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Handouts & Exercises

Countering Dangerous Speech

#defyhatenow | 4 HANDOUTS & EXERCISES

COUNTERING DANGEROUS SPEECH

- Exercise: Dangerous vs Hate Speech
- Exercise: Defusing Hate Workbook
- Stopping Hate: Get the Trolls Out (Counterspeech Guide on Twitter)



EXERCISE

Describe your understanding of Dangerous vs Hate Speech?

<https://dangerousspeech.org/guidelines/>



EXERCISE

QUESTIONS FROM DEFUSING HATE WORKBOOK BY RACHEL BROWN

What narratives already exist that reinforce negative stereotypes, promote prejudice, and/or incite group targeted harm?

Are these narratives effective?

Who do they work on in the community?

How do these narratives affect those targeted?

What is the content of these narratives (e.g., do they use dehumanizing language and/or stereotypes?

Do they frame the target group as a threat?

What logical reasoning do they use?

What stories/myths/metaphors do they use?

What justification do these narratives give for group-targeted harm?

Who spreads these narratives?

Do these narratives say anything about moderates or tolerance within the group that's speaking?

What narratives already exist to promote inclusiveness, tolerance, peace, and/or encourage non-violence?

Are these narratives effective? For whom?

What arguments, examples, metaphors, stories, myths, facts, are used?

Who is spreading these narratives?

What arguments are being used to discredit or rebut these narratives?

Are they effective and for whom?

Excerpts from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's guide by Rachel Brown:

Defusing Hate: A Strategic Communication Guide to Counteract Dangerous Speech

<https://www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/how-to-prevent-genocide/hate-speech-and-incitement-to-genocide/defusing-hate-a-guide-to-counteract-dangerous-speech>



STOPPING HATE – GET THE TROLLS OUT

Guidelines by the Media Diversity Institute on how to respond to hate speech on Twitter.

DON'T BE ABUSIVE

Make sure your words and any content you share do not spread bigotry, prejudice, or hate, or contain otherwise unlawful content.

DON'T SPREAD THEIR HATE

Giving attention to fringe individuals with few followers and their hatred can be counterproductive. You might give them the attention and publicity that they crave.

RESPOND PROMPTLY

Responding to old Tweets risks reviving a conversation and having the adverse effect of spreading hate speech to others who might not have seen it before. Timing is therefore critical.

THINK ABOUT YOUR OBJECTIVES

Are you seeking to engage with the person expressing hateful speech? What for? Are you seeking to lessen the consequences of a hateful Tweet on the wider audience? Are you seeking to express support for a group or identity under attack? Thinking about your goals will help shape your response and the language

you use.

TRY TO ENLIST INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTERS

Add their usernames to Tweets. Celebrities, politicians, civic leaders and subject experts can help bring attention or add weight to your counter-narrative.

JUMP IN ON EXISTING HASHTAGS

This will increase the chances that your message will be seen beyond the Tweeter who you may be replying to. This may help divert the tone of an otherwise negative hashtag discussion. It may also encourage others not to feel silenced and empower them to join in.

INTRODUCE NEW HASHTAGS

...alongside those associated with a hateful message. This will help divert the tone to a more positive and inclusive direction and provide a space where others might feel comfortable joining in.

BUILD A NARRATIVE

- Build up a narrative over time. See counter speech as a long term process.
- Post consistently over time to increase your profile and ability to engage more widely.
- Be prepared to engage in a back and forth discussion if your objective is to change somebody's views. But don't feed a troll: that's what they crave.
- Develop a resource bank of counter-arguments, statistics, information, sources and links to support your counter narrative.
- Subject knowledge is important and those engaging in hateful speech may be armed with many misleading sources of information which they will use. Counter them with credible evidence from independent and reputable sources which can't be accused of being partial.

BE VISUAL

Visuals - such as carefully chosen images and videos - help drive interest and engagement with your message.

Download the full guide here: <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/>