



How to spot and fight **dis**information

WHAT

is disinformation?

HOW

does it work?

HOW

do I respond?





PART 1

What is disinformation?




Part 1: What is disinformation?



Pop Base @PopBase

Olivia Rodrigo and Sabrina Carpenter at the Met Gala.



12:45 am · 5 May 2022

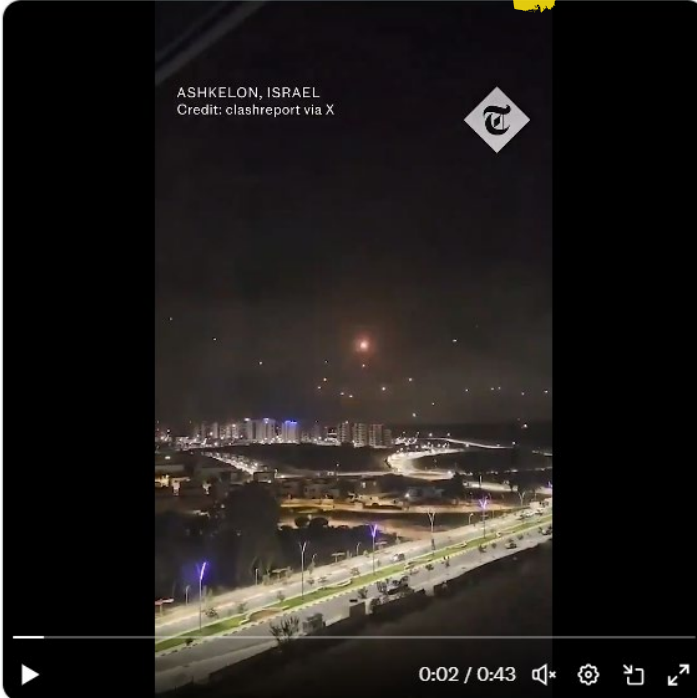


Iran Spectator @IranSpec

⚠️ Breaking News ⚠️

🇮🇷 The Shahed Drones appear to have reached Israel right now

Video confirmation has been provided:



ASHKELON, ISRAEL
Credit: clashreport via X

0:02 / 0:43

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This media is presented out of context [Find out more](#)



AFP Fact Check @AFPFactCheck

This @Forbes cover is fake -- the magazine's most recent issue featured an American investor [u.afp.com/5Arh](https://www.afp.com/5Arh)



9:28 PM · Apr 19, 2024 · 1,455 Views

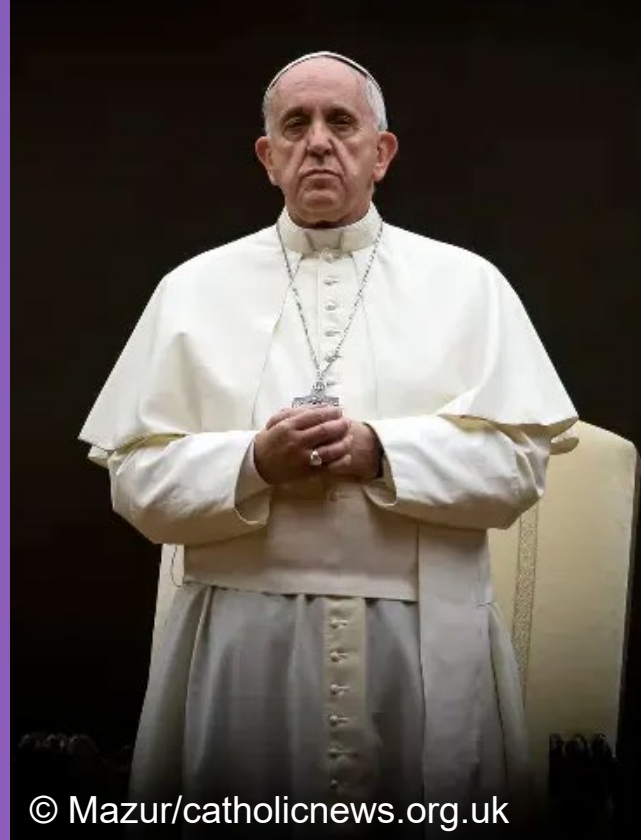


WHY might someone spread information that isn't true?

