it is shared by mistake, the consequences can still be harmful.

But when false content is spread with intent to mislead, it becomes something more dangerous: disinformation.

According to the World Economic Forum, misinformation was identified as one of the top ten global risks in 2023, especially during crises like pandemics and elections (World Economic Forum, 2023).

And here in Malaysia, we have seen how viral hoaxes during the COVID-19 pandemic caused confusion, like claims that drinking warm water could kill the virus, or that certain vaccines were dangerous. A study by MCMC in 2021 found that over 70% of Malaysians encountered fake news online weekly.

This isn’t just a local problem—it’s global, and it’s growing. Through this documentary, we’ll explore how misinformation spreads, what causes it, its impacts, and most importantly, what we can do about it.”

🔍 2. THE CAUSES / FACTORS CAUSING THE ISSUE

Speaker: Fariza

“So how does misinformation happen in the first place?”

One major factor is the rise of **social media**. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok make it easy to share content fast—without checking if it's true. Algorithms prioritize engagement, meaning the most viral posts—not the most accurate—get seen first (Vosoughi et al., 2018).

Another factor is **lack of digital literacy**. Many users don't know how to verify sources or recognize clickbait headlines. A Stanford study in 2016 showed that most students couldn't distinguish between real news and sponsored content.

There's also **confirmation bias**—people tend to believe and share things that match their opinions, even if they're false. This makes falsehoods hard to correct.

Finally, there are **bad actors**—from political operatives to troll farms—who deliberately spread disinformation for profit, propaganda, or control.

In short, it's a mix of human behavior, tech design, and intent.”

3. THE EFFECTS / IMPACTS

Speaker: Fatin

“The effects of misinformation are serious—and sometimes even deadly.

Socially, it creates division. We’ve seen how conspiracy theories about elections or vaccines divide families, communities, and nations.

Economically, fake investment tips or scams have tricked people out of their savings. In 2022 alone, Malaysians lost over RM770 million to online scams (Bukit Aman, 2023).

In education, misinformation affects how students perceive science, health, and history—making it harder to build informed citizens.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, **health misinformation** cost lives. False beliefs about vaccines or miracle cures led to people rejecting treatments or overdosing on unapproved drugs.

The environment is not safe either. Climate misinformation—such as denying global warming—slows down necessary action.

As we have seen, misinformation does not just confuse. It damages trust, safety, and even democracy itself.”

4. SUGGESTIONS / SOLUTIONS

Speaker: Danisya

“So, how do we fix this?”

First: Education. Schools and universities must teach digital and media literacy. When students are trained to think critically, they are less likely to be misled. Projects like the News Literacy Project in the U.S. and Malaysia's Media Education Academy are great examples (Kuo & Marwick, 2021).

Second: Pre-bunking. This is like a ‘vaccine’ for your mind. You teach people the tricks used in misinformation—so when they see it, they recognize it. Games like *Bad News* and campaigns like *GoViral!* have shown that this works (van der Linden, 2023).

Third: Better platform policies. Social media companies must take more responsibility. They can add warning labels, limit fake content, and promote verified sources.

Fourth: Fact-checking and reporting. We should support local fact-checking groups like *Sebenarnya.my*. And as individuals, we can practice ‘lateral reading’—checking multiple sources before we believe something.

And finally, **community awareness.** Host talks, share tips, and help friends and family spot false news.

Fighting misinformation takes all of us—and we need to start now.”

5. CONCLUSION

Speaker: Lutfiah

“To wrap up—misinformation is not just a social media problem. It affects health, trust, and stability around the world.

We have seen what it is, how it spreads, why it happens, and what damage it causes. But we have also learned that we are not powerless.

Here is a question: If you saw someone spreading false information, would you ignore it—or help them understand the truth?

As the quote goes: *‘The greatest threat to truth is not the lie—but the persistent echo of unchecked falsehoods.’*

Let us not stay silent. Let us fact-check. Let us think critically. And let us help others do the same.

Because the truth deserves a fighting chance.”

References (APA Style)

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