

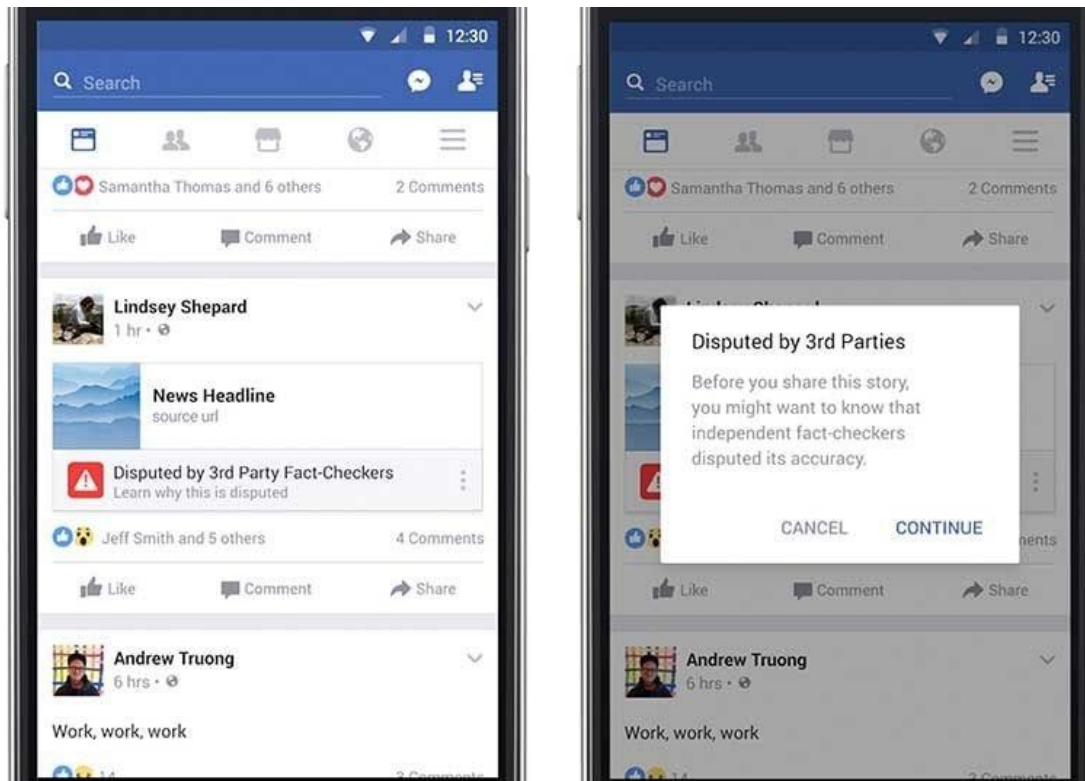
Facebook and Fake News

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?

In my opinion, Proposal 1 sounds more reasonable. There are always some people who are gullible to false news and information. But take for instance, a scenario where I have read some article on the web and I am convinced that article is true. In the case of Proposal 1, if someone I know were to post that same article on Facebook, I would see the article has been flagged as false news by the third-party fact-checkers hired by Facebook. There might have been no way of knowing this information was false if Facebook had not allowed the content to be posted on the platform, and I would have continued believing in the false information provided by the article. Granted there may be some issues as some people might not read up on why the fact-checkers have flagged it as false, but generally the public (or at least those who see the post on Facebook) can be made aware of certain articles or threads that provide misinformation.

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](#)?

Proposal 1, mainly because of the reason that it does not take away the rights of the citizens of democracy and their freedom to express.

- a. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Rights? Why?

- i. Proposal 1.

It allows people the right to expressive liberty by not being censored. The most vital part of a democracy is the freedom of expression, and Proposal 1 preserves this right for the individuals and provides them with the opportunity to present their thoughts and ideas. In Proposal 2, by preventing content (that has been deemed problematic) from being shared, it is infringing upon the rights of the people of democracy by taking away the liberty of expression.

- b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?

- i. Proposal 1 promotes the Opportunity for Expression. Setting aside whether the content has been flagged as false or not, it allows people to share content as part of a public discussion. People will be able to determine whether the information/content shared is true or not through talks or discussions that are free from censorship. This is only possible in Proposal 1 but not in Proposal 2.

- c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?

- i. In terms of access, Proposal 2 sounds more reasonable because it filters out all content that has been flagged as misleading or false, and provides the people with access to only the most reliable and credible information. Therefore in terms of preserving or promoting Access, Proposal 2 does it better, if the people are willing to do the appropriate research to acquire accurate information(i.e. Fact-check for themselves).

- d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?

- i. Proposal 1 promotes more diversity because the public would have access to a wider range of views from different individuals. They would also be able to determine which of these views are or may be supported by false content reviewed by fact-checkers, and be able to make better informed decisions.

- e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?

- i. Proposal 1 does not censor disputed content, and is therefore able to provide the citizens with more communicative power. People are able to explore more ideas that diverge from the mainstream view, and easily identify which claims may be disputed or untrue via posts from the social media platform and understand why some ideas are controversial.