

Censorship on Social Media

This past September we witnessed an act of censorship within social media. Jimmy Kimmel Live! was taken off of air. He was taken off air because of a comment he made towards late political figure, Charlie Kirk

Kimmel suspended, Colbert outraged: How Trump turns dissent into disobedience is an essay written by Peter Kahl (2025) that discusses current talk show host Jimmy Kimmel's suspension from air. Kahl discusses events Trump has caused and how they are similar to previous authoritarian leaders. Although censorship can start out small it usually will lead to a much larger issue.

Presidents should not have control over a late night television show, it should not be their highest concern.



Photo from latenighter.com



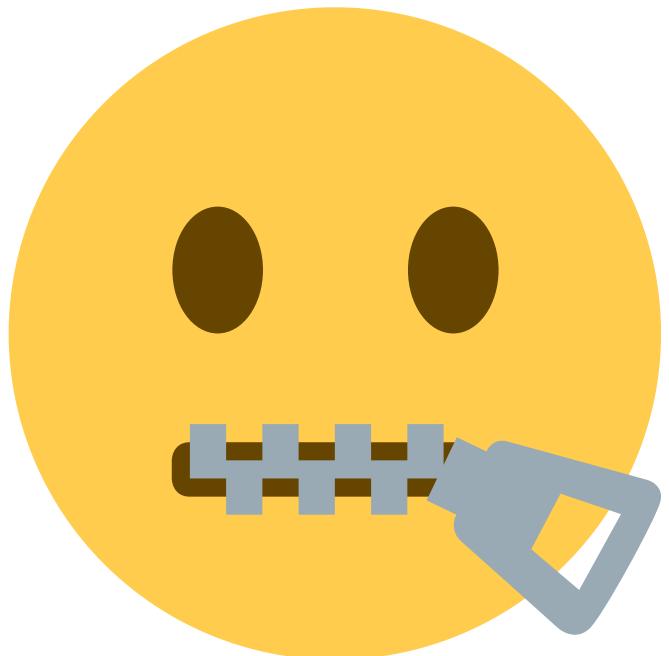
Photo from History.com

What is censorship?

Censorship is the suppression of words, images, or ideas that are deemed "offensive."

This can happen when people succeed in imposing their personal political or moral values on others. Censorship can be carried out by the government as well as private pressure groups.

Censorship has always been a thing, examples in the United States are; the book ban, Parental Rights in Education act also known as the “don’t say gay” bill, and even the regulation on pornography on the internet.



How does censorship affect us?

- **shapes the information we view**
 - can shape our beliefs, political opinions, and attitudes
- **Limits Freedom of Expression and Speech**
 - United States First amendment: Freedom of Speech, censorship directly goes against this
- **Social media is an important tool for activism, censorship goes against the idea of creating a community** for important events such as protests, sharing news, and social justice

Censorship manipulates what we see and therefore what we believe



How can we fight back?

According to Margaret E Roberts article, *Resilience to Online Censorship*

1. Recognize the censorship

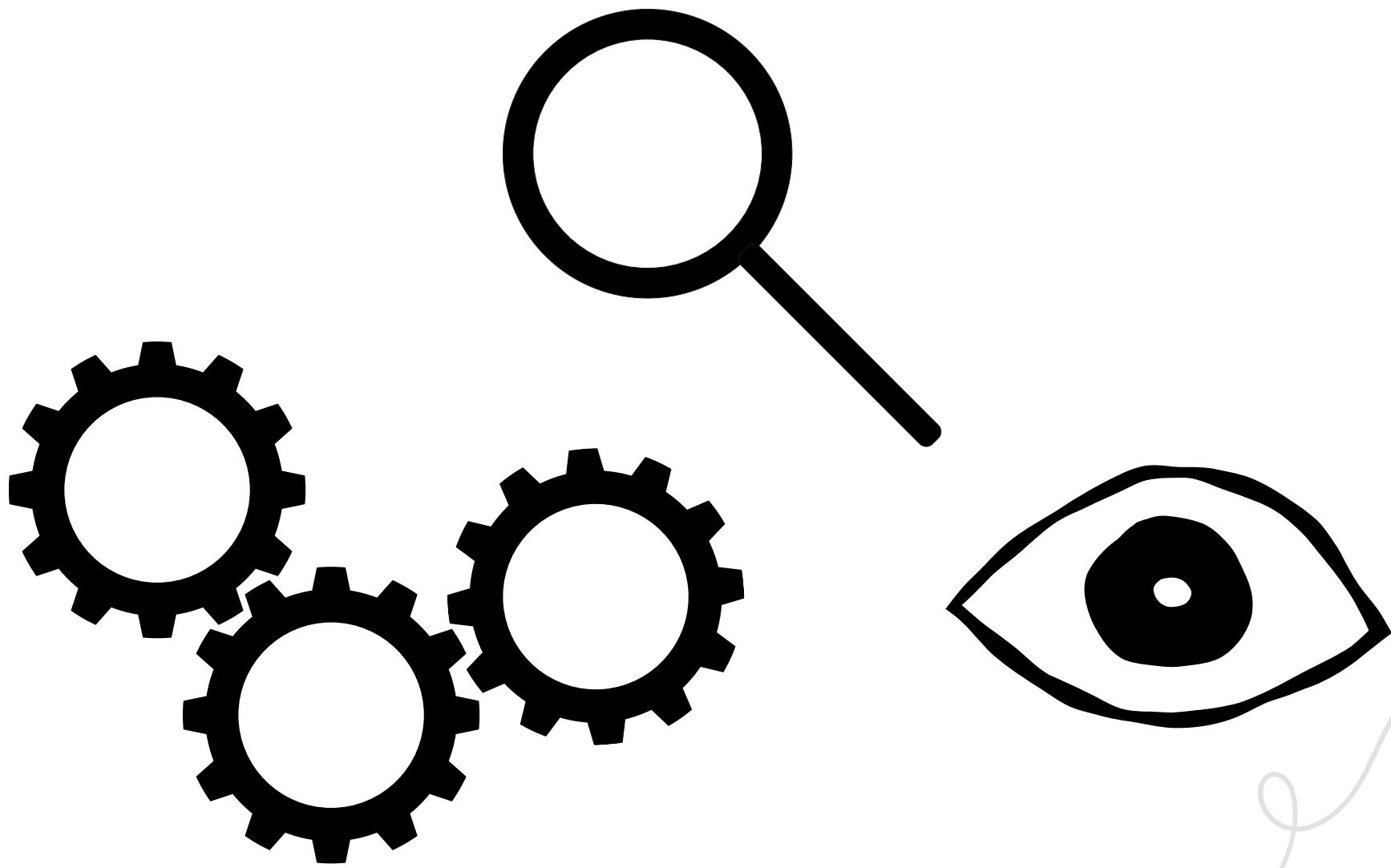
- If we don't know what information is missing, we can't fight back

