



# Talk to Your Circle

Talk with your social circle about the risks of spreading disinformation.

Spread the word about the risks of sharing disinformation. It is probably not worth engaging with every piece of disinformation you run into online, but if you are concerned with its spread you may want to speak out. Here are some tips for talking to your friends and family.

## Come prepared

Make sure you've done your homework and have the facts. Even if you're sure you're right, brush up on the latest evidence before having the conversation.



## Decide if it's worth it

Once you have the facts, decide if the post is even worth weighing in on. Will your response help the conversation or cause more conflict?



## Respond privately

If you decide to respond, try to take the conversation into a private space or even offline. Discussions held in comment sections or publicly on social media can become dramatic when there's an audience. A more private setting could lead to a more constructive conversation.



## Focus on the facts

If you do respond publicly, replace false information with a correct statement. For example, if someone says the "sky is green," rather than saying "the sky is not green," say "the sky is blue." Repeating a false claim, even when debunking it, only amplifies it.



## Share your knowledge

Share what you know about the risks of spreading disinformation and how you handle it.



## Listen to others

Make sure the person you're speaking with feels heard and understood. This will increase the likelihood that you will be heard in return. Try to uncover why they are sharing a particular piece of misinformation. How does it support their views and beliefs?



## Disinformation Stops With You

You have the power to stop foreign influence operations. Follow these steps:



Investigate the issue



Think before you link



Talk to your circle



Recognize the risk



Question the source



**CISA**  
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

To learn more about how you can stop disinformation, visit our website at [www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020](http://www.dhs.gov/cisa/protect2020).