Réflexions liminaires

- Différence à faire entre 'misinformation' & 'disinformation'
  - Misinformation = Misinformation is false or inaccurate information— getting the facts wrong.
  - Disinformation = Disinformation is false information which is deliberately intended to mislead—intentionally misstating the facts.
- Attention aux sources, bien que beaucoup d'exemples soient américains, certaines sources et analyses sont britanniques
- Une question en 'what is at stake with' comporte toujours le risque de se contenter d'une approche descriptive et il faut bien penser à passer du fait à l'analyse, du constat à l'enjeu qui en découle.

Document 1

Main source of news by age group:

The move from traditional sources of news like television and printed newspapers is particularly clear if we look at differences between age groups. There are very clear generational divides. Asked to identify their main source of news, online comes out number one in every age group under 45 — and for those under 25, social media are by now more popular than television. The television news audience is still large, but it is also old — and aging — and younger people increasingly find their news from websites and apps, and via search engines and social media.

Trust in news by political orientation:

If we break down the trust figures by whether people consider themselves politically on the left, in the centre, or on the right, it is clear that people on the left in the UK have particularly low levels of trust in news, whereas a majority on the centre and the right say they trust news "most of the time."

Document 2

- Propaganda, lies, "falsehoods and mistaken beliefs" … are nothing new in politics so disinformation has always plagued democracies
- Evolution from human-made disinformation to machine-made one with the advent generative AI >> impact on
  - the volume and variety of disinformation
  - quality > more realistic = harder to debunk
  - microtargeting > highly personalized propaganda
  - how hard it is to detect
- High political stakes of the year 2024
- Examples of AI capabilities: fake images / text prompts / essays…
- YET "voters are hard to persuade" and the few are swayed in their views by it

Document 3

- Importance of teaching news literacy among the youth = "how to critically understand, analyze and evaluate online content, images and stories"
- Urgency to do so >> flood of disinformation on the internet which young people are especially prey to
- Two consequences:
  - "people believe everything that suits their preconceived notions"
  - "they cynically disbelieve everything"
- But one outcome to both = "polarized and disengaged citizenry"
- Being tech-savvy is no guarantee of being able to spot fake news
- Notion of "bad digital citizenship habits"
- A study led in 2019 found that "those 65 and older shared more fakes news during the 2016 election than younger adults" > trans-generational question of online illiteracy
- Objectives: question the sources / fact check
- Youth = a generation disillusioned by news and news literacy is a form of empowerment for young people

Document 4

- Election year in the US = both sides misrepresent information "to spin a positive view of themselves and a negative view of their opponents"
- Today = digital society => vast amounts of data available > boon (easy to find information to fact check = the truth is out there) and bane (a lot to go through to make one's own assessments and conclusions = drowned in information)
- Information is not true or false in itself but spun in a way that makes your point > it all depends on how data is used > factually true but cherry-picking to make a point
- Even when statements are debunked and fact-checked, it makes little difference because:
  - Lack of accountability of politicians
  - Voters, whatever their side, tend to believe their side and distrust the other = polarized political landscape already
- Disinformation attempts are also, when debunked, a good way to shed light on the candidate's character
- Disinformation makes very little difference in the outcome of an election but can ruin a candidate

Document 5

- Highlight on the Washington Post debunking Trump's lies and fact checking to discredit fake news

- ➤ A Trump supporter refusing, despite proof of the contrary, to distrust his candidate = proof of political polarization showing how people will always trust what they want to believe in just because of who they support and what they think
- ➤ Representation of Uncle Sam depressed at that assessment of the situation of US politics

Comment construire sa synthèse?

- ➤ Enjeu n°1: Un enjeu générationnel (modes d'accès à l'information, évolutions technologiques) dans un contexte politique lourd
- ➤ Enjeu n°2: Pour éviter une mise en danger de la démocratie
- ➤ Enjeu n°3: Un enjeu pas si essentiel (rien de nouveau, pas tant d'impact que cela) que cela et des solutions simples (ex : enseigner la *media literacy*)