

# The disinformation system that Trump unleashed will outlast him. Here's what reality-based journalists must do about it. | The Washington Post

By Margaret Sullivan

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President Trump didn't create the media cesspool that he'll bequeath to a troubled nation. He just made it exponentially worse — not only with his own constant lies but with his ability to spread the ugliness.

Just days ago, he tweeted out a debunked conspiracy theory that a company that makes voting machines had deleted millions of Trump votes. And though he — barring true disaster — will leave office in January, the widespread disinformation system that he fostered will live on.

Social media platforms, streaming “news” channels and innumerable websites will spew lies and conspiracy theories, and will keep weakening the foundation of reality that America's democracy needs to function.

So what, if anything, can the reality-based press do to counter it?

I see three necessities.

[...]

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