

Our Ethical Commitments

Our current information commons is damaged to such an extent that many people feel justifiable mistrust in the media. In an effort to address these concerns and to establish our own trustworthiness, the Consilience Project commits to the following practices as safeguards against corruption of information, due to either perverse incentives, or human fallibility.

100% Open Access to All Content

In the spirit of a true commons, none of our content will ever be behind a paywall of any kind. To eliminate the possibility of corruption of information through financial incentive, neither the content nor its host site will serve as an income stream in any way. To that end, we will never sell our readers' data, nor display advertisements.

Transparency of Financial Sources

As a 501c3 nonprofit, our funds are completely auditable by the government and publicly available on the FCC website. To protect the nature of our content from being influenced by any financial incentive, we will not accept funds from any organization that attaches conditions to their support.

Collective Attribution of Authorship

With the exception of occasional guest posts by specific individuals, the Consilience Project will follow the model used by *The Economist* and some other publications, and attribute all articles to the collective authorship of the House. This serves both our readers and our writers in a variety of ways:

- Anonymity of authorship means readers are engaging with the content itself, circumventing either *ad hominem* discrediting of information, or an unwarranted level of trust based on a cult of personality around any particular writer.
- Anonymity allows our writers to be as truthful as possible without concern for professional, personal, or political repercussions or retribution.
- Anonymity insulates our writers from motives of individual ego by eliminating any incentive to alter content to maximize clicks or popularity of any particular article.

An Authentic Diversity of Viewpoints and Backgrounds on our Advisory Team

The Consilience Project continues to intentionally seek out Advisory Team members from across the spectrum of political perspectives, industries, epistemic disciplines, as well as cultures and regions of the world. This multiplicity of viewpoints provides a more complete picture of any given issue, as well as serving as a mitigating factor against our own human susceptibility to bias.

Transparency in Methodology

Rather than asking our readers to trust that we did sensemaking correctly, our “Under the Hood” sections show exactly the evidence and methods of analysis we used to arrive at our conclusions. Our purpose is both to demonstrate our good faith, and to equip readers with the ability to apply their own capacities for sensemaking to content they encounter elsewhere. Rather than guarding our content creation methods like trade secrets, lest other organizations

outcompete us, our aim is to freely source all of our resources and methods with the *hope* that others will replicate, adapt, and improve upon our methods of sensemaking and reporting.

It is hoped that providing a supply of higher quality content will create demand for more such content across the media landscape, thus encouraging new and existing media organizations to improve their own content.

We also commit to respond to good faith critiques of our analyses and conclusions. Because we are human, we fully expect that we will at times make mistakes. When we find that we have been in error, we will publicly acknowledge and correct our mistakes, including explaining why and how we got things wrong.

Planned Obsolescence and Expiration to the Project

The Consilience Project is set to discontinue operations five years from its date of launch. This deliberately finite time frame is to demonstrate the absence of any motivation to gain centralized, long term power in the media landscape. Our aim is not to be the center of a movement, but rather to have so successfully seeded a cultural shift in media and education, that we are no longer needed.