- Because it's a *joke* → Satire/humour
- Because they *believe* it → Misinformation
- Because they want to *deceive* people → Disinformation



Part 1: What is disinformation?



Pope wearing a
Balenciaga puffer jacket

→ **Humour**



Part 1: What is disinformation?



'5G caused and spread coronavirus'

Playing on:

- Existing conspiracy theories about supposed 5G health impacts;
- Uncertainty and fear in the early days of the pandemic.

Consequences:

- Vandalism of 5G towers;
- Disruption of telecommunication services;
- Harassment of telecom services employees.

→ Misinformation



Part 1: What is disinformation?

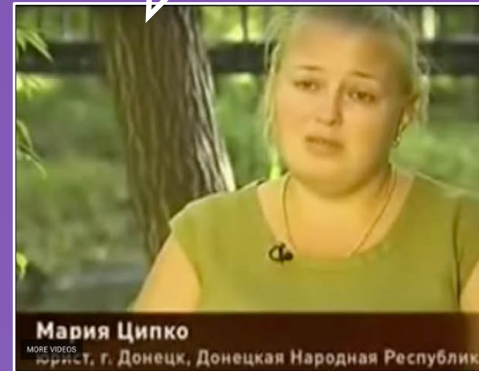
I'm a mother from Odesa, Ukraine.



I'm the vice-chair of a Russian religious foundation.



I'm a lawyer from Donetsk, Ukraine.



I'm a citizen of Kharkiv, Ukraine.



! Same person poses as different people.

➔ Disinformation





PART 2

How does disinformation work?



The aim of disinformation is not necessarily to convince, but to confuse.
Tactics include:



I don't know who I can trust anymore!

! **Whataboutism**
drawing attention to unrelated, or distantly related issues.

! **Mockery**
making fun of 'doubters'; using sarcasm.

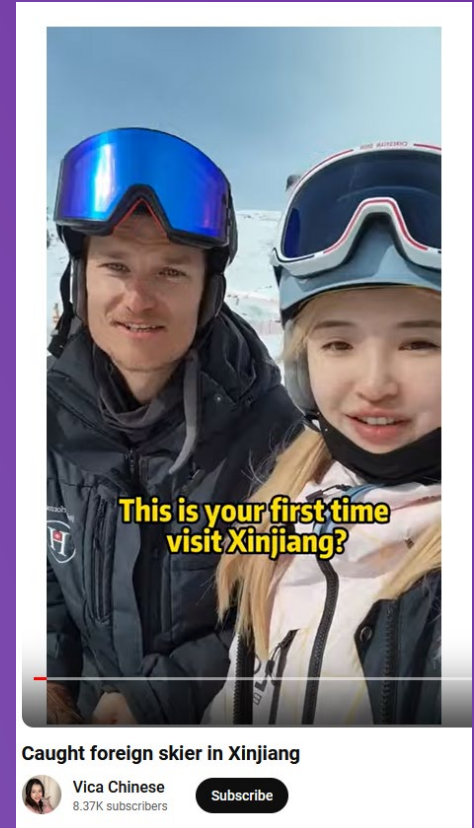
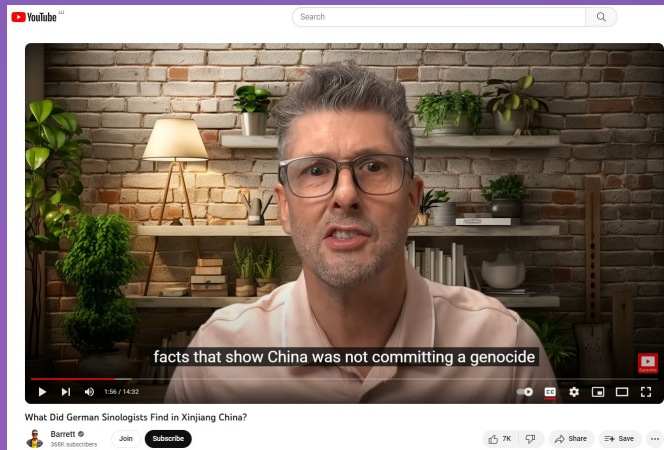
! **Strawman**
misrepresenting others' position and attacking it.

