

Fighting Back! Strategies to Resist Erasure

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Workshop Goal

Provide strategies to counter misinformation and communicate supportive messages

First Activity

- Answer this question. **What do people need to know about trans people?**
 - Create 2 lists, one for trans people, and the other for cis people.

Communication Tools 1

- **Countering misinformation (Debunking Tools)**
 - **Backfire effect – reinforce myth**
 - Focus on facts, and not mention myth or strongly highlight the myth
 - **Overkill effect – giving people too much (complexity and detail)**
 - Keep message simple
 - **Worldview effect – confirmation/disconfirmation bias**
 - Reframe message to fit within people's beliefs systems
 - **Provide an explanation that can replace a myth, don't leave a blank.**

Communication Tools 2

- **Think about your audience, who are you talking to (Conversational Receptiveness – getting others to be more receptive to your message)**
- **Hedge your Claims** -- *Expressing views with humility encourage others to be more receptive.*
 - *I think it's possible that there are some people who detransition, but many more people do not, or do so due to social pressure and not their own choice.*
- **Emphasize agreement** -- *Focusing on areas of agreement can create a more productive discussion*
 - *We both are concerned about the welfare of children but preventing teachers and others from talking about trans issues will not help them.*
- **Acknowledge other perspectives** – *Can signal your receptiveness to others point of view*
 - *I understand that you have concerns about medical care for trans youth, health care providers also have concerns which is why they developed a standard of care that outlines gender affirming care.*
- **Reframe to the positive** – *People are more receptive to positive emotional words than words that express negative emotions.*
 - *I think it's great to support trans youth and not creating a hostile environment for them.*

Second Activity – Delivering your message

- Taking one of the elements from the earlier activity, creating a new message.
 - Written: Editorials, letters to editors, social media
 - Audio/Video: Youtube, tictok, local radio stations.
 - In person: Speaking to politicians one on one or as part of business meetings, Protests
 - Create a zine, pamphlet, or flyer.

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www-Emilia-Lombardi.com for workshop notes.