



CURRICULUM RESOURCE GUIDE

2025 EUCOS

Policy Symposium

**Social Media Regulation: European
Approaches to Dangerous Online Content in
International Perspective**

May 1, 2025

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Thomson Hall, Room 317

9:00 am – 12:30 pm (*some portions for UW students only*)

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Outlining Standards

A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Guide

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The **College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards** are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.

WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

(1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

(2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

(3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

(4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

(5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

Outlining Standards

COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C3 FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C3 Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRIES	DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	DIMENSION 3: EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4: COMMUNICATING CONCLUSIONS AND TAKING INFORMED ACTS
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civics Economics Geography History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering and Evaluating Sources Developing Claims and Using Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions Taking Informed Action

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: (1) **Civics**; (2) **Economics**; (3) **Geography**; (4) **History**. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

C3 Framework Organization

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation

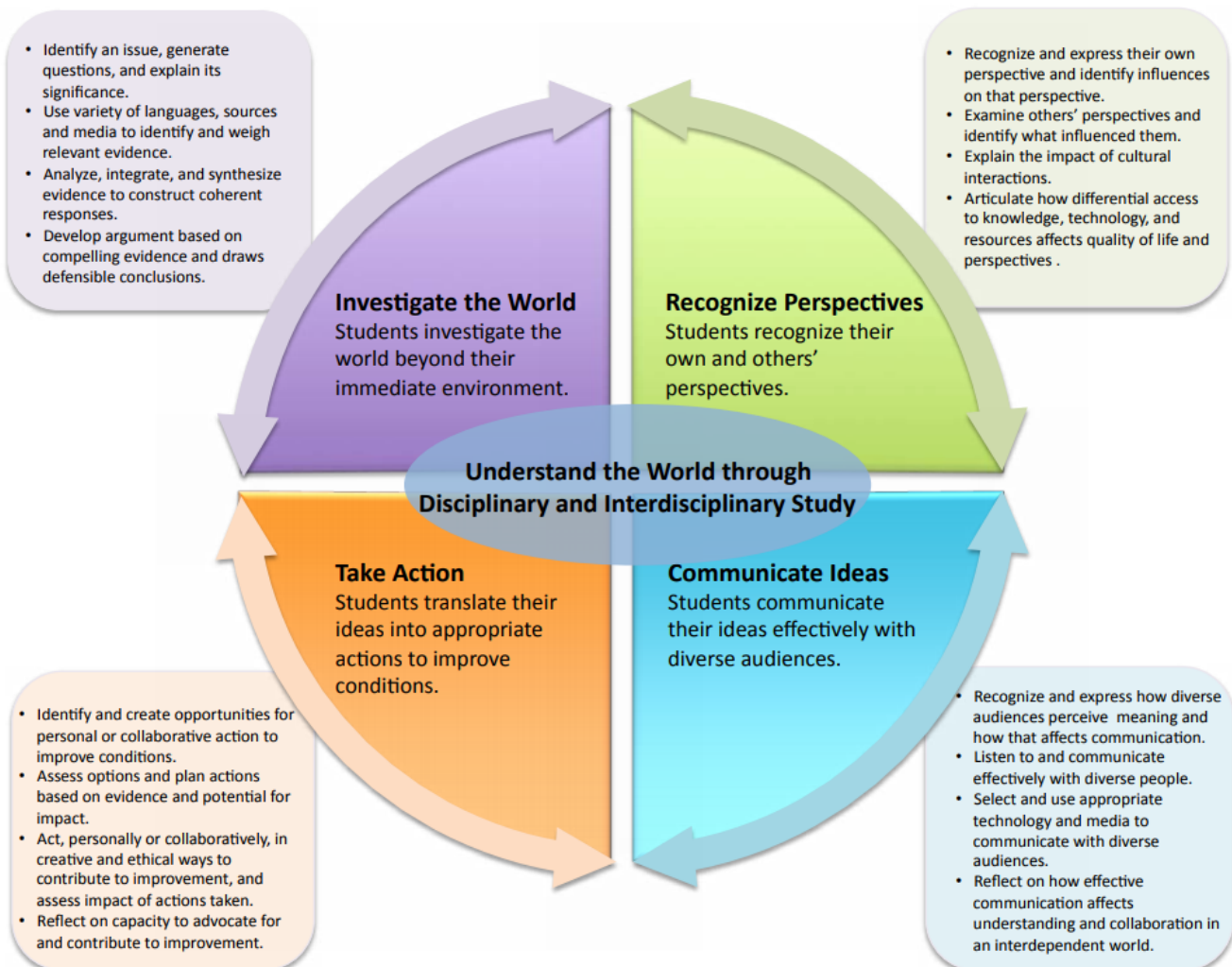
Educating For Global Competence

Frameworks taken from *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

“Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance” (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
2. **Recognize perspectives** others’ and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.



Introduction To Symposium Speakers



Jessica L. Beyer, Moderator

Jessica Beyer is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and a lead of the Jackson School's Cybersecurity Initiative. Dr. Beyer teaches [cybersecurity politics courses](#) in the Jackson School and supervises student research through the [Cybersecurity Initiative](#) and [Global Research Groups](#). In 2019 and 2023, she won the JSIS Student Service Award. In 2025, she won an Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from the UW's Office of Undergraduate Research. [Read full bio.](#)

John A. Albert

John Albert is an associate researcher at the Institute for Information Law (IVIIR) where he contributes to the Digital Services Act (DSA) Observatory—an independent hub for scholarly input and expert discussions around this landmark legislation. His research examines the practical application of the DSA's risk-based approach to platform governance, and how this impacts fundamental rights and democratic discourse. [Read full bio.](#)



Nicole H. Buckley



Nicole Buckley is an associate at K&L Gates' Seattle office and a member of the Technology Transactions and Sourcing group. Nicole leverages her robust background in technology policy to help clients close deals, scale operations, expand to the cloud, and achieve regulatory compliance. She has experience collaborating with technology companies of all sizes to address concerns ranging from antitrust to data privacy. Nicole also supports entities public and private in reaching a working understanding of misinformation and disinformation, especially in the context of use policies and international law. [Read full bio.](#)

Key Terms

[Misinformation](#): information that is not completely true or accurate

[Disinformation](#): false information that is given to people in order to make them believe something or to hide the truth

[Self-regulation](#): Regulation of a system or process from within; spec. the fact of an organization, industry, etc., regulating itself without intervention from external bodies.

[Post-truth](#): Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping political debate or public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief

[Algorithm](#): Used by a social media company, streaming service, etc., to sort and prioritize content most likely to be relevant or engaging to individual users, based on data gathered about user behavior, demographic profiles, etc.

