**Misinformation & Media Literacy:**

Navigating the COVID-19 “Infodemic”

Vocabulary

* **Agenda**: (noun) An often-secretive plan to achieve specific goals that may be political or ideological in nature.
* **Anecdotal**: (adjective) Based on personal experiences or observations, rather than on facts or research, often implying unreliability.
* **Biography/Biographical Information**: (noun) Details that describe someone’s background, such as their previous jobs or where they went to college.
* **Cherry Pick**: (verb) To pick and choose information or things, only selecting what is considered favorable or appealing. Sources that cherry pick might only select stories or details that advance a particular perspective and/or agenda, while choosing not to publish content that does not support that perspective and/or agenda.
* **Cite**: (verb) To refer to evidence or information, such as a quote from a public official or information from a government document.
* **Claim**: (noun) A statement or assertion, often made without evidence. (verb) To make a statement or assertion, often without evidence.
* **Conflict of Interest**: (noun) A situation in which an individual or organization has motivations, which are often hidden, that prevent them from carrying out a responsibility fairly. Example: If someone was supposed to write a movie review about a movie their best friend made, that would be a conflict of interest.
* **Conspiracy Theory**: (noun) A belief, often involving powerful people or organizations operating in secrecy, that attempts to explain a circumstance or event and is likely false.
* **Credibility**: (noun) A quality of being believable and reliable.
* **Credible**: (adjective) Something or someone that is trustworthy.
* **Criteria**: (noun) A set of standards used to judge something.
* **Deceptive**: (adjective) Causing someone to believe something that is untrue.
* **Disclose**: (verb) To reveal or tell something, especially something that was previously unknown or a secret.
* **Disinformation**: (noun) Information that is false and deliberately created to mislead or harm a person, social group, organization, or country.
* **Distort**:(verb) To change something so that it is different from its original form. Distorting words or speech makes them take on a different meaning than what was originally said.
* **Editorial**: (noun) An article written on behalf of a publication’s editors or publishers that expresses an opinion. (adjective) Related to a publication’s content.
* **Editorialize**: (verb) To insert opinion into a report that is supposed to be factual.
* **Evaluate**: (verb) To review for quality or significance.
* **Financing**: (noun) Money that a business, government, organization, or individual uses to do something, and the source of that money.
* **Headline**: (noun) The title of an article or other piece of content that describes what it is about. It typically appears at the beginning, written in a large font.
* **Journalist**: (noun) A person who reports nonfiction content about what is going on in the world, typically for a mass audience.
* **Journalism**: (noun) The production and distribution of nonfiction content about world events, typically for a mass audience.
* **Journalistic ethics**: (noun) The standards responsible journalists follow when reporting, to ensure fairness and honesty. Example: A journalistic ethic is to avoid conflicts of interest with the stories someone reports.
* **Misinformation**: (noun) Information that is false, but not created with the intention of misleading or causing harm.
* **Motivation**: (noun) A reason for acting a certain way.
* **News**: (noun) A factual report of new, noteworthy information.
* **Objective**: (adjective) Remaining fair and impartial, not being influenced by personal judgments, feelings, or opinions when working with facts.
* **Opinion**: (noun) A view or judgment about a particular topic.
* **Hard/Straight News**: (noun) A factual report of new, noteworthy information that does not contain opinion or exaggeration.
* **Transparent**: (adjective) Clear, accessible, and easily understood, such as about business or journalistic practices.
* **Transparency**: (noun) The act of making information clear, accessible, and easily understood, such as that relating to business or journalistic practices.
* **Violate**: (verb) To break or fail to comply with a rule, standard, or agreement.