

DIVERSIFY *Your* INFORMATION

We use **information** from many sources to make choices about which current events issues matter to us, which public policies and political representatives we want to support, and our own social and personal behaviors.

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY can give us access to more information than ever before BUT can lead to problems that can keep you from getting complete and reliable information that will help you make these choices.

We all engage in **selective perception**.

If we didn't, we might experience **information overload**.

Don't fall prey to:

CONFIRMATION BIAS

- Only take notice of information that supports or confirms what we already believe
- Dismiss credible information that calls our beliefs into question



Can lead to:

FILTER BUBBLES

"Your own personal, unique universe of information that you live in online" (Pariser)

Echo Chambers - We're only hearing thoughts, ideas, opinions, and beliefs that resonate with our own interests.

The Spiral of Silence - Some voices are **amplified**, other voices are **silenced**.

Amplification - More powerful voices of people with a particular viewpoint outweigh those who think differently.

Silenced - People with alternative viewpoints will keep quiet in order to avoid conflict and confrontation.

It starts to seem like *everyone* is in agreement with one viewpoint, but in a democratic society that is unlikely.

That's why we all need to **PROACTIVELY DIVERSIFY OUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION**.



Get outside of your filter bubble:

Your personal information feed should include a variety of credible sources.

Don't *exclude* or dismiss other ideas just because they are different from what you already believe.

Disentangle facts from opinions:

VERIFIABLE	UNVERIFIABLE
Fact: A statement that can be proven true or false	Opinion: A statement of a person's feelings that can't be proven or disproven



Internet Security Measures:

- Delete unnecessary browser cookies
- Delete your search history
- Turn on ad-blockers

Make sure that the information you rely on is based on verifiable facts and evidence and be aware of and understand all sides of the story.