[Free Speech](#): speech that is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution also: the right to such speech

[Telecommunications](#): the technology of sending and receiving signals, images, etc., over long distances by telephone, television, satellite, etc.

[Systemic risk](#): the risk that the failure of one financial institution (such as a bank) could cause other interconnected institutions to fail and harm the economy as a whole

[Regulation](#): an official rule or law that says how something should be done

[Liberal Democracy](#): a form of democracy in which the power of government is limited, and the freedom and rights of individuals are protected, by constitutionally established norms and institutions

[Censorship](#): the suppression or removal of writing, artistic work, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security

[Filter Bubble](#): an environment and especially an online environment in which people are exposed only to opinions and information that conform to their existing belief

[Extremism](#): belief in and support for ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable

[Fake News](#): false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke

FAST FACT

“The majority of parents, young adults, and teens use their cell phone in their bedrooms before going to sleep. However, numerous studies have found that this habit can significantly affect sleeping patterns and sleep quality, leaving many of us feeling chronically groggy and lethargic during the day.”

<https://www.sutterhealth.org/health/screens-and-your-sleep-the-impact-of-nighttime-use>

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource,

1. **Students will understand how free speech is protected in different democracies** – by comparing the U.S. First Amendment with global human rights standards like Article 19 of the ICCPR.
2. **Students will explain the purpose and impact of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act** – by analyzing how it protects online platforms and affects what users can post or say.
3. **Students will explore how the European Union regulates digital platforms through the Digital Services Act (DSA)** – by examining its goals, rules, and how it holds companies accountable.
4. **Students will compare how countries like the U.S., EU members, India, Brazil, and South Korea manage online content** – by identifying how cultural and political differences influence their approaches to regulation.
5. **Students will examine how social media companies create and enforce their own content rules** – by evaluating moderation policies from platforms like Meta, X (Twitter), and TikTok.
6. **Students will identify the differences between misinformation, disinformation, and extremist content** – and investigate real-world examples to understand how harmful content spreads online.
7. **Students will analyze how algorithms and platform design influence what content people see online** – by discussing how recommendation systems affect public opinion, safety, and fairness.
8. **Students will evaluate the ethical debates around free speech, censorship, and online safety** – by applying ideas like the harm principle to real-world challenges, especially those affecting youth.



DID YOU KNOW?

"Anxiety and depression in young people have been on the rise for the past two+ decades. Although social media isn't solely to blame, it is one of the suspected culprits. From cyber bullying to jealousy to feelings of social isolation, the regular use of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are contributing to the rising rates of mental health concerns, especially among younger people."

<https://akhealth.org/social-media-mental-health-facts/>

The Foundations of Free Speech and Expression in Democracies

[4 Permissible Limitations of the ICCPR Right to Freedom of Expression](#)

The Australian Human Rights Commission has evaluated the language and weight of Article 19 of the ICCPR right to free speech and the limitations on free speech. This report reflects Australia's Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Australian Human Rights Commission's understanding of the right to freedom of speech and the government's right to limit it.

[The Right to Freedom of Expression Under International Law](#)

"The United Nations was the first international entity to enshrine the right to freedom of expression in international law in 1948 with the UDHR. Article 19 states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."(1) This was the foundation of what later became Article 19 of the ICCPR."



[Free Speech in European \(and Other\) Democracies, with Professor Jacob Mchangama \(November 14th, 2024\)](#)

"How does European free speech law differ from American free speech law, when it comes to "hate speech," blasphemy, and misinformation?"

[Freedom of Speech, Power, and Democracy](#)

"The importance of freedom of speech in a democratic society is usually taken as a given, but freedom from speech is no less important in safeguarding the values of truth, autonomy, and democracy. Freedom from speech includes both the right of the individual to not be forced to speak and the freedom to avoid the speech of others. This essay attempts to highlight the significance of freedom from speech in order to clarify the importance of the First Amendment right against compelled speech; provide an explanation for when the right of free speech yields to other rights; and offer a framework for evaluating unsettled or contentious questions about free speech doctrine and practice."

[Freedom of Speech](#)

"Freedom of speech—the right to express opinions without government restraint—is a democratic ideal that dates back to ancient Greece. In the United States, the First Amendment guarantees free speech, though the United States, like all modern democracies, places limits on this freedom. In a series of landmark cases, the U.S. Supreme Court over the years has helped to define what types of speech are—and aren't—protected under U.S. law."

The Foundations of Free Speech and Expression in Democracies



[Current Events: Freedom of Speech and Expression Around the World](#)

"This week's Current Events resources examines the status of freedom of speech and expression in countries around the world. The resources shared provide information and context around the ongoing battles and debates around where and how freedom of speech and expression are implemented in societies across the globe."

[Freedom of Expression: Over Half of the World Living in 'Crisis' \(September 10th, 2024\)](#)

"According to global human rights organisation Article 19, more than half the world's population lives in a country where freedom of expression is 'in crisis'. Article 19 publishes an annual report in which it tracks freedom of speech levels around the globe. This latest statistic on freedom of expression 'is larger than any other previous records', says the organisation's London-based Senior Director for Programmes, David Diaz-Jogeix. 'Things are going in the wrong direction.'"

[Does the First Amendment Right of Free Speech Intersect with Democracy? \(May 6th, 2024\)](#)

"The First Amendment, which among other things protects an American's right to free speech, was added to the Constitution as part of the Bill of Rights to strengthen an individual's civil liberties against governmental interference. It is integral to a healthy democracy and has been historically valued by Americans and protected by American courts."

