

CommunicAbility

A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Community Members with Disabilities

Fall 2022 Vol. 21, Ed. 3

Articles

- News Literacy -
 - Not All Information Is Created Equal
- Disabled Activists in Action
- State Elections Are More Important Than Ever

NHU Features

 News Literacy: Word Search

And, remember...



"Don't believe everything you read on the internet just because there's a picture with a quote next to it."

-Abraham Lincoln

No Internet?

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, we would be happy to mail you a printed copy of the information that is available online.

To request a printed copy, please contact us via phone 414-299-0124.



Not All Information Is Created Equal

By Scott Uecker

I recently watched an episode of 60 Minutes that featured a story on manipulating video and how advanced it had become, along with how hard it is to tell a fake video from the real thing. With the amount of information the Internet holds, and all the forms of information out there, on all the various devices and social media platforms, misinformation can spread like wildfire.

The need to validate your sources of information for accuracy is more important than ever. Do not let yourself be duped by misinformation, get all the information possible from both sides.

There are many different ways to get information and we should use some of the different ways information is disseminated to find out who we are and what we stand for in life.

Try to put yourself in other people's shoes to learn what they know and go through. This is the best way to see all points of view and pick the most helpful point of view for you.

For starters, try not to just listen to those around you in your immediate surroundings. This can be very limiting as you might only get one point of view and there are usually many to consider. Stretch your imagination and comfort level; this shows learning and growth to know how others feel and cope in life. It takes great empathy to truly see the world through someone else's eyes.

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New Horizons Un-Limited is a Milwaukee-based, non-profit organization that provides individuals with lifelong disabilities increased access to the information, tools and life experiences that will enable them to improve their lives.



new-horizons.ora



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twitter.com/newhorizonsmke

Not All Information Is Created Equal (continued)

Listen to others but check their facts and the Internet's information to make sure you are not being misled. People make mistakes and assumptions to fill in information they assume is accurate, but this information can be very erroneous. You need to be accurate in your information in order to be well informed.

Keep an open mind. Don't be afraid to change your mind or stand up for what you believe in. Fight for what is right and don't take the easy way out. Once you find what is socially and morally important, don't make excuses. Show flexibility and change your mind when information warrants and help those who need it. An open mind and a strong will can get you far in life, especially if you fight for what is right.

Just don't be misled, I will say it again and again, your information must be accurate.

There are many reasons for making excuses when it comes to not

adjusting your way of thinking when presented with accurate information.

One is following the wrong leader or a misinformed leader. The list of excuses goes on to include: your morals, a friend's view, your "enemy's" point of view, popular views, unpopular views, not doing your due diligence in finding needed information, taking the easy way out, being stubborn in not changing your opinions even though you know it is the right thing to do.

Throughout your search for self-awareness and a morally healthy point of view you must ask questions of yourself, others, and society. Keep in mind not to fall for misinformation on any subject and open your mind to find what others are thinking. This is the starting point to a race that never ends, as society and the world are ever changing, and so should your views adjust for all the future holds.

Apply your healthy views to guide you in a journey of life and living. Remember to help others or aid an organization in helping others. Also, remember to vote; it can be the best way to help others and yourself. Voting your morals and point of view makes more sense and can help others in more ways than one person can do alone.

Make this time count and get to know your electors and who is running against them and make a decision that will help the most. The more people that are helped at the end of a new election, the better you will feel, and the better world we will all live in.

Check out the 60 Minutes Episode: The impact of deepfakes: How do you know when a video is real?, I cannot emphasize how important and relevant the story is to our future.

Another must visit resources is the **News Literacy Project - newslit.org** which is a "nonpartisan education nonprofit, advancing the practice of news literacy throughout American society, creating better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals — and ultimately a stronger democracy."

U.S. Supreme Court gives states more leeway to restrict voting

In a slew of recent decisions, the United States Supreme Court has made precedent setting decisions that have shifted power away from the federal government and instead towards state and local governments.

In one decision, this past June, The U.S. Supreme Court made it easier for states to enact voting restrictions, endorsing measures in Arizona that a lower court had decided disproportionately burdened Black, Latino and Native American voters (who are also disproportionally affected by disabilities) and handing a defeat to activists who had challenged the policies.

This is not an isolated issue concerning the state of Arizona. Indeed, lawmakers in Wisconsin are actively changing voting practices, even in the midst of our Midterm Election. Primarily Conservative lawmakers across the US have attempted to pass legislation to restrict voting in the name of preventing fraudulent election results.

The problem with this newly proposed legislation is that the legislative sponsors and authors of these new voting bills never think of how their restrictions infringe on a disabled person's right to accommodation, and in turn, their constitutional right to vote. It's as if they have never met a disabled person, had a disabled relative or can think from another perspective other than that of a young, abled-bodied voter.

Considering that the Supreme Court has a majority that favors limited federal government, it is reasonable to believe that more rulings like the recent Arizona case will become commonplace. This in turn means that **State Elections are now more important than ever and we all have to do our homework to ensure we elect legislators that support fair and inclusive policies for ALL citizens, not just a select few.** Otherwise, the authors of these pending voting restriction laws are going to get what they want – young, wealthy, able-bodied and neurotypical people voting and no one else. Do you want a voice in your future? VOTE!



Disability Activists in Action: An Example of Dedication for the Benefit of ALL

Thank you to Timothy Carey, Martha Chambers, Scott Luber, and Michael Reece for standing up for what you know to be right and just!

Thanks to their lawsuit challenging a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision limiting the return of Absentee Ballots and therefore infringing on their right to vote as disabled citizens, the Department of Justice has stepped in to reaffirm that voters with disabilities are federally entitled to voting accommodations under Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act and Title II of the ADA.

On August 31, 2022 a Federal Judge confirmed that in fact Wisconsin voters with disabilities can receive help returning their ballots, citing the federal law that overrides the recent state Supreme Court ruling and recent state laws.

This is an excellent example of a single person or small, dedicated group taking action when supported by the law, providing greater access to all members of a larger voting group. Your rights were protected because these four people stood up to a faction of government that didn't care if their decision adversely impacted you.

As citizens of a democratic nation, we must be bold enough to hold people/groups accountable for their actions. We must be persistent in our pursuit of justice and maintain constant contact with our government officials to ensure they are protecting our collective rights.

There are so many good groups striving to create significant benefits to people other than just themselves.

That, in itself, should tell us that we are in this together, and we should all be working side by side, multiplying the force many-fold, to ensure outcomes that benefit all.

Get involved. Speak up. VOTE!

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Don't Believe Everything You Read

Always check other sources on the same topic or story.

"Be aware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."

- George Bernard Shaw

LITRACY	RADIO
MISINFORMATION	TV
MEDIA BIAS	CRITICAL THINKING
SOURCES	OPINION
SOCIAL MEDIA	VERIFICATION
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