

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 the way to go. Excluding individuals, no matter their opinion on a topic, is always a critical thing to do in my opinion. If individuals get their platform of communication taken away, other platforms will evolve where someone can talk more freely about what they believe is true. This can cause bubbles of extreme thinking. Looking at the most extreme case, flagging content on Facebook as potentially untrue could prevent forming social groups on the edge of society that pushes each other to new highs.
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 best preserves and promotes Rights. Proposal 2 takes away these rights by closing the platform of communication.
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes Opportunity for Expression. Proposal 2 takes away this platform of expression since Facebook decides who is allowed to post something and who isn't. In proposal 2 Facebook would take itself the right to decide about right and wrong.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes Access. By closing the platform to certain individuals as Proposal 2 suggests, access to sharing is not granted for everyone. This leads to a lack of access in proposal 2, because the normal reader does not even know he is prevented from accessing potential fake news.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes Diversity. Because even though you or Facebook might not agree with someone else's opinion, taking it away will lead to an ecosystem of filtered opinions.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes Communicative Power because access is never restricted. Facebook just warns you that news might be untrue. You can, however, always access them.