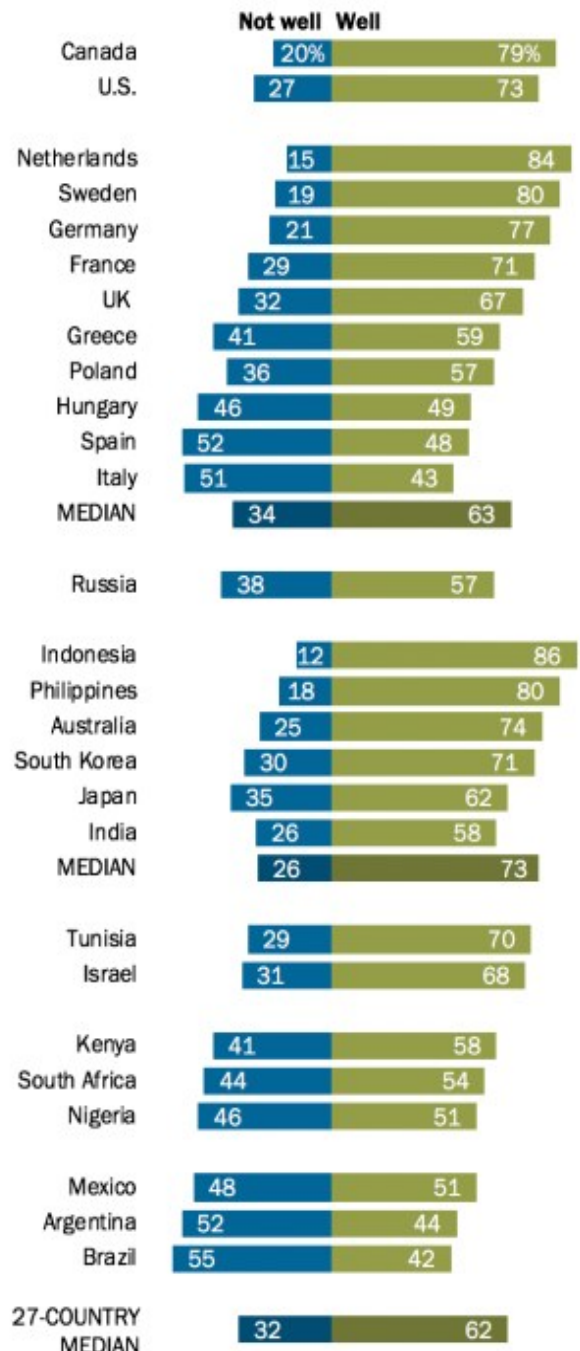
[Timeline: History of Free Speech](#)

Timeline of key events in the history, understanding, and legal precedent of free speech particularly in the United States.

Most publics agree free speech is protected in their country



% who say "the rights of people to express their views in public are protected" describes their country ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q34f.

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Understanding Section 230 of the Communications Decency

[What Would Happen if Section 230 Went Away? Legal Expert Explains the Consequences of Repealing 'the Law That Built the Internet' \(April 11th, 2025\)](#)

"Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, passed in 1996 as part of the Telecommunications Act, has become a political lightning rod in recent years. The law shields online platforms from liability for user-generated content while allowing moderation in good faith. Lawmakers including Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., now seek to sunset Section 230 by 2027 in order to spur a renegotiation of its provisions. The debate over the law centers on balancing accountability for harmful content with the risks of censorship and stifled innovation. As a legal scholar, I see dramatic potential effects if Section 230 were to be repealed."

[The Law Standing in the Way of Justice for Sexual Abuse Survivors \(April 11th, 2025\)](#)

"Laws should protect those who have experienced horrific crimes, but instead, Section 230 gives online platforms broad immunity for crimes committed on their sites, leaving many people — particularly children — vulnerable."

[Anderson v. TikTok: A Landmark Decision Shakes Section 230 Immunity \(February 21st, 2025\)](#)

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit delivered a pivotal decision last August in *Anderson v. TikTok*, which could have far-reaching consequences for the future of Section 230 immunity and social media platforms' responsibility to moderate content and avoid promoting potentially dangerous content. In August 2024, the court ruled that TikTok, Inc. and its co-defendant ByteDance Ltd. could not rely on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to shield itself from liability in a lawsuit stemming from a tragic incident involving a viral challenge on its platform."



Understanding Section 230 of the Communications Decency

[Having Trouble Understanding Section 230? Don't Worry. SO Does the Supreme Court. \(March 7th, 2024\)](#)

Many people including US judges and justices have a difficult time understanding the reality and implications of Section 230. As a result, the article has been the subject of much legal and scholarly debate around its meaning and its power. As a law expert interested in Section 230 law, Jeff Kosseff provides insights into its history, its cases, and its future.

[What You Should Know About Section 230, the Rule That Shaped Today's Internet \(February 21st, 2023\)](#)

"Twenty-six words tucked into a 1996 law overhauling telecommunications have allowed companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google to grow into the giants they are today. A case coming before the U.S. Supreme Court this week, Gonzalez v. Google, challenges this law — namely whether tech companies are liable for the material posted on their platforms."



[Repealing Section 230 Could Completely Change the Internet \(March 24th, 2021\)](#)

"You've probably heard about Section 230 by now, but you might not know exactly what it means. VICE News breaks down its history and how it could affect the internet in the future."

[Section 230: Key Legal Cases](#)

"In the decade and a half since Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) was signed into law, it has been challenged and upheld on numerous occasions. This is a small sample of the key cases that have litigated Section 230 over the years."



Do you believe Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act has --?

44%

Done more **good** than harm because it has allowed the internet to grow as a place people can communicate and say what they think



54%

Done more **harm** than good because it has not made the companies accountable for the illegal content that appears on their websites and apps



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Understanding Section 230 of the Communications Decency



[Current Events: Online Immunity \(Section 230\)](#)

"The resources shared provide information and context to how Section 230 has impacted the internet, and society, as well as the controversies that surround its prescribed immunization of large tech companies from the content posted on their platforms."



[Section 230 and Internet Law; Retro Report](#)

