YOUR BRAIN ON 24/7 TELEVISION AND TALK RADIO "NEWS"

Just say no to the loud voices behind the microphones and in front of the cameras parading their opinions as facts. Commit to good citizenship and dig deeper.

Sunday, May 10, 2020
Volume 1, Number 7

THINKING IT THROUGH

THE FALSE DEBATE

An Occasional Publication of The FinePrint at skylightstudios.info

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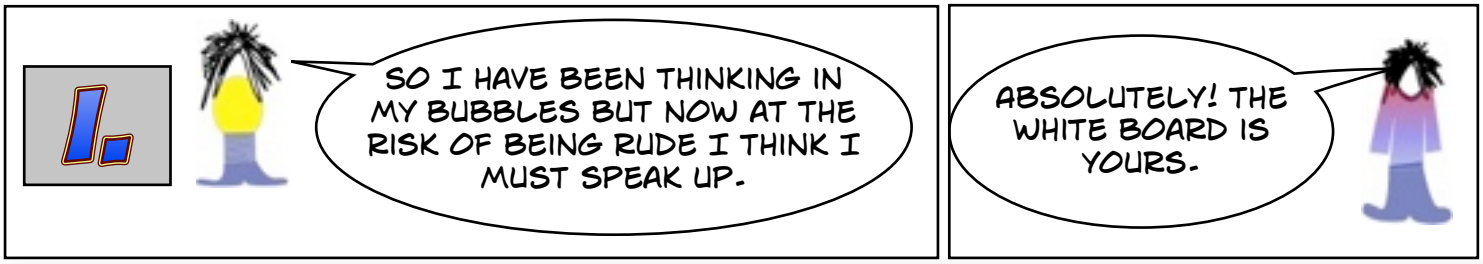
- THE FALSE DEBATE REVISITED: SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM IN A NUTSHELL
- CHANGING THE CONVERSATION



1) Any form of government or economic system can harm or benefit its citizens.

2) It all depends on the wisdom and integrity of the leaders and the knowledge and vigilance of the followers.

3). The trouble with unchecked Socialism? Democracy turns into autocracy and the common man loses his freedom to the powerful one...sometimes called the dicatator.

4) The trouble with unfettered Capitalism? Democracy turns into oligarchy and the common man loses his freedom to the power of the few...sometimes called the fat cats.

II. CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

STEP ONE

DETERMINE WHY YOU TRUST THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION YOU LISTEN TO MOST.

- Challenge something old Uncle Albert stated as fact even though he has known everything there is to know since you were knee high to a beanstalk.
- Stop giving your favorite tv or radio "news" sources a free pass when they mix reporting what someone actually does or says…facts…with reporting what they think about what other people do and say…opinion.
- Watch for cases of "speculative" journalism, when news sources infer positions or preferences in headlines and captions.

STEP TWO

PROPAGANDA: dissemination of information—facts, arguments, rumours, half-truths, or lies—to influence public opinion.

WAKE UP TO RUMORS, HALF TRUTHS, OR LIES WHEN YOU HEAR THEM AND DON'T PASS THEM ON JUST BECAUSE IT SERVES THE PURPOSES OF YOUR OWN BIASES.

- PROPAGANDA IS ALIVE AND WELL TODAY.
- HOWEVER, NOT ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS OR NEWS SOURCES ARE LIARS. BEWARE OF ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU S/HE IS THE ONLY ONE WITH THE KEY TO THE TRUTH WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS LYING TO YOU.

EXCERPTED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY REASEARCH GUIDE AT HTTPS://GUIDES.LIB.UMICH.EDU/FAKENEWS

"The universe of "fake news" is much larger than simply false news stories. Some stories may have a nugget of truth, but lack any contextualizing details. They may not include any verifiable facts or sources. Some stories may include basic verifiable facts, but are written using language that is deliberately inflammatory, leaves out pertinent details or only presents one viewpoint. "Fake news" exists within a larger ecosystem of mis- and disinformation.

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive. Disinformation is false information that is deliberately created and spread "in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth" (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disinformation)."

AND ABOUT THAT FEAR FACTOR

WHEN A CANDIDATE, A POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, OR A CANDIDATE'S ROADIE INTRODUCES SOCIALISM VERSUS FREEDOM INTO THE CONVERSATION, DON'T KID YOURSELF. THEY ARE HOPING TO PUSH EMOTIONAL BUTTONS THAT ARE ROOTED IN THE STORIES THEY HOPE YOUR GRANDPARENTS TOLD YOU ABOUT THE "RED SCARES" CIRCA 1920 AND THE EARLY FIFTIES. RESEARCH THIS CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY TO HELP UNDERSTAND HOW THIS ISSUE IS BEING USED TO MANIPULATE VOTER THINKING AND SUPPORT.

AND SO WELCOME TO...

