

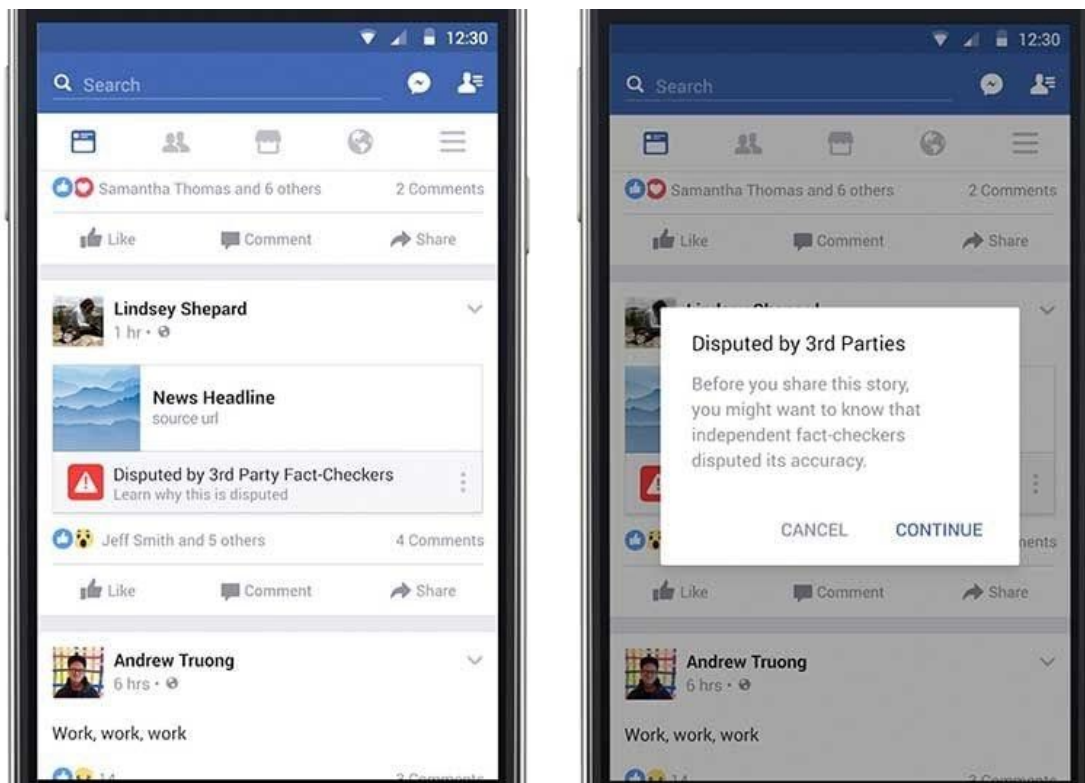
Facebook and Fake News

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 because people should be able to share what they want to, unless it promotes violent or criminal behavior.
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 it does not involve censoring certain ideas deemed problematic or inaccurate. It allows users to express what they wish (as long as it's not promoting violence or criminality).
 - b. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Opportunity for Expression? Why?
 - i. Proposal 1. Facebook and other social media platforms give opportunity for expression to people who aren't wealthy or powerful enough to be covered by mainstream media. People may be censored on facebook, but wealthy/powerful people could still spread their own "fake news" on platforms which common people may not be able to access.
 - c. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Access? Why?
 - i. Proposal 2, as questionable content is weeded out and the user sees more credible content. However, with the flag system Facebook does make users aware that the content may not be credible or questionable. If users choose, they can easily click the link to learn more about why the content isn't credible, and/or they can choose to keep scrolling until they get to credible content. Thus proposal one is only slightly worse at promoting access than proposal 2.
 - d. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Diversity? Why?
 - i. Neither necessarily does this well. But proposal 1 does a better job. People can see both the problematic view, and flag which involves a link to alternative information/an explanation why this information is wrong. Proposal 2 would decrease the range of views to which the person would be exposed.
 - e. Which proposal best preserves or promotes Communicative Power? Why?
 - i. Both/neither. Proposal 1 allows citizens to post what they want and explore/discuss these ideas with others, with some additional input (via flag) from a third party. However, it can cause people to explore and discuss ideas based on false information, or things which have no basis. Thus taking away from actual chance to explore ideas based in facts.