

Reporting Online Protest Disinformation

What Disinformation is (and isn't):

Disinformation is information that is used in deliberate attempts to deceive. It may take the form of fake information or it may be otherwise-true information that has been spread by fake users/groups/events, doctored, or mislabelled. The intent of using disinformation is to inflame emotions and create divisions across society. Some good free resources on disinformation include:

- 1-pager: [The War on Pineapple: Understanding Foreign Interference in 5 Steps](#)
- 10-minute video: [The Dark\(er\) Side of Media: Crash Course Media Literacy #10](#)
- Short game: [The Bad News Game](#)
- Reference book: [Web Literacy for Student Fact-Checkers – Simple Book Production](#)

Remember, disinformation is purposeful. It isn't differences of opinion or genuine mistakes: it's about attempts to make people confused, angry, and divided in their opinions on the people and events around them

“So, [disinformation](#) is knowingly spreading misinformation. Our first definition of this word gives one major reason why a person or group might want to spread wrong information, but there many other nefarious motivations lurking behind the creation of disinformation.”

“[Misinformation](#) is “false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead.” Put a flag in the second half of this definition; it will be important later.”

Things to look for:

Disinformation may be spread through text, pictures, video, voice, etc. Examples of disinformation include:

- Materials and statements that contain false, toxic, and divisive narratives.
- Accounts on social media that claim to represent an existing group but are run by someone unaffiliated with that group.
- Separate notices for multiple events that direct ideologically-opposed groups to the same place at the same time.
- New accounts with high volumes of messages in a short amount of time.

Things to look for include:

- Is this the original account, article, or piece of content?
- Who shared this or created it?
- When was this created?
- What account is sharing this? When was the account created? Do they share things from all over the world at all times during the day and night? Could this be a bot?
- Why was this shared?

What to do when you find disinformation:

Capture Evidence:

Online information and materials can disappear quickly so be sure to capture any evidence by:

- Taking a screenshot or a photograph of the information that you find.
- Saving information to an archive.

Give evidence to someone who can use it effectively:

- If someone posts something or does something on a social media platform that breaks the rules of that platform, report it.

Links for reporting disinformation:

- Facebook: [How to Report Things on Facebook](#)
- Twitter: [report-twitter-impersonation](#) and [twitter-rules](#)
- Reddit: [redditsecurity](#)
- Instagram: <https://help.instagram.com/1735798276553028>
- Pinterest: [report-something-on-pinterest](#)
- YouTube: [Report inappropriate content](#)
- TikTok: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/report-inappropriate-content-default>

How to report things other than disinformation:

When you are on social media platforms it is likely that you will come across content that is violent, disturbing, or shows harm to others. While this type of content is not necessarily disinformation, it can still be reported to groups such as the following:

- ACLU app,
- SPLC #reporthate <https://www.splcenter.org/reporthate>,
- [Police brutality videos](#)
- reporting phonelines

If you're on the ground, then these are available:

- [ACLU Apps to Record Police Conduct](#)
- National Lawyers Guild