

Facebook and Fake News

Consider each of the below proposals, and fill in each of the below TODOs.

Proposals

Proposal 1

Facebook relies on an algorithm as well as individual users' reports to identify content that is potentially "fake news." Once the content has been identified, it is sent to third party fact-checkers for verification. If the content is verified as fake news, it is publicly flagged with a warning that the content is disputed by fact-checkers.



Proposal 2

However, a designer at Facebook believes that there needs to be a different approach to content regulation. Their proposal is that content deemed problematic by third-party fact-checkers should be prevented from being shared on the platform altogether.

Questions

1. Which form of content regulation, Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, do you feel is better? Why?
 - a. Proposal 1 seems to be the better form of content regulation, because then every user would see the marker of a possible fake news, and for sure it would reduce the numbers of shares of those stories. The other proposal does not open the info to the public, and the users would not know anything about the veracity of the news they were reading.
2. Which form of content regulation, Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, do you think best preserves or promotes the [five rights and opportunities necessary for a democratic public sphere](#)?
 - a. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Rights? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. The “Rights” are preserved by marking and flagging fake news, since one of the topics of “Rights” is to defend democracy, and when you start sharing untrue stories, it can offend and reduce freedom from the groups attacked by the false information, and if it happens, for sure shakes democracy.
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1, because it promotes a fair and a right opportunity to participate in a public discussion. If you join a public debate and share fake stories that defend your ideas, it is not fair at all! In a discussion, the ideas and arguments on debate have to be true, so then it has a fair discussion, and the first proposal flags stories that are probably fake.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - i. The first proposal promotes access to reliable and quality news and information, by warning the users when they are reading questionable information, so then the trustworthy news will be preserved.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - i. The “Diversity” can be preserved with the proposal 1. It happens because when you mark fake news, even if it is a friend that posted on their feed, the user tends to search for other sources of information, and it promotes the diversity of knowledge and the quality of it becomes higher, and that is what “Diversity” wants.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 promotes Communicative Power, as when you post a story that is not marked as fake news, the information that you have shared is way more stronger than other posts that have a signal. And when you have this power, you can develop new concerns that challenge the mainstream views, you can share and debate your ideas with way more power.