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. Proposal 1; People have the right to post what they want even if it is not true, but there is a catch here to also protect others from misinformation. You are posting a warning, letting others know that this appears to not be true and that will put the power back in the hands of the user to decide for themselves.

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; It is not censoring the user's right to post the content, nor is it censoring the right of the reader to be able to make their own conclusion. It is giving the reader a warning letting them know that it has been flagged though, which is helpful for them to determine what they believe to be fact or fiction.

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

      i. Proposal 1; It is allowing the user to express their opinion in what they think may be true. At the same time, it is allowing the opportunity for other users to express their ideas about the post too while being aware that this might not be a fact.

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

      i. Proposal 1; The warning message is giving the reader access to the information from the fact-checker website, which they can read for themselves to make their own conclusions.

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

      i. Proposal 1; The diversity here is that you are able to read the viewpoints of both the original article/poster and the fact-checker and make your conclusion

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

      i. Proposal 1; Even though this article is deemed as being "possible" fake news by the fact-checker, does not make it fact that it is. This is where Communicative Power comes in and could possibly challenge the mainstream view.