! **Overwhelm with detail**
distract from the main point

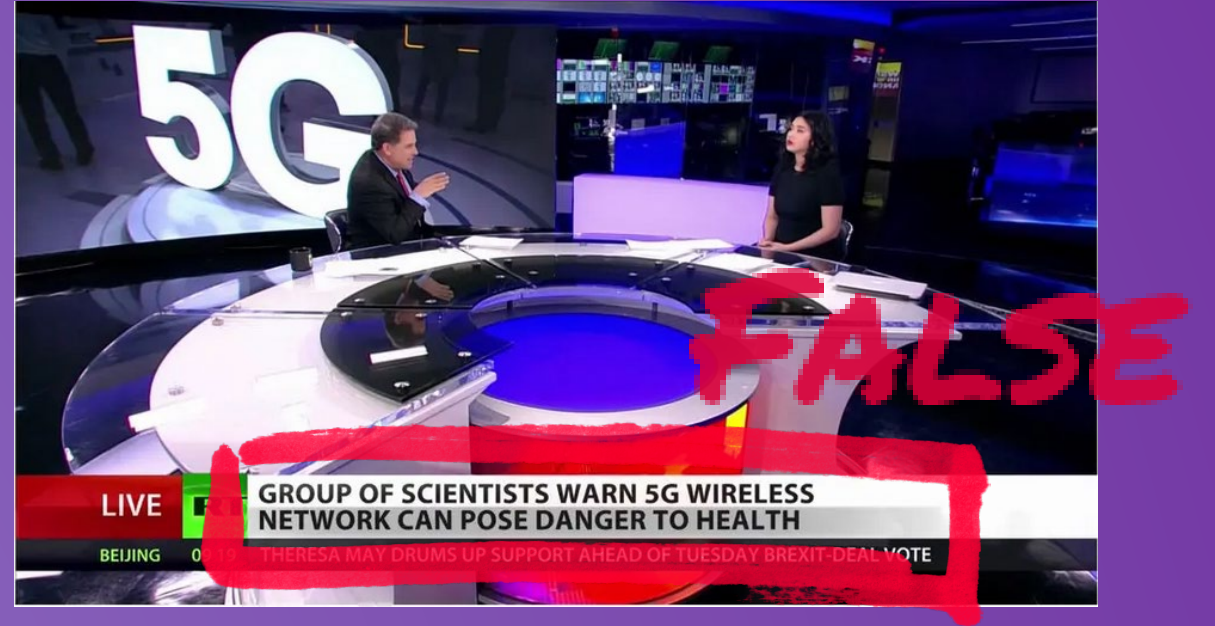
! **Attack**
scaring off 'doubters' by using aggressive or demeaning language.



Part 2: How does disinformation work?



