

The Truth Matters

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Everybody lies. We all do. It's in our nature. We can try to rationalize the lies, claiming that it's not a "big" lie or its just a "small" lie. In the end, though, it all comes out the same. It's not true. Something can be 90% true, but in the end it's still not the whole truth.

What I witnessed during this past presidential election was how Donald J. Trump continually lied about almost everything...and still got elected. Sure, politicians lie all the time, but what was different about Trump was that when challenged with the truth he just doubled down on his lies or told different lies to change the subject.

"Just because you keep repeating it doesn't make it true," but with Trump it did, at least to the more than 60 plus million who voted for him. He claimed that "Hillary took donations through the Clinton foundation and sold Russia uranium." A quick Google search would have shown that is completely false, but that didn't matter. The amount of mistrust surrounding Hillary and the Clinton Foundation was all that Trump needed. Chances are if you asked ten random people if they believed that was true, I would guess eight would say yes...but how do we combat the onslaught of lies?

There are two ways to go about this in my opinion. One way is that whenever you hear someone talking trash about Clinton, about it show them the evidence. Prove to them that what they've saying is false.

The second way is to do nothing and let people continue to believe in the lies...but that sounds like the kiss of death for democracy itself. Democracy cannot co-exist with lies.

What we as a society need to do is make sure that the facts are always presented clearly, no matter what. We all lie, and that includes our politicians. When they lie, we have to hold their feet to the fire by challenging their lies.

If we continue to let lies go unchallenged, the lying itself becomes more and more acceptable until, finally, we won't know what the truth is anymore. Not challenging Donald Trump's lies could easily become the norm rather than the exception, but we cannot allow Trump to lie with impunity.

We have to hold Trump to the same standards of honesty we would for any other person. If we let some people lie with impunity, we are setting a very low standard for public behavior. The more assertive we are with getting the truth out of our politicians – all our politicians - the better off as a society we will be. In the end all that matters is the truth. No matter how much we may not like it.