

The Disinformation Project (TDP) is a 501c3 civil society organization that commissions and supports high school chapters, led by teens, that share our mission to raise awareness to combat disinformation. Our vision is that TDP is recognized as the source for disinformation awareness for teens. Committed and informed teen leaders will develop and support national level programs to build trust and resiliency in the information domain.

TDP views disinformation as a national security threat, public health hazard, and civic crisis. We must do more to raise awareness and take action to change digital behaviors and the culture around consuming and sharing information online — especially on social media.

While news outlets, academia, and government agencies have begun covering this phenomenon, most of the public remain unaware of the problem and are unprepared to face it. We believe awareness of how disinformation works, why actors use it to manipulate, deceive, and divide is crucial to the safety of society.

TDP consists of high school chapters (normally operating as after-school clubs) that help teens recognize and fight online disinformation by raising awareness and exploring educational pathways to understand and be resilient to the complexities of today's information environment. We help teens explore the key technology drivers, the damaging social, civic, and health impacts, and the domestic and international state and non-state actors involved. Armed with awareness, we know teens make better choices online, and share this powerful knowledge with their peers, families, and communities. Today's youth will be the doers and thinkers that will develop and implement solutions, and the driving force for durable change to online culture.

Raising awareness is accomplished through chapter meetings and community and school activities initiated by them. To assist chapters, the TDP staff curate and make available authoritative materials — mostly produced by government, academic, and civil society organizations — that teens can discuss, engage with and share. Student-led chapters are then empowered to disseminate information widely in their communities via workshops, community meetings, expert speakers, campaigns and school awareness days. This grassroots approach allows the chapters to be more creative in their messaging and can make their efforts more impactful.

TDP's strategic plan is to operate in all 50 states. We will grow chapters in high schools across the U.S. via marketing, direct outreach, and partnerships with like-minded organizations that can reach students and teachers aligned to our mission. The TDP model is to function as a centralized organization supporting and enabling student chapters that extend awareness to their schools and communities. Student projects will compete for recognition and outcomes will be shared across the network in a virtuous cycle of disinformation awareness and innovative solutions. TDP members also serve as a knowledgeable user-base to experiment with or extend the reach of technical or other solutions designed by stakeholders and partners.

We are chartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Project's website is www.thedisinformationproject.org and we are on LinkedIn at The Disinformation Project. We were

featured by Virginia Public Media in November 2022 - <https://www.vpm.org/news/2022-11-01/academic-and-nonprofit-interests-hope-to-make-americans-impervious-to>.