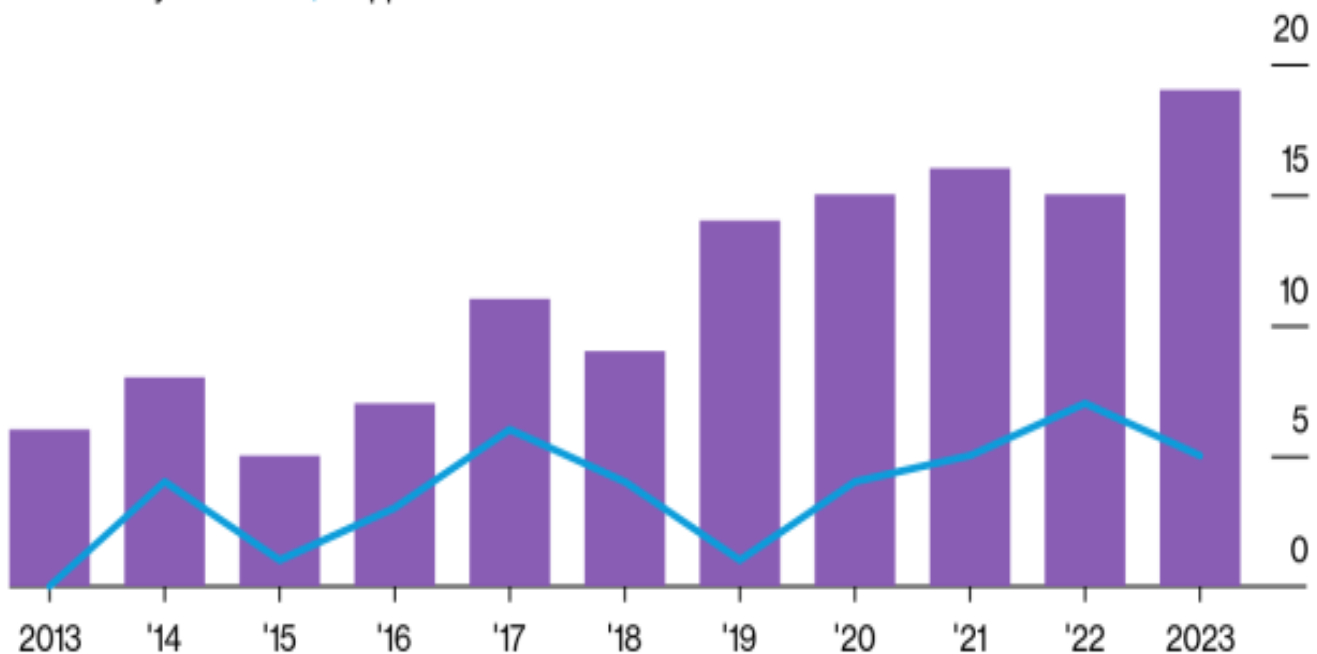
"Today more and more people are posting what they want online, and websites are not getting sued for it because of their legal shield. But to some experts, the broad immunity that Section 230 provides has made some internet companies lazy and irresponsible."



Dismissals on Section 230 Grounds Continue to Rise

Grants of dismissals of federal lawsuits due to Section 230 immunity

■ Immunity Granted / Appealed



Source: Bloomberg Law Court Opinion Search

Note: "Immunity Granted" denotes cases in which some or all of the causes of action against interactive computer service providers, including but not limited to social media platforms, were dismissed on immunity grounds. "Appealed" denotes those dismissals in which appellate briefs were filed.

Bloomberg Law

The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA)

[Civil Society Responds to DSA Risk Assessment Reports: An Initial Feedback Brief \(March 17th, 2025\)](#)

"The DSA Civil Society Coordination Group, in collaboration with the Recommender Systems Taskforce and People vs Big Tech, has released an initial analysis of the first Risk Assessment Reports submitted by major platforms under Article 42 of the DSA. This analysis identifies both promising practices and critical gaps, offering recommendations to improve future iterations of these reports and ensure meaningful compliance with the DSA."



[Systemic Risk Reporting: A System in Crisis? \(January 16th, 2025\)](#)

"In view of a new DSA investigation into TikTok's potential role in Romania's presidential election, we take a look at the reports and the framework that has produced them to understand their value and limitations."

[Unpacking "Systemic Risk" Under the EU's Digital Service Act \(July 19th, 2023\)](#)

"At present, many of the world's largest online platforms are conducting a first-ever, mandatory assessment of "systemic risks" arising from the design and functioning of their services, as part of the EU's sweeping content regulation, the Digital Services Act (DSA). Although information and communications technology companies have been using a variety of risk assessment methods and approaches for years to inform their work on human rights and trust and safety, the framework set out in the DSA, which for now applies only to platforms and search engines with more than 45 million EU users, presents the first regulatory requirements for risk assessments around online content and conduct."

The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA)



[EU Digital Services Act's Effects on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability \(March 27th, 2023\)](#)

"The DSA, which introduces due diligence and transparency obligations regarding algorithmic decision-making by online platforms, such as social media, video sharing or e-commerce, entered into force on November 16, 2022. For providers of Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) and Very Large Online Search Engines (VLOSEs)—providers reaching 45 million EU users monthly—the DSA may apply four months following a notification to the provider concerned, which will be a date earlier than February 17, 2024. In this Legal Update, we provide further detail on these obligations and note the steps businesses can take to comply with the DSA."



[How the EU is Taking on Tech Giants \(July 9th, 2022\)](#)

"The EU is once again taking the fight to Big Tech with two new pieces of legislation designed to regulate markets and services and protect consumers online. But what do they actually mean in practical terms for Tech Giants operating in Europe and beyond?"



[What is the EU Digital Services Act and How Will it Impact Big Tech? \(January 20th, 2022\)](#)

"MEPs agreed a draft set of measures aimed at helping to tackle illegal content, as well as ensuring that platforms are held accountable for their secretive algorithms."

[Overview of Transparency Obligations for Digital Services in the DSA \(June 18th, 2021\)](#)

"The draft Digital Services Act (DSA) Regulation presents multiple layers of transparency and accountability obligations that differ depending on the type of service concerned. There are a few obligations that are imposed on all intermediary services, i.e., mere conduit, caching, and hosting services¹. Additional requirements then apply specifically to hosting services. Online platforms and very large online platforms (VLOPs), being subcategories of hosting services, are subject to the largest number of obligations."

The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA)



[EU Digital Services Act – What Are Your Obligations? \(March 1st, 2021\)](#)

"On December 15, 2020, the European Commission published the first draft of the Digital Services Act ("DSA"). In this episode of TMT Talk, Carolina Pardo discusses this impactful legal development with Ben Allgrove, Rebecca Bland, and Julia Dickenson. Our TMT industry experts highlight the key points of the DSA, give their perspectives on the new obligations included in it, who they apply to and provide updates on progress relevant to this new law."

[The Enforcement Framework Under the Digital Services Act](#)

"The enforcement of the Digital Services Act (DSA) includes a full set of investigative and sanctioning measures that can be taken by national authorities and the Commission.

The description below provides an overview of those tools. It does not replace or affect the actual provisions of the DSA. The description below was prepared by the Commission services for information purposes only. It does not bind the Commission in any way."

[The Digital Services Act](#)

"The DSA regulates online intermediaries and platforms such as marketplaces, social networks, content-sharing platforms, app stores, and online travel and accommodation platforms. Its main goal is to prevent illegal and harmful activities online and the spread of disinformation. It ensures user safety, protects fundamental rights, and creates a fair and open online platform environment."

