

Opening responses to misinformation or disinformation.

Step 1. Align with the person's underlying concern.

Statement: Biden left the economy in shambles.

Response: I do not like it either when presidents make our lives financially difficult.

Statement: Religion is under attack.

Response: I do not like it either when someone takes away my rights.

Statement: The media cannot be trusted.

Response: I do not like it either when someone tries to trick me.

Step 2. Explore – pause and wait for the person to respond, or if they do not then respond with:

Response: I am curious about that. Can you describe more about it?

Response: What concerns you the most about that?

Response: I wonder who benefits from that?

Step 3. Plant the seed – by speaking for yourself.

Response: With so much fake information out there I am extra cautious before believing anything. Where did you hear about this? After they respond, indicate you will check it out but then state that you do know a little about the topic and then give them the facts.

or

Response: If they already describe their source let them know you are going to check that out. Then state that you do know a little about the topic and then give them the facts.

(Note: Telling someone that they are wrong or speaking in a condescending, patronizing, or oversimplified manner, can quickly close the door to communication and should be avoided.)