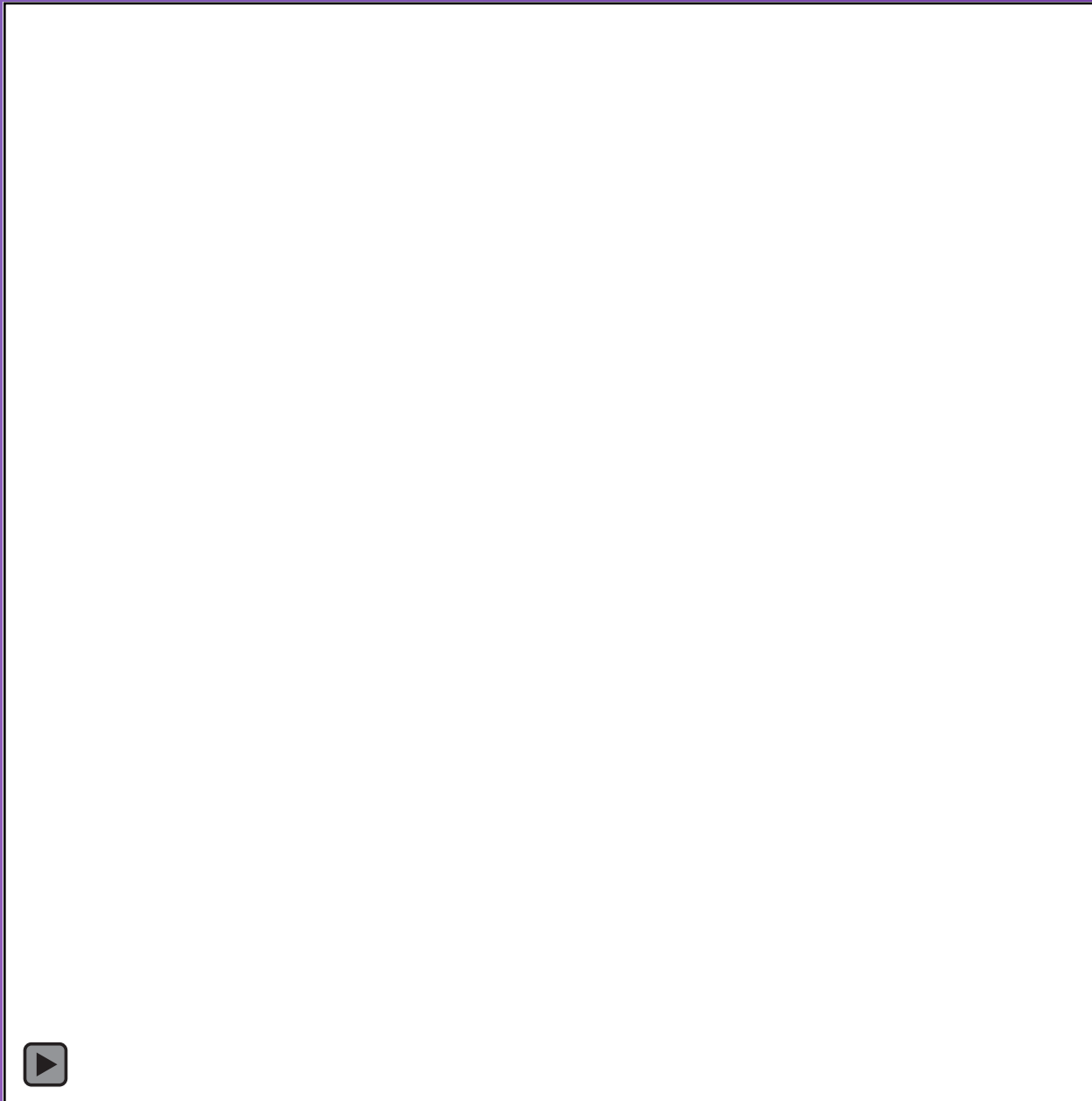
Part 2: How does disinformation work?



! Disinformation is not only on social media – it also appears in traditional media



Part 2: How does disinformation work?



Part 2: How does disinformation work?





PART 3

How to respond to disinformation?



Don't be tricked into reacting!



Pause



Think



When in doubt **check**

✓ **Content**
do the title and content match? Does the content make sense?

✓ **Outlet / URL**
is it reliable? Is it what you think it is?

