Internet Dilemmas

Your Tasks (Mark these off as you go)

- ☐ Review the Internet Dilemmas
- ☐ Recommend a policy for Net Neutrality
- ☐ Recommend a policy for Internet Censorship
- ☐ Recommend a policy for the Digital Divide
- ☐ Receive credit for this lab guide

☐ Review the Internet Dilemmas

Today, you are going to pretend that you are the Technology Advisor for a candidate running for elected office. Your candidate is relying on you to help inform her about important technological dilemmas and come up with good policy ideas to address them. You will investigate several social dilemmas related to the Internet and will make policy recommendations for each.

Before you get started on your policy recommendations, investigate the Internet Dilemmas below.

Review the following resource related to Net Neutrality. Wikipedia - Net Neutrality: link In your own words, write a definition for Net Neutrality.
Review the following resource related to Internet Censorship. Wikipedia - Internet Censorship: link In your own words, write a definition for Internet Censorship.
Review the following resource related to the Digital Divide. Wikipedia - the Digital Divide: link In your own words, write a definition for Digital Divide.

☐ Recommend a policy for Net Neutrality

Now that you have a better understanding of each of the Internet Dilemmas, you will need to research how each dilemma impacts different groups. Understanding the impacts will help guide the policy you develop and recommend to the politician you are advising.

Net Neutrality		
Issue: Internet users love services like streaming movies, video chatting, or online gaming. All of this content needs to travel over the Internet, however, and the companies that build and maintain networks are complaining about the increased demands being placed on their networks. Your candidate is hearing more and more about a debate called "net neutrality" and would like a more informed opinion as part of her platform.		
Review the additional resources on Net Neutrality. • "How the end of net neutrality could change the internet" (video): link • "'Net Neutrality' is ending. Here's how your internet could change" (article): link For each group, indicate the pros and cons of Net Neutrality		
Group	**Pros**	**Cons**
ISP Providers		
Internet Content Providers (web developers for example)		
Everyday Internet users		

Now that you have a better understanding of Net Neutrality it's time to recommend a policy for the politician you are advising. More specifically, if the politician you are advising were asked the following question, how do you recommend they respond? *When and how should internet service providers be allowed to treat some kinds of internet traffic different from others?*
In the space below indicate who benefits from your recommendation and who is harmed.

Who benefits?	Who is harmed?

☐ Recommend a policy for Internet Censorship

Internet Censorship
Issue: While the Internet is used to share many useful services and information, there are growing concerns about the way that the Internet can be used to spread damaging information ranging from national secrets to calls for violence. Censoring this information may provide some people with increased security, but potentially risks free speech and the safety of social and political activists. Your candidate would like to have a policy that balances these two concerns in a way that makes sense for our digital age
Review the additional resources on Internet Censorship • "Free Speech Or Hate Speech: When Does Online Hate Speech Become A Real Threat?" (audio article): link • "Internet Censorship Explained" (video): link For each group, indicate the pros and cons of Internet Censorship

Group	Pros	Cons
Political interest groups/activists		
Intelligent agencies		
Everyday Internet users		

Now that you have a better understanding of Internet Censorship it's time to recommend a policy for the politician you are advising. More specifically, if the politician you are advising were asked the following question, how do you recommend they respond? *When and how should the government be allowed to censor or block internet traffic, if at all?*
In the space below indicate who benefits from your recommendation and who is harmed.

Who benefits?	Who is harmed?

☐ Recommend a policy for the Digital Divide

Digital Divide
Issue: While technology is increasingly integrated into daily life, there are still many who lack access to the Internet or digital technology. In rural areas there are challenges building networks to connect geographically sparse populations, but even in cities some groups or areas have relatively less access to the Internet or knowledge of how to use it. Your candidate is worried that while technology is bringing social and economic benefits to many, there are others being left behind.

Review the additional resources on the Digital Divide.

- "Eliminating the Digital Divide" (video): link
- "Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet" (article): link

For each group, the pros and cons of closing the Digital Divide

Group	Pros	Cons
Those lacking internet access		
Internet Service Providers (ISP)		
Schools and libraries		

Now that you have a better understanding of the Digital Divide, it's time to recommend a policy for the politician you are advising. More specifically, if the politician you are advising were asked the following question, how do you recommend they respond?

When and how should government resources or incentives be used to close gaps between those who do and don't use the Internet?

In the space below indicate who benefits from your recommendation and who is harmed.

Who benefits?	Who is harmed?

☐ Receive Credit for this lab guide

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