

# 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. I believe proposal 1 is the better choice for content regulation, this is because it best preserves the five rights and opportunities necessary for a democratic public sphere. While proposal 2 censors content and takes away from those five rights.
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, because as citizens of a democracy, we have rights to basic liberties, such as liberties of expression and association. The right to expressive liberty is important not only for the freedom of the individual, so that he or she is not censored, but also for democracy itself. And proposal 2 would take away from that by censoring certain information while proposal 1 preserves the basic liberties.
  - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1, because not only should we be free of censorship but we should have fair opportunity to participate in public discussion. Meanwhile proposal 2 takes away from that by not letting people with certain views post that content.
  - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1, because it doesn't stop the access of any information. Meanwhile proposal 1 hides and stops certain things from being posted which the public has no choice over.
  - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1, because we need access to competing views in order to have a more informed and reasoned position which it gives us. But proposal 2 stops certain competing views to be shown.
  - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1, because citizens should have good and equal chances to explore interests and ideas in association with others, and through these associations, to develop new concerns that challenge the mainstream view. And with proposal 2 there's no chance to challenge mainstream views when mainstream views are the only things allowed to be shown.