



# Ethical Issue in Social Media

River Kelly



# Freedom of Speech

## Includes:

- Not to speak (specifically, the right not to salute the flag)
- Of students to wear black armbands to school to protest a war
- To use certain offensive words and phrases to convey political messages
- To contribute money (under certain circumstances) to political campaigns
- To advertise commercial products and professional services
- To engage in symbolic speech

## Does NOT Include:

- To incite actions that would harm others
- To make or distribute obscene materials
- To burn draft cards as an anti-war protest
- To permit students to print articles in a school newspaper over the objections of the school administration
- Of students to make an obscene speech at a school-sponsored event
- Of students to advocate illegal drug use at a school-sponsored event



# Facebook

- June 23, 2020, Project Veritas “released one of the most damning undercover investigation reports—this time insiders used hidden cameras to document rampant censorship occurring at social media giant: Facebook” (*Veritas*)
  - One of the content moderators was asked if she deleted every Republican item that came up on her queue, she said: “Yes! I don’t give no f\*cks, I’ll delete it.” (*Veritas*)
- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before Congress that Facebook is a politically neutral platform. (*Veritas*)



# Alex Jones - Infowars

- Facebook, Apple, Youtube and Spotify in the course of one week banned Alex Jones and his Infowars website
  - “one of the biggest purges of popular content by internet giants in recent memory.” (Coaston)
- Alex has made a name for himself as a ‘Right-Wing’ conspiracy theorist
- Alex was talking about the Jeffrey Epstein 20 years ago
- “It’s turning the frogs gay!”



# Section 230 vs Freedom of Association

- “**Freedom of association** encompasses both an individual's right to join or leave groups voluntarily, the right of the group to take collective action to pursue the interests of its members, and the right of an association to accept or decline membership based on certain criteria.” (Wikipedia)
- On behalf of the Trump Administration, the Department of Justice sent draft legislation to Congress to reform Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.
  - Promote transparency and open discourse
  - Incentivizing platforms to address the growing amount of illicit content online



# ACM Ethics

- 1.3 Be honest and trustworthy
- 1.4 Be fair and take action not to discriminate



## Work Cited

1. What Does Free Speech Mean? (2020). Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/what-does>
2. Veritas, P. (2020, June 23). Facebook Content Moderator: 'If Someone is Wearing a MAGA Hat, I Am Going to Delete Them for Terrorism'. Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/facebook-content-moderator-if-someone-is-wearing-a-maga-hat-i-am-going-to/>
3. Coaston, J. (2018, August 06). YouTube, Facebook, and Apple's ban on Alex Jones, explained. Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://www.vox.com/2018/8/6/17655658/alex-jones-facebook-youtube-conspiracy-theories>
4. The Code affirms an obligation of computing professionals to use their skills for the benefit of society. (n.d.). Retrieved October 06, 2020, from <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>