

Thinking Beyond the American Disimagination Machine: City Lights Open Media as a Model for Critical Information Literacy

In an era of rampant disinformation and political polarization, it is more important than ever to be able to think critically about the information we consume and create. City Lights Open Media (CLOM), a community-based media-making and education center in San Francisco, California, is a shining example of how to do just that.



The Violence of Organized Forgetting: Thinking Beyond America's Disimagination Machine (City Lights Open Media) by Henry A. Giroux

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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CLOM's mission is to "empower people to make and share media that reflects their stories, values, and experiences." This mission is rooted in the belief that everyone has the right to access and create media, and that media can be a powerful tool for social change.

CLOM offers a wide range of programs and services, including media-making workshops, film screenings, and educational programs. These programs are designed to help people of all ages and backgrounds learn about media literacy, critical thinking, and media production.

CLOM is a model for critical information literacy in the United States. Its community-based approach to media-making and education empowers individuals to think critically about the information they consume and create. This is essential for a healthy democracy, and it is something that we should all strive to support.

The American Disimagination Machine

The American disimagination machine is a complex set of institutions and practices that work together to produce and disseminate disinformation and propaganda. This machine includes the mainstream media, the political establishment, and the tech industry.

The mainstream media is often complicit in the spread of disinformation and propaganda. This is because the media is owned by a handful of corporations, which have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. The media also relies on advertising revenue, which means that it is often more interested in sensationalism and ratings than in accuracy and truth.

The political establishment is another major player in the American disimagination machine. Politicians often use disinformation and propaganda to mislead the public and advance their own agendas. This is especially true in the United States, where there is a long history of political polarization and mistrust.

The tech industry is also playing a major role in the spread of disinformation and propaganda. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have made it easy for people to share false and misleading information. These platforms also use algorithms to personalize the content that users see, which can lead to people being trapped in echo chambers where they are only exposed to information that confirms their existing beliefs.

The American disimagination machine is a serious threat to our democracy. It is making it increasingly difficult for people to distinguish between fact and fiction, and it is eroding trust in our institutions.

City Lights Open Media as a Model for Critical Information Literacy

CLOM is a beacon of hope in the fight against the American disimagination machine. CLOM's community-based approach to media-making and education empowers individuals to think critically about the information they consume and create.

CLOM's programs and services are designed to help people of all ages and backgrounds learn about media literacy, critical thinking, and media production. These programs are essential for a healthy democracy, and they are something that we should all strive to support.

Here are some of the key elements of CLOM's approach to critical information literacy:

- **Community-based:** CLOM is rooted in the community it serves. This means that its programs and services are designed to meet the specific needs of the community.

- **Hands-on learning:** CLOM's programs are hands-on and experiential. This means that participants learn by doing, which is the best way to learn about media literacy and critical thinking.
- **Critical thinking:** CLOM's programs teach participants how to think critically about the information they consume and create. This includes learning how to identify bias, evaluate evidence, and make informed decisions.
- **Media production:** CLOM's programs also teach participants how to produce their own media. This is an important part of critical information literacy, as it allows people to express their own voices and perspectives.

CLOM's approach to critical information literacy is a model for the rest of the country. It is a community-based, hands-on, and critical thinking approach that empowers individuals to think for themselves. This is essential for a healthy democracy, and it is something that we should all strive to support.

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CLOM is a beacon of hope in the fight against the American disinformation machine. CLOM's community-based approach to media-making and education empowers individuals to think critically about the information they consume and create. This is essential for a healthy democracy, and it is something that we should all strive to support.

Let us all work together to create a more informed and critical citizenry. Let us all work together to build a more just and sustainable world.

Resources

- City Lights Open Media
- News Literacy Project
- Media Matters for America
- Democracy Now!



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