

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 is better because Proposal 2 seems to invalidate the idea of free speech, where anyone should be able to state their views and opinions on various topics, and it also violates the enabling structure of rights and opportunities in a democratic public sphere.
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, specifically the liberties of expression and association, because it doesn't necessarily censor an individual and it allows people to criticize and hold accountable those who exercise power.
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes opportunities for expression because it is free of censorship and allows for fair and equal opportunities to participate in public discussions.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes access because it allows for each user to have equal access to good-quality and reliable information regarding public matters.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes diversity because it allows each person to have equal chances to hear a wide range of views, whereas in proposal 2, only certain views would be read, while others wouldn't even be shown. In order to have an informed and reasoned position on an argument, a wide variety of competing views should be given.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1 best preserves and promotes communicative power because it allows people to have equal chances of to explore interests and ideas in association with others, and through these, perhaps come up with new concerns that challenge the main view, and share these views, rather than them not even being shown, as in proposal 2.