# 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 think Proposal 1 is way better because giving censorship of content to third parties can lead to many risks such as 3rd parties not really understanding it and they arbitrarily give an answer, or while censoring they will also make some mistakes. So it's not a good idea to rely on a third party's decision and completely ban that content from appearing.
- 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. None of them. It is written in Rights "The right to expressive liberty is important not only for the freedom of the individual, so that he or she is not censored, but also for democracy itself.", both proposals are censorring the content, so none of them promote or preserve the Rights.
  - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1, because the content will just be publicly flagged with a warning to inform public readers that this content is verified as fake news by a 3rd party, but anyway, it still appears on the platform. On the other hand, Proposal 2 completely banned the content and violated "public discussion".
  - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
    - i. Proposal 2 I think, the content that is verified as fake news when prevented from sharing will lead to a reduction in the number of news that are not telling the truth, and help people to access more reliable news.
  - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1. Just like what I have mentioned in question 2b, although being flagged, people can still read that news, and this promote the Diversity of news (no matter the news is reliable or fake). With Proposal 2, when fake news is removed, the diversity will be reduced sharply.
  - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
    - i. Proposal 1. I think different people may have different views on what is called "fake news".