✓ **Author**
are they reliable/qualified?

✓ **Date**
when was it published?

✓ **Image**
does it actually depict what it says?

✓ **Other sources**
are other sources reporting on this story? Which ones?

Be aware of your biases!

Think before you share



How can **YOU** contribute to fighting disinformation?

~~Don't believe everything you hear~~

✓ Think critically, check your sources and remember to pause and reflect before reacting.

Raise awareness ✓

✓ Share what you've learned with friends and family, BUT...

~~Don't shame people~~

✓ Show empathy and try to understand people who believe disinformation. Confrontation rarely convinces people!



©Freepik



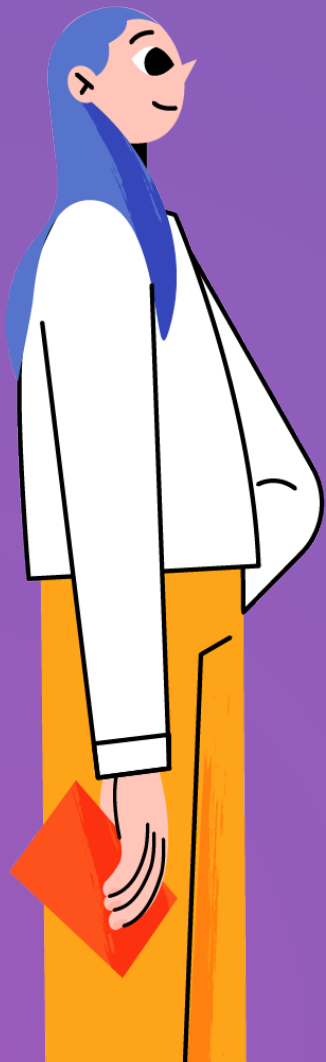
Fact-checkers



- The International Fact-Checking Network provides a list of fact-checking organisations that have signed up to the IFCN Code of Principles.
- The European Fact-Checking Standards Network
- Search online fact-checks about a topic or person with Google's Fact Check Explorer
- See debunks of disinformation on EUvsDisinfo.eu
- EDMO (the European Digital Media Observatory) monitors and reacts to disinformation through its hubs across the EU.



National fact-checking resources



AUSTRIA and GERMANY

[GADMO](#)

BELGIUM and NETHERLANDS

[BENEDMO](#)

BELGIUM and LUXEMBOURG

[EDMO BELUX](#)

BULGARIA and ROMANIA

[BROD](#)

CROATIA and SLOVENIA

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CYPRUS, GREECE and MALTA

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CZECHIA, SLOVAKIA and
POLAND

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ESTONIA, LATVIA and LITHUANIA

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IRELAND

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PORTUGAL and SPAIN

[Iberifier](#)







PART 4

Practice



Part 4: Practice

Split into groups

Get your case study & tasks

Prepare a presentation



Test what you've learned in a game



The Bad News Game

(available in several languages, for age 14 and up), you play the role of someone spreading misinformation online.

Bad News Game for Kids

(available in fewer languages, for age 8 and up)

Harmony Square

(English, French, Dutch, Czech, German, Hungarian, Slovenian, Spanish, Portuguese, Latvian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian and other non-EU languages) You act as Chief Disinformation Officer, trolling the residents of Harmony Square and using disinformation techniques to pit them against each other.

Cat Park

(English, French, Dutch and Russian; ages 15+), you are given the job of turning the public against a planned park using common disinformation techniques.



Sources:

- Illustrations by upklyak on Freepik (slides 1,2,3,7,9,10,15,16,18,19,20,22,23,24)
 - Slide 4:
 - Social media post on encounter between Olivia Rodrigo and Sabrina Carpenter: <https://twitter.com/PopBase/status/1521984278057218050?lang=en>
 - Video on Iron dome being activated: (3) Iran Spectator on X: "
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