The European Board for Digital Services

Roles and responsibilities in the Digital Services Act (DSA)



Enforcement	DSA violations	Risk assessments	Data access	Crisis response mechanism
	Board facilitates cross-border cooperation and joint investigations by Digital Services Coordinators (DSCs)	Board publishes report on systemic risks and mitigation measures (with Commission)	Board must be consulted by Commission for delegated act	Board gives recommendation to Commission about invoking crisis
DSA articles	58(2), 60(1)b, 75(2), 75(3)	35(2)	40(13)	36(1)
Forum for exchange	Board issues opinions/recommendations; advises DSCs, Commission; consults with experts; keeps records; assists with guidelines, secondary legislation			
DSA articles	61-63; 22(4), 22(8); 39(3); 44(1); 49(3); 55(1); 66(2)			

Comparative Approaches to Content Moderation



[Regulation or Repression? Government Influence on Political Content Moderation in India and Thailand \(July 31st, 2024\)](#)

"Across the world, governments and Big Tech companies have diverged on how social media platforms should moderate political content and who gets the final say. While numerous studies on platform governance and content moderation have drawn on findings from relatively liberal contexts such as the United States and Western Europe, major platforms also operate in illiberal contexts in which governments exert undue pressure to restrict media freedom and crack down on critics."

[A Review of Content Moderation Policies in Latin America \(July 8th, 2024\)](#)

"This article examines content moderation policies in various Latin American countries. Unlike the EU, which has a robust regulatory approach exemplified by the Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA), Latin America has a diverse and evolving landscape of digital regulation. In this region, countries are grappling with their unique challenges, often influenced by differing political climates, legal frameworks, and levels of technological development."

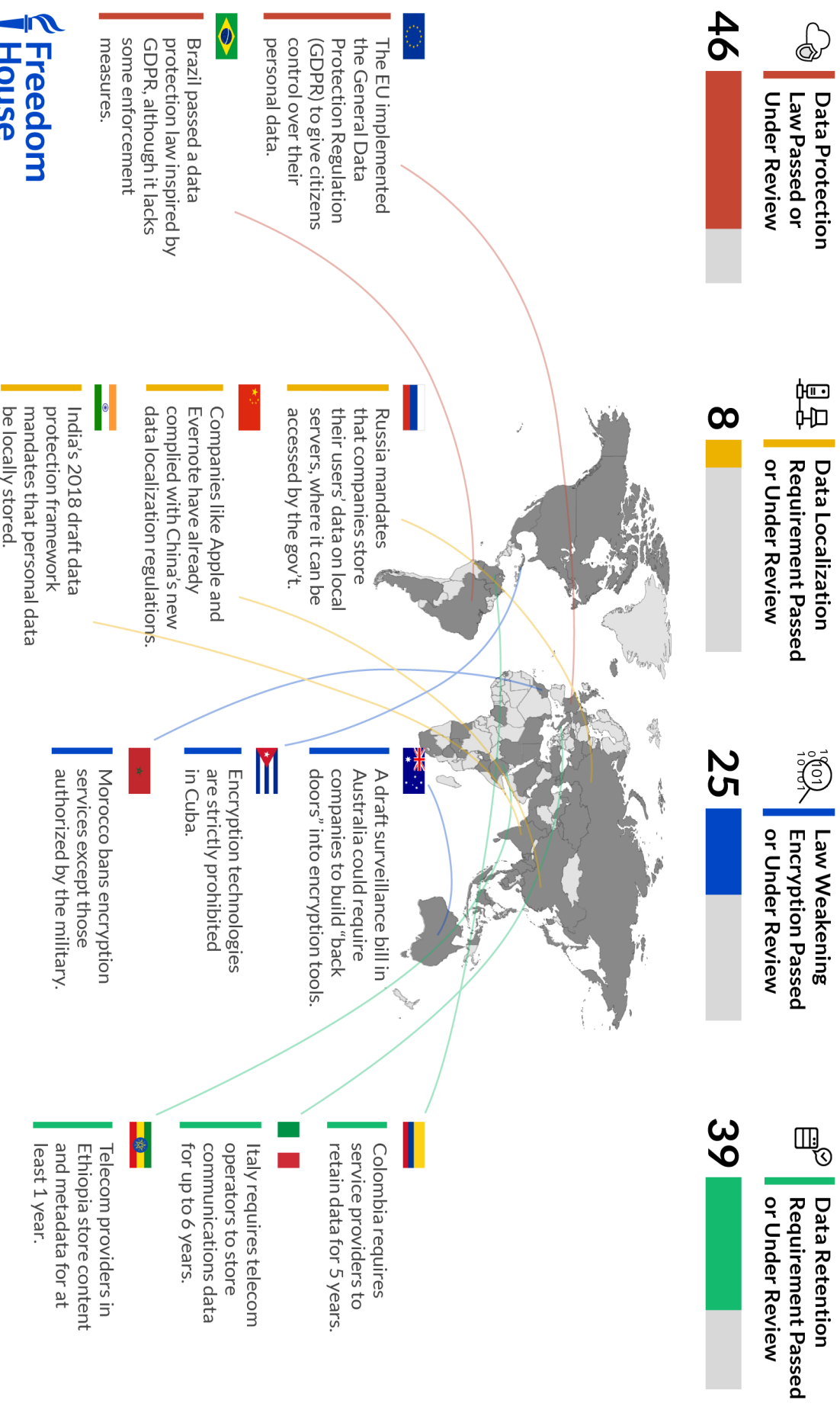


[Content Moderation Around the World \(May 31st, 2023\)](#)

"Daphne Keller is the director of the Program on Platform Regulation at Stanford's Cyber Policy Center. Agustina Del Campo is the director of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information at Universidad de Palermo, in Argentina. They take host Corbin Barthold on a tour of global "law of content moderation" hot spots—places where state intervention in online speech is ramping up. Topics include Europe's sprawling Digital Services Act, a new Brazilian bill that regulates "fake news" (as defined by government fact checkers), and the Modi government's increasingly aggressive steps to censor online speech in India."



Where your Privacy Is (and Isn't) Protected



Comparative Approaches to Content Moderation



[Brazil's Fake News Law: Big Tech Bites Back in Bitter Internet Regulation Fight \(May 5, 2023\)](#)

"Brazil's landmark fake news law hit a hurdle this week when a vote in parliament was postponed. If it's eventually passed, online life will change for more than 160 million Brazilians who use social media, and potentially for internet users around the world. But Big Tech is putting up a fight, as our Technology Editor Peter O'Brien explains. We also get insight from our Rio correspondent Constance Malleret."



[Free Speech on Social Media Doesn't Mean the Same Thing Around the World \(January 18th, 2022\)](#)

"A Northeastern survey of four diverse democracies found that people in other countries differ from Americans when it comes to opinions as to how social media companies should be regulated, with respondents in the United Kingdom, South Korea, and Mexico favoring stricter content moderation than people in the U.S.—especially in cases that cause harm or distress."

