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 feel proposal 1 is better because it does not silence the users. Even though what they are posting/sharing may be factually untrue, public discourse should not be unnecessarily limited.
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, because proposal 2 is not in accordance with the basic liberty of expression for an individual.
   b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
      i. Proposal 1, because it does not censor specific users (since some users share much more fake news than others). However, as noted in the article, the right to a fair opportunity is not the right to be taken seriously and have others listen.
   c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
      i. Proposal 2, because the unreliable sources are no longer mixed in with the reliable ones.
   d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
      i. A range of competing views will necessarily include some misleading or false information, even though it may be adversarial to the truth. Proposal 1 preserves this better.
   e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
      i. Since some users may share or post much more fake news, proposal 1 promotes this one better. If proposal 2 were enacted, they may be disproportionately censored compared to other users.