

SHOULD SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES CENSOR HATE SPEECH?

THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 90 MINUTES. IF LEARNERS ARE ABLE TO REVIEW MEDIA PRIOR TO THE LESSON, ACTIVITY TIME SHOULD BE 45 TO 60 MINUTES.

INVESTIGATE

Read, watch, and listen to the three media resources on the Thinkalong module. Learners can use the Investigate graphic organizer to summarize each piece of media and record new information. Below are summaries of the three pieces of media curated in the Thinkalong module.

U.S. LAWS AREN'T KEEPING UP WITH SPREAD OF HATE ONLINE, SAYS CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

PBS NewsHour | April 9, 2019 | Video | [Transcript](#)

10:04 minutes

The global rise of hate crimes alerted countries to pass legislation to censor hate speech on social media platforms. The U.S. has fallen behind their counterparts allowing social media to be unaccountable for hate rhetoric or content posted on their site.

- Hate crimes have increased globally as people use the social media platform to broadcast hate rhetoric, recruit new members, organize assemblies, and live-stream their violence.
- Arguments advocating social media neutrality state that suppressing hate speech strengthens its influence.
- Australia and European Union passes personal responsibility laws that hold social media executives responsible for hate speech.
- Tech companies are recommended to add diversity to their team, collaborate with civil rights organizations, and understand how their platform contributes to increasing hate violence.

FACEBOOK CEO MARK ZUCKERBERG DISCUSSES FREE SPEECH WITH GEORGETOWN STUDENTS

NPR | October 17, 2019 | Audio | [Transcript](#)

3:55 minutes

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who rarely gives speeches, provides a strong stance on why Facebook does not censor content on their site and their defense on promoting free speech.

- Zuckerberg explains Facebook embodies “American values of free speech” and the reasoning why they don’t judge nor censor content on their platform.
- Chinese companies own 6 of 10 top Internet platforms and they heavily censor content on these sites.
- Zuckerberg explains that either US or Chinese standards regarding free speech may set the future tone for the world.
- Zuckerberg believes that Facebook should not be a referee in censoring political content and allow the average user to make his or her own conclusions.

Using public media — video, audio and digital reports — about newsworthy topics, these classroom-based exercises help learners to think critically about media messages, develop informed opinions, and practice how to take a stand.

INSTAGRAM HAS A PROBLEM WITH HATE SPEECH AND EXTREMISM, 'ATLANTIC' REPORTER SAYS

NPR | March 30, 2019 | Audio | [Transcript](#)

4:35 minutes

Instagram has evolved into a hotbed for extremism and hate rhetoric since the racist images and/or video contents are difficult to censor. Consequently, hate groups find Instagram a perfect recruiting ground for young teenagers and millennial to become indoctrinated with their ideology.

- Instagram is evolving into a new visual platform for hate rhetoric, yet this platform refrains from censoring the hate rhetoric.
- Right-wing extremists are targeting Instagram users who are primarily teenagers and young millennial.
- Instagram utilizes a page recommendation algorithm that recommends new pages based on the user's history.
- White nationalist figures use influencer strategies to attract new members, making their ideology seem attractive.

KEY WORDS

Look out for these important keywords in the news stories. Discuss the definitions with your learners and see how they affect the understanding of the story.

- Hate crime
- Censorship
- Human rights
- First amendment

CONTEMPLATE

Learners will use media literacy questions to critically engage with news by thinking about its purpose, searching for bias and discussing missing perspectives. They will answer the 5 Key Questions of Media Literacy created by the Center for Media Literacy, which are:

1. Who created this message?
2. What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?
3. How might different people understand this message differently than me?
4. What values, lifestyles and points of view are represented in, or omitted from, this message?
5. Why is this message being sent?

A graphic organizer is included in this guide and the Thinkalong website to help learners answer these five questions about each piece of media.

DEBATE

Use the debate tool on the module webpage to help form evidence-based responses to the debate question.

Thinkalong is designed to help learners engage with real issues that are relevant to their lives. [Structured discussions](#) allow learners to practice their critical thinking skills through evidence-based debate with their peers. Discussions are designed to take about 30 minutes. Educators are encouraged to modify aspects that work best for their learners.

To encourage civil discourse, please review the [Code of Conduct](#) with your learners.

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