[Online Content Regulation: An International Comparison \(December 8th, 2021\)](#)

"Countries around the world have varying definitions of harmful online content, and different models for regulating those harms. The United States (US) and China occupy opposite ends of the spectrum of online content regulation, with most other countries or entities, e.g.—India, the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), and Germany—falling in between the poles represented by the US and Chinese models."

DID YOU KNOW?

"46% of Americans surveyed disagreed or strongly disagreed with the U.S. government regulating social media platforms, compared to only 28% who agreed or strongly agreed. Respondents expressed more agreement with the removal, 63%, or minimizing, 57%, of unverified information by the platforms themselves."

[https://www.bu.edu/com/articles/leery-of-government-regulation-americans-want-social-media-to-police-misinformation-survey-finds/#:~:text=A%20strong%20plurality%20\(46%25\),information%20by%20the%20platforms%20themselves](https://www.bu.edu/com/articles/leery-of-government-regulation-americans-want-social-media-to-police-misinformation-survey-finds/#:~:text=A%20strong%20plurality%20(46%25),information%20by%20the%20platforms%20themselves)

Comparative Approaches to Content Moderation

[The Limits of International Law in Content Moderation \(May 7th, 2021\)](#)

"In remarkably short order, there has been growing convergence around the idea that major social media platforms should use international human rights law (IHRL) as the basis for their content moderation rules. The argument was spearheaded by David Kaye during his tenure as U.N. special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Kaye made the first comprehensive case for the proposal in his mid-2018 report to the U.N. Human Rights Council.¹ The call has been increasingly echoed by academics and civil society² and, in a coup for the movement, platforms themselves have begun suggesting they do or will incorporate IHRL into their content moderation governance systems."



Appreciation for Internet Freedom in Emerging and Developing Nations

(percentage of people who believe they should have internet access without government censorship)



Source: Pew Research Center

[Korea's Path to Digital Leadership: How Seoul Can Lead on Standards and Standardization](#)

"This volume digs into South Korea's experiences with digital standards and standardization and draws attention to Korea's distinctive digital policy. It then compares Korea's experiences to those of the United States and other Asian players, notably Malaysia and Japan—grading all four countries in key areas."

The Role of Social Media Platforms in Self-Regulation

[Meta Oversight Board Calls on Company to Investigate how Content Moderation Changes Could Impact Human Rights \(April 23rd, 2025\)](#)

"Meta's Oversight Board is calling on the company to evaluate how recent changes to its content moderation policies could impact the human rights of some users, including those in the LGBTQ community. The Oversight Board published 11 case decisions overnight Wednesday, marking the first cases to take into account the policy and enforcement changes announced by the Facebook and Instagram parent company at the start of the year."

[Regulating Social Media Platforms: Government, Speech, and the Law \(April 2nd, 2025\)](#)

"Leading expert authors in this symposium evaluate current and prospective regulatory approaches to answer the following questions: is it lawful, feasible, and desirable for government actors to regulate social media platforms to reduce harmful effects on democracy and society? If so, how? What are the prospects for meaningful federal regulation, given the divisions in Congress and increasingly partisan leanings of regulators? And will the states be viable laboratories of experimentation? How will regulation in other parts of the globe impact content moderation practices for U.S.-based companies? What is the short-term future for government regulation of social media platforms, and how might the regulatory landscape evolve over the longer term?"

[Unpacking the Human Rights Consequences of Social Media Moderation Backsliding \(March 28th, 2025\)](#)

"Since Donald Trump's inauguration as US president in January, many leading US companies have made every effort to accommodate the administration in what they perceive as a changing legal and political landscape. Some corporate executives have joined the administration, the most notable being Elon Musk, the world's richest man."



[Facebook & Content Moderation: Last Week Tonight \(February 23, 2025\)](#)

"John Oliver discusses Facebook's controversial new plans for content moderation and which Animorphs he would and would not kill with his car."

[Two Years After the Takeover: Four Key Policy Changes of X Under Musk \(October 28th, 2024\)](#)

"Since controversial businessman and investor Elon Musk took over X (formerly Twitter) in October 2022, the platform has implemented a range of policy changes. Some changes, such as the removal of a rule against the misgendering of trans people have made headlines, while others have gone largely unnoticed. What overall direction has X's rulebook taken? And how have the platform's policies on hate speech, misinformation and child abuse evolved? This blog post charts out of four central developments within the platform's complex web of policies."

The Role of Social Media Platforms in Self-Regulation



[TikTok Replaces Malaysia Content Moderators with AI \(October 28, 2024\)](#)

"Earlier this month, TikTok announced it has sacked around 500 employees in Malaysia whose job it was to delete inappropriate content. What is highly controversial though is that the workers will be replaced with a cheaper option: artificial intelligence. France 24's team in Kuala Lumpur sent this report."



[Can Social Media Platforms Engage in Their Own Self-Regulation \(October 15, 2024\)](#)

"In this episode of the TechTank podcast, co-host Nicol Turner Lee is joined by Mary K. Engle, Executive Vice President of Policy at BBB National Programs, and David Vladeck, the A.B. Chettle Chair in Civil Procedure at Georgetown Law and former director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection."

[Social Media Companies Should Self-Regulate. Now. \(January 15th, 2021\)](#)

"Tech companies face the real threat of government regulation in reaction to socially harmful content they are publishing. To avoid this, tech companies should form an industry coalition and take proactive steps to self-regulate now. Our research into industries including television, movies, and video games suggests effective self-regulation."

Fast Fact

"In Quarter 4 of 2024, TikTok removed over 200,000,000 accounts, the majority, over 150,000,000, were removed because they were fake accounts."

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1308893/tiktok-accounts-removed-by-reason/>

The Role of Social Media Platforms in Self-Regulation

[Business Model Approaches to Platform Regulation in the EU \(June 24, 2020\)](#)

"Looking ahead to the new Digital Services Act, one question facing policymakers is whether the underlying business models of social media platforms are misaligned with normative values of creating a safe, open, and reliable commons for online communication. This paper thus explores regulatory measures that would alter the business models of major social media platforms to protect users while continuing to promote innovation. It outlines three policy approaches for consideration by the European Commission, which are: reclassifying social media platforms as utilities; encouraging platforms to elevate authoritative journalism; and promoting alternative business models through a progressive tax on digital ad revenues. Adopting one or more of these approaches would serve to counteract harmful online content whilst promoting alternative models designed to serve the public interest."