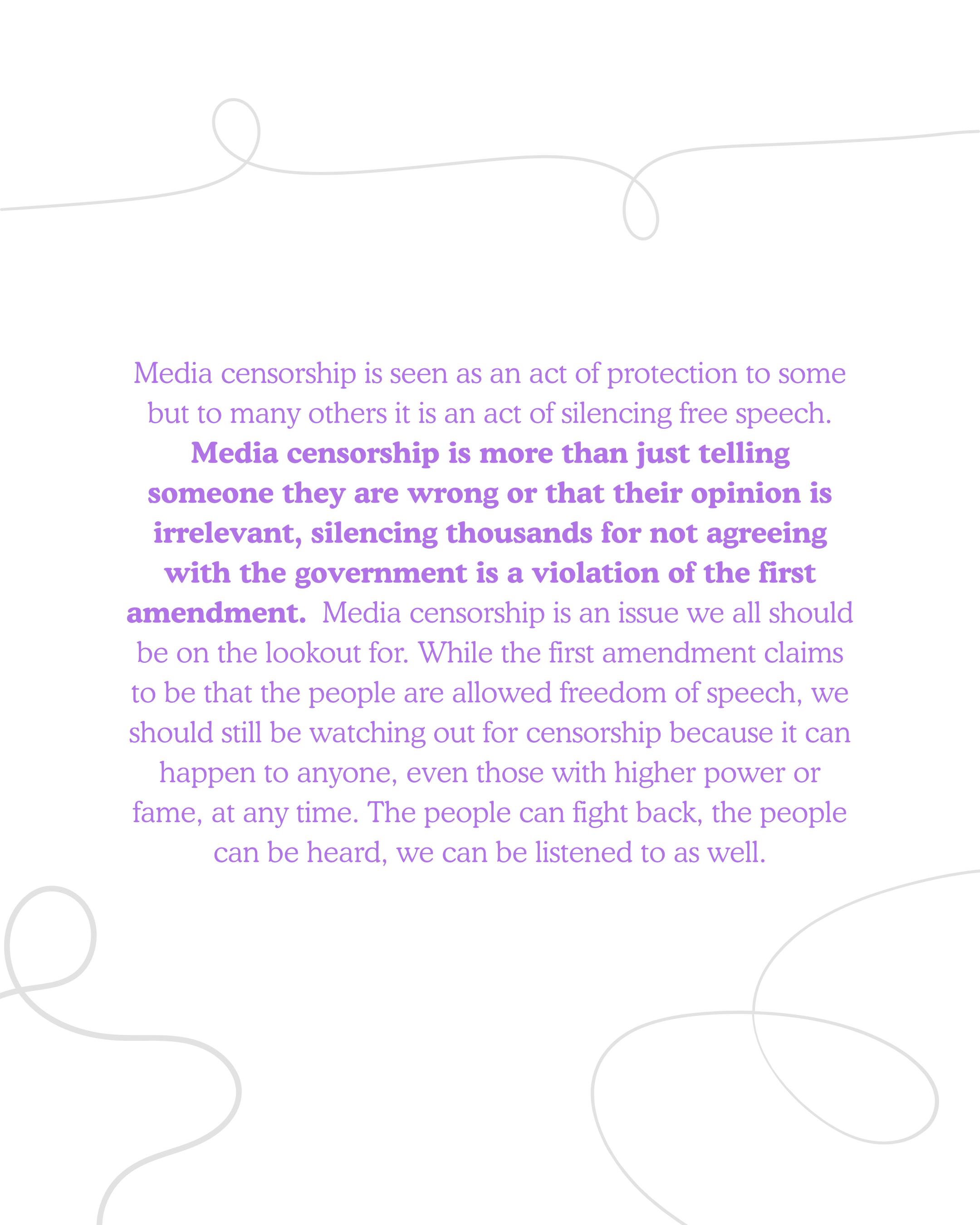
2. Seek alternative Information

- We can fight back if we have motivation

3. Use alternative resources to access blocked information

- Use VPNS, alternative platforms, community support networks





Media censorship is seen as an act of protection to some but to many others it is an act of silencing free speech.

Media censorship is more than just telling someone they are wrong or that their opinion is irrelevant, silencing thousands for not agreeing with the government is a violation of the first amendment. Media censorship is an issue we all should be on the lookout for. While the first amendment claims to be that the people are allowed freedom of speech, we should still be watching out for censorship because it can happen to anyone, even those with higher power or fame, at any time. The people can fight back, the people can be heard, we can be listened to as well.

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