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A ...

IT'S TIME TO STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH. SPREADING MISINFORMATION EQUALS TELLING LIES. IF YOU REPEAT IT, YOU OWN IT. TOO LAZY, CARELESS, OR GULLIBLE TO RESPONSIBLY CHECK SOURCES? YOUR PANTS ARE STILL ON FIRE.

Analyze your loyalty to candidates, elected officials and "journalists" by listening for the following types of misinformation .

...LIAR?

From Claire Wardle of FirstDraftNews.com
https://firstdraftnews.org

Seven types of Mis and Disinformation:

- satire or parody
- misleading content
- imposter content
- fabricated content
- false connection
- false content
- manipulated content

Why?

- poor journalism
- to parody
- to provoke or to 'punk'
- passion
- partisanship
- profit
- political influence
- propaganda

DON'T MISS THIS WEBSITE.

FIRSTDRAFTNEWS.COM

IT FOCUSES ON TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS BUT THEN WE ARE ALL EVERYDAY CONSUMERS AND REPORTERS OF INFORMATION THESE DAYS.

SURELY WE CAN AGREE THAT...

WHEN A MEDIA OUTLET VERIFIABLY REPORTS WHAT SOMEONE ACTUALLY SAID OR DID, THAT IS NEVER FAKE NEWS.

BUT WHEN SOMEONE DENIES SAYING OR DOING WHAT CAN BE VERIFIABLY PROVEN...WELL, THEN THAT IS A LIE.

SO IF ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A BIGWIG, THEN...

...YOU WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE TRICKSTERS PULLING RABBITS OF DECEPTION AND ILLUSION OUT OF THEIR HATS. IF YOU STILL THINK THE EARTH IS FLAT, THERE IS NO HOPE. BUT IF YOU KNOW THE EARTH IS INDEED A SPHERE REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN YOU ARE SMART ENOUGH TO LEARN HOW TO SPOT MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, EVEN FROM SOURCES YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TRUST.

MAKE CONVERSATIONS MATTER

READY TO START?

---- EVEN WHEN THE FACES AND THE VOICES THAT SHOULD DON'T.

You are not ready to defend your position or question someone else's unless you:

1) can explain your position and why you have taken it without using labels and words that have no common meaning and
2) are ready to listen to the other guy's position without jumping to conclusions when your confirmation bias is screaming for you to leap.

Any debate team member will tell you this. Learn about the counter arguments. Why does the other guy think purple is better than orange?

BEFORE YOU START TALKING... WHAT WORDS NEED TO BE DEFINED TO ESTABLISH COMMON GROUND? WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS THAT REALLY LEAD TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER?

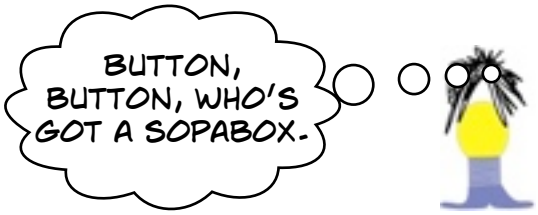
DO DOUBLE CHECK EVERYTHING YOU READ HERE BY DOING YOUR OWN RESEARCH. THIS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS AN ENGLISH MAJOR, COMING TO A SOPHOMORIC UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS LATE IN LIFE. EXPERTS DO EXIST. TRUTH MATTERS. WORK FOR IT.

THAT MEANS DOUBLE CHECKING THE BIAS OF THE SOURCES YOU FIND TO REFUTE OR CONFIRM WHAT YOU READ OR HEAR.

YES! BINGO! IT IS TIME CONSUMING. BUT DO YOU WANT TO BE AN INFORMED, THINKING CITIZEN OR A ROBOT PARROTING THE TV AND RADIO VOICES BUZZING IN YOUR HEAD?

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH, BUT YOU CAN'T STOP WITH THE FIRST EXAMPLE YOU FIND THAT PROVES WHAT YOU ALREADY BELIEVE. HATE UNIONS? READ ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS THAT PROMPTED THE PULLMAN STRIKE OF 1894. THINK GOVERNMENT ALWAYS DOES IT BETTER? READ ABOUT FLINT, MICHIGAN'S WATER CRISIS. THINK THE PRIVATE SECTOR ALWAYS MAKES DECISIONS BASED ON THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTERESTS? READ THE DETAILS OF PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S MAINTENANCE TRACK RECORD PRIOR TO THE CALIFORNIA "CAMP FIRE" IN 2018.

PATRIOTISM IS NOT MEASURED IN THE SIZE OF THE FLAGS WE WAVE. IT IS PROVEN IN THE TIME WE ARE WILLING TO SPEND STRUGGLING WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS AMONG FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES WHO DON'T ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE.

HAPPY TRAILS ISSUE:

• LINKS AND RESOURCES