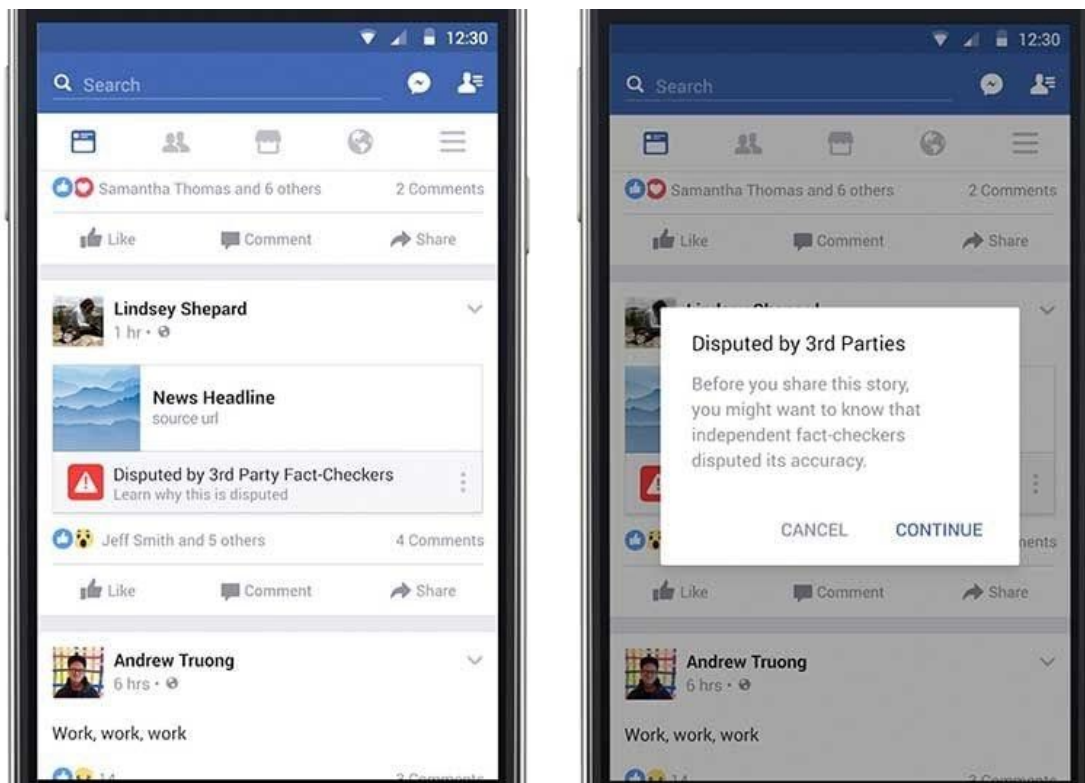# Facebook and Fake News

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 feel Proposal 1 is better. Proposal 2, while removing potentially problematic content, creeps into censoring news and perspectives that, while not deemed reputable, may provide value in their diverse opinion. Any facts that are empirically false can be rectified by independent fact checkers and user content.
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 promotes Rights by preserving the ability of each citizen to express themselves, regardless of the veracity or harm of their opinion. Proposal 1 gives the chance for fake news to be combated, thus allowing for more participation in the wider discourse.
    b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
        i. Proposal 1 promotes Opportunity for Expression. It allows for anybody to express themselves. Proposal 2 would seek to hinder the ability of one to express himself if what he expressed, shared, or endorsed was deemed to be fake news.
    c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
        i. Proposal 2 better preserves Access. While Proposal 1 would promote more viewpoints, it would potentially decrease the relative volume of reliable information in the public sphere.
    d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
        i. Proposal 1 promotes Diversity. Proposal 2 seeks to eliminate perspectives not in accord with the informed consensus, thereby decreasing the number of diverse viewpoints (unreliable though some may be).
    e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
        i. Proposal 1 promotes Communicative Power. By permitting disputed claims to stay on social media, the proposal allows for users sympathetic to that claim to coalesce and organize politically towards addressing or responding to the disputed claim.