

Operation Infektion

Questions

Disinformation campaigns seek to misinform the public about a specific event or story, but they typically have a broader goal as well. Which of the following best identifies this goal(s)?

Select one:

- a. Disinformation campaigns seek to emphasize conflict and divisions within society.
- b. Disinformation campaigns seek to undermine people's trust in their governments.
- c. Disinformation campaigns seek to undermine trust in news media.
- d. Disinformation campaigns seek to confuse people about what is true, thereby encouraging them to tune out completely.
- e. All of the above

Which aspect of the disinformation "playbook" is represented by Hillary Clinton campaign chair John Podesta's leaked emails with the owners of Comet Ping Pong pizza?

Select one:

- a. Deny everything - John Podesta denied starting the pizzagate conspiracy theory
- b. Play the long game - Podesta's emails showed how he was laying the groundwork for future disinformation
- c. A big lie - Podesta's emails showed the big lie being made by the Clinton presidential campaign
- d. Kernel of truth - John Podesta had corresponded with Comet Ping Pong pizza about events, although the rest of the "Pizzagate" conspiracy theory was completely false

TEDTalk

Questions

What phrase does Claire Wardle say we should avoid using, because it is imprecise and has been politicized?

Select one:

- a. Disinformation
- b. Fake News
- c. Active Measures
- d. Propaganda

According to Claire Wardle, who bears responsibility for our disordered information environment?

Select one:

- a. Bad actors who purposely create and spread inaccurate or misleading content
- b. The social media platforms where so much disinformation is spread
- c. Governments whose laws allow the existence of disinformation
- d. Members of the media and the general public who repeat and share disinformation
- e. All of the above

In the digital age, most people in the United States have access to more information than ever before. In the early days of the internet, many people thought the technology would result in people being better informed and more engaged citizens than ever. Drawing on the Operation Infektion and Wardle TEDTalk videos, what factors have led the internet, instead, to be used at times as a tool for disinformation? Identify one point each from Operation Infektion and the Wardle TEDTalk. How could "participatory culture," as we have used that term in our class, be not just a contributing factor to our disordered information environment, but part of a solution? Please limit your answer to 250 words.