[Social Media Regulation in the Public Interest: Some Lessons from History \(May 4, 2020\)](#)

"Recently, there has been growing support for internet regulation. Remarkably for an era of heightened political polarization, representatives of both major U.S. parties have called for antitrust action against big tech companies. These critics argue that the companies' market dominance leads to excessive political influence and poor outcomes for consumers. This paper does not address these antitrust issues. Instead, we examine another plausible regulatory response to market domination: public oversight of private companies according to a public interest standard."

[Content Moderation and Free Speech: Patriot Act \(December 2nd, 2018\)](#)

"On the latest Patriot Act, Hasan Minhaj takes a look back at the formation of the world wide web and how the growth of platforms like Facebook and Twitter have created social and political issues that our outdated internet laws cannot solve can benefit both society and companies and keep government regulators at bay."

TikTok's Community Guidelines



Misinformation, Disinformation, and Extremist Content



[How the Telegram App Became a Hub for Hate Crime and Radical Extremists \(April 13th, 2025\)](#)

"A joint investigation by ProPublica and PBS Frontline into the shadowy world of online hate networks and the platform Telegram is detailed in a new documentary, "The Rise and Fall of Terrorgram." The investigation identified 35 crimes linked to the platform, including bomb plots, stabbings and shootings. John Yang speaks with A.C. Thompson, a reporter who worked on the project, to learn more."

[Social Media and the Spread of Misinformation: Infectious and a Threat to Public Health \(March 31st, 2025\)](#)

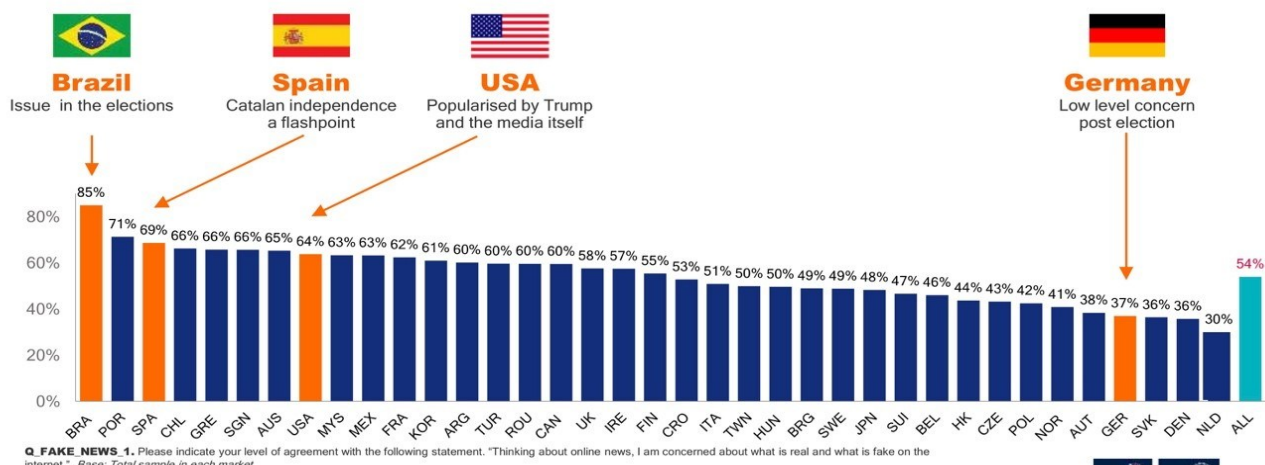
"Misinformation has been identified as a major threat to society and public health. Social media significantly contributes to the spread of misinformation and has a global reach. Health misinformation has a range of adverse outcomes, including influencing individuals' decisions (e.g. choosing not to vaccinate), and the erosion of trust in authoritative institutions."

[The Impact of Disinformation on Elections \(December 22nd, 2024\)](#)

"In today's hyper-connected world, where information spreads at lightning speed, the insidious threat of disinformation poses a significant challenge to democratic processes and cybersecurity alike. Disinformation, defined as the deliberate spread of false or misleading information, has become a pervasive tool for manipulating public opinion, influencing elections, and undermining trust in institutions. The rise of sophisticated technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and the proliferation of social media platforms have amplified the reach and impact of disinformation campaigns, making it crucial to understand the various facets of this growing problem."



Varied concern over whether online news is real or fake





10 TYPES OF MIS- AND DISINFORMATION



FALSE CONNECTION

When headlines, visuals or captions don't support the content



FALSE CONTEXT

When genuine content is shared with false contextual information



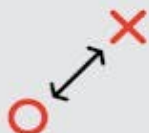
MANIPULATED CONTENT

When genuine information or imagery is manipulated to deceive



SATIRE OR PARODY

No intention to cause harm but has potential to fool



MISLEADING CONTENT

Misleading use of information to frame an issue or individual



IMPOSTER CONTENT

When genuine sources are impersonated



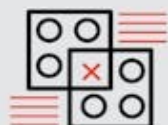
FABRICATED CONTENT

Content that is 100% false, designed to deceive and do harm



PROPAGANDA

When content is used to manage attitudes, values and knowledge



SPONSORED CONTENT

Advertising or PR disguised as editorial content



ERROR

When established news organisations make mistakes while reporting

STOP THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION.
THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE, REACT OR RESPOND.

Misinformation, Disinformation, and Extremist Content

[What is Misinformation and How Does it Impact Society? \(November 18th, 2024\)](#)

"Misinformation is spreading false, misleading, or inaccurate information, often without malicious intent. It differs from disinformation, which is intentionally deceptive, but the effects of both can be equally harmful. In an age where information travels rapidly through social media, news outlets, and online platforms, misinformation can easily reach and influence a vast audience, shaping opinions, behaviors, and even policies. The impact on society is significant: misinformation can lead to public confusion, mistrust in reliable sources, and harmful behaviors, particularly in areas like public health, politics, and science. Combatting misinformation requires awareness, digital literacy, and a critical approach to the information we consume and share, making it a crucial issue for individuals, communities, and institutions."



[Confronting Misinformation, Disinformation and Mal-information \(February 29th, 2024\)](#)

"Students learn about different types of false, misleading and manipulative content in circulation, and consider what they can do to avoid believing in, and sharing, such content."

[Online Extremism is Decades in the Making \(February 5th, 2024\)](#)

"Many observers have lamented social media's role in spreading far-right ideas and conspiracy theories, radicalizing scores of Americans. Critics have called for more aggressive regulation. But few have realized that the use of technology by America's violent, far-right extremists is nothing new. They have long understood the importance of messaging and the power of the media and entertainment to spread their ideology."



