

TACKLING MISINFORMATION IN OUR DAILY LIVES

The 2021 Institute for Science & Policy Symposium sought to understand the ways in which we encounter and respond to mis- and dis-information in our daily lives by examining case studies and applying lessons learned to our own lived experiences. We asked: Does our reaction and response to misinformation vary dependent on the source? How should we react differently to a friend, or a family member, or a stranger presenting misinformation?

While we found some nuance to each group, our crucial takeaway is that a stranger to you is a friend to and family member of someone else.



FRIENDS

Reference your shared history together and other values or experiences that you are aligned on.

Suggest alternative sources of credible information.



FAMILY

Take a gentle approach.

Reference your shared familial history.



STRANGERS

Encourage them to have the same conversations with those they trust (i.e., their friends and family).

Find a messenger or approach that will appeal to this person or group.

Ignore or block.

10+ Tips for Conversations About Misinformation

01

Respect others' views and listen with empathy.

02

Find common ground and areas where you agree outside of the issue.

03

Approach conversations with factual information from reputable references.

04

Ask questions to understand their background and point-of-view. Refrain from judgment.

05

Pause and be thoughtful.

06

Build rapport and trust, rather than try to convince right away. It may take time.

07

Avoid condescending and alienating language.

08

Listen to fears and concerns before providing an opinion.

09

Question your own beliefs.

10

Acknowledge nuance and different perspectives.

Information Disorder

The broad societal challenges associated with misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation

Disinformation

The false or misleading information, intentionally created or strategically amplified to mislead for a purpose (e.g., political, financial, or social gain).

Misinformation

The false or misleading information that is not necessarily intentional. *(credit: First Draft News)*