

## **POTENTIAL VIEWPOINTS TO CONSIDER REGARDING MISINFORMATION**

**Read over the viewpoints below, considering these questions:**

*Which viewpoint most closely matches your own? Which viewpoint has you thinking differently?  
Which viewpoint would you push back on? What viewpoints are missing?*

- A. I am concerned that the growth of misinformation is endangering and undermining democracy, eroding the trust in each other and our institutions. We must have some sort of baseline of facts and mutual understanding about reality in order for a diverse democracy to function.
- B. I am concerned that certain bad faith political actors (foreign and domestic), media companies, and those that thrive on conflict are taking advantage of our human nature and profiting while exploiting our political processes and support for free speech.
- C. I am concerned that any treatment of misinformation may be worse than the disease. Efforts to address misinformation can too easily fall into politically motivated censorship and go against American ideals of free speech and open inquiry. We must be careful not to give anyone the power of being the final arbiters of truth.
- D. I am concerned that misinformation is undermining our trust in science, impacting its quality and its ability to help us solve problems and address our greatest societal challenges.
- E. I am concerned that misinformation is more of a symptom of broader issues, such as polarization and hyper-partisanship. Any efforts to address misinformation that do not address those issues will ultimately fall flat.
- F. I am concerned that a primary cause of misinformation is the huge tech companies that have profited from platforms and algorithms that divide us and spread misinformation.
- G. I am concerned that our educational systems have failed to adapt to the new realities of the information age and provide everyone with the necessary research and critical thinking skills to make distinctions between quality and problematic information.
- H. I am concerned that a primary cause of the misinformation is the collapse of trust in and capacity of our key civic institutions, particularly local journalism. Without gatekeepers or honest brokers of information for people to rely on, misinformation and bad faith actors unfortunately flourish.
- I. I am concerned that the focus on misinformation is overblown. The impacts can be exaggerated, and misinformation has been part of a free society from the beginning.

This is a living document and was developed based on a combination of available research on misinformation, survey results, and insights gained from a two-part event in June 2022 focused on concerns around misinformation. This document is designed to spark conversation and to be something to react to. We welcome ideas to improve or refine the document. Share your thoughts [here](#) or send to [GoodInfo@colabnews.co](mailto:GoodInfo@colabnews.co).