

## Cyberhate

Every night before he goes to bed, Arthur scrolls through his phone, swapping between Reddit, Twitter, and Instagram while having some small conversations over Snapchat with some friends. As he continues to scroll through Twitter, Arthur comes across a thread on Twitter from an account that was retweeted onto his feed by someone he follows. He decided to read the first tweet in the thread, and then the second, and after 20-minutes he finishes the entire thread.

The Twitter thread was about a person's parent losing their job at a Walmart close to where Arthur lives. Due to the parent losing their job, they are being forced to sell their house and move elsewhere. While it acknowledged the fact that the parent has a couple of violations at work (showing up late or not at all; taking a longer lunch break; not doing the work he was supposed to do), the tweeter talked about how there was a new employee, who is African-American, making his parent look bad. The thread completed by suggesting their parent's job was stolen, and their life is ruined because of black people.

Once Arthur finishes reading the thread, he begins to search different terms into Google; such as: "black people stealing jobs"; "white people working harder than black people"; "unfair treatment of white people". The results bring Arthur to websites that explain why the white race is superior to all other races, among many other discriminatory and hateful things.

As Arthur reads further into some of this content, he begins to follow some of the accounts that favorited the original thread and anti-black Twitter accounts. In school the next day, Arthur avoided bringing up what he had read until he learned more about what he was reading. The next week, Arthur decided he was going to Tweet a thread about some of what he has been reading, suggesting that the white race is much smarter and more accomplished than all other races. He uses offensive forms of hate speech, such as the n-word, to explain what he is starting to believe.

The next day at school, Arthur acts as though nothing was wrong. He walked around the halls while a number of students looked at him with disgusted looks and anger. Arthur was pulled into the Dean of Student's office later in the day once they became aware of his Twitter thread.

Questions:

1. What is the "threat" in this case? Is it the Twitter thread? The Google search? The Twitter accounts? Arthur's decision-making? All of them?
2. What does the internet provide in this case that pushes the hate forward?
3. What impact does Arthur's tweets have on those who read them?
4. What should Arthur have done when he first saw the original thread on Twitter?