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. It preserves the 5 rights and opportunities necessary for a democratic public sphere.
- 2. Which form of content regulation, Proposal 1 or Proposal 2, do you think best preserves or promotes the <u>five rights and opportunities necessary for a democratic public sphere?</u>
 - a. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Rights? Why?
 - Proposal 1. It allows all individuals to express their opinions, no matter if others disagree.
 It also allows other citizens (in this case a 3rd party fact-checking group) to respond if they disagree.
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - Proposal 1. It does not censor opinions that are in dispute, and anyone is equally able to express or share opinions on the platform.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. Mainly because it does not censor opinions, which may or may not be factual. Since all posts are allowed on the platform, and since all disputed posts are labelled as such, then any user can search, see, and choose which posts to view.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. Since all posts are allowed on the platform, without being removed/censored, then anyone can see any post/opinion whether or not it is in dispute. The platform showing disputed posts allows competing views to be shown.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. Since disputed opinions/posts are not censored, there is every chance that a user can see disputed opinions/posts, and through further discussion on those topics, these disputed opinions/posts have the ability to have their status changed so that they are no longer in dispute, or rather, accurate/factual.