

The Demise of "Facts" in Political Dialogue

Link: <https://www.amphilsoc.org/node/762>

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Description: Political “facts” are more widely cited and debated in the United States than ever before. What does it mean when these “facts” are attacked or denied? Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson interprets the history of these “facts” and how we can continue to find knowledge in the mass of available information.

Guiding Questions:

- What are some of the effects of basing policy decisions on political “facts”?
- Why is it necessary to have a collection of knowable information in political discourse?
- How important is accountability in an election?
- How does the internet influence the spread of both knowledge and misinformation?

Great for: Grade 9-12

- Sociological concepts of what is “knowable” would be difficult for younger children

Sensitive Topics Disclaimer: Many possibly difficult conversations, for example, a racist interpretation of immigrants, incarceration policies, and grappling with Thomas Jefferson’s positions on slavery.

Keywords: History, politics, elections, facts, journalism, media