Algorithmic Amplification and Platform Design



Understanding Algorithms

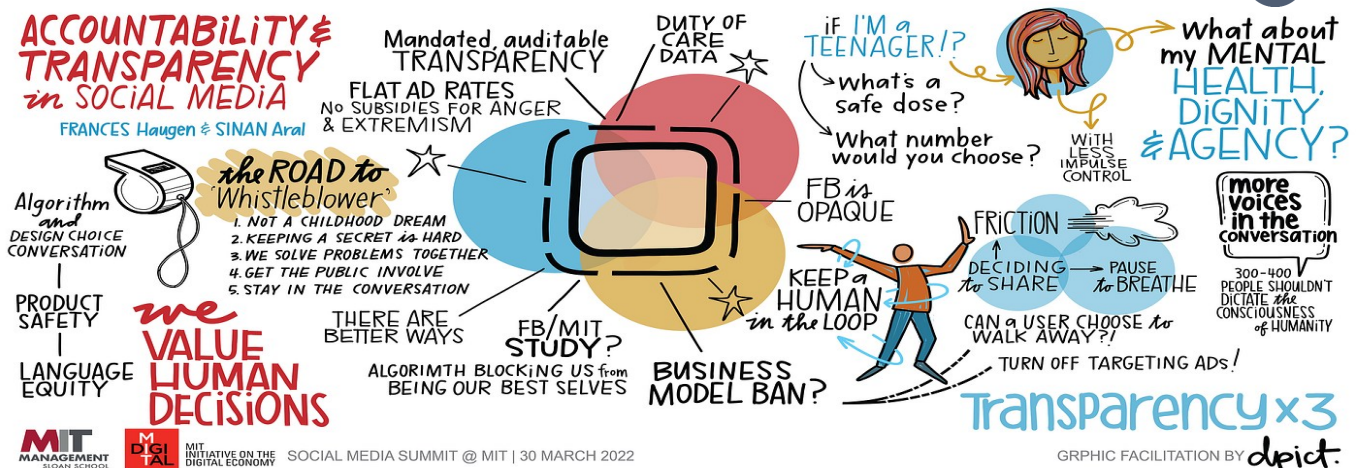
"Students will be able to: Define algorithms, analyze key features of algorithms, including their functions, goals, and the information about users that these collect, compare and contrast algorithms used by popular websites, like Google and YouTube, to rank and recommend content, evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of algorithms, and apply common algorithm features to design a less of their own."

From Clicks to Chaos: How Social Media Algorithms Amplify Extremism (February 13th, 2025)

"Algorithms have the potential to amplify and spread extremism, thus, a multipronged approach combined with technology, innovations, and regulatory checks is pertinent."

Trend Amplification or Suppression: The Dual Role of AI in Influencing Viral Content (November 30th, 2024)

"Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a dual role in amplifying and suppressing trends on digital platforms, profoundly shaping public discourse and societal norms. Social media platforms like TikTok and Facebook utilize AI-driven recommendation algorithms to promote engaging content while deploying moderation systems to suppress harmful or non-compliant material. This paper examines the mechanisms behind these processes, analyzing their impact on user behavior, cultural narratives, and political discourse. Through case studies of TikTok and Facebook, it highlights ethical concerns, including algorithmic bias, lack of transparency, and the marginalization of dissenting or minority voices. The discussion integrates theoretical frameworks, such as algorithmic folk theories and strategic amplification, to explain the interplay between amplification and suppression and their broader societal implications. It also evaluates regulatory efforts, such as the European Union's Digital Services Act, and emphasizes the importance of explainable AI (XAI), user empowerment, and cross-disciplinary collaboration in mitigating risks. By addressing current research limitations and proposing actionable recommendations for platform providers, policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations, this paper aims to advance the discourse on ethical AI governance, contributing to the development of a more equitable and transparent digital ecosystem."



Algorithmic Amplification and Platform Design



[Algorithmic Amplification and Defamation: Legal and Ethical Implications for Digital Platforms \(October 25th, 2024\)](#)

"Today, algorithms dictate what information users see on various social media and other Internet outlets. Such optimizations, aimed at increasing user interaction, cause negative externalities like disinformation is content that harms someone's or an organization's reputation. As this becomes the case, the following legal and ethical questions become relevant to platform accountability, negligence, and liability."

[Disinformation, Radicalization, and Algorithmic Amplification: What Steps Can Congress Take? \(February 7th, 2022\)](#)

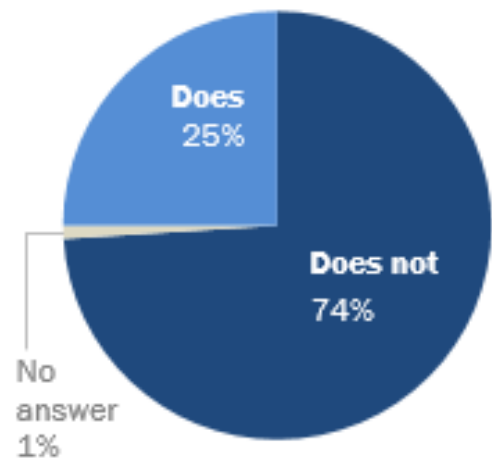
"Design features of social media platforms are exploited to promote extremism. The platforms' after the fact, whack-a-mole approach to content moderation is insufficient. However, Section 230 reform – a popular rallying cry – is a blunt instrument that may lead to unintended suppression of important speech and not address radicalization. Congress or agencies acting on their own should push for transparency, consumer protection (in terms of consistent, transparent enforcement of terms of service), and development of transparent codes of conduct. This approach mirrors elements of Europe's Digital Services Act and could be endorsed by the United States and European Union (EU)."

[A Governance Framework for Algorithmic Accountability and Transparency \(April 4th, 2019\)](#)

"Transparency and accountability are both tools to promote fair algorithmic decisions by providing the foundations for obtaining recourse to meaningful explanation, correction, or ways to ascertain faults that could bring about compensatory processes. The study develops policy options for the governance of algorithmic transparency and accountability, based on an analysis of the social, technical and regulatory challenges posed by algorithmic systems. Based on an extensive review and analysis of existing proposals for governance of algorithmic systems, the authors propose a set of four policy options each of which addresses a different aspect of algorithmic transparency and accountability. 1. Awareness raising: education, watchdogs and whistleblowers. 2. Accountability in public sector use of algorithmic decision-making. 3. Regulatory oversight and Legal liability. 4. Global coordination for algorithmic governance."

Most think social media does not accurately reflect society

% of U.S. adults who say the content on social media ____ provide an accurate picture of how society feels about important issues



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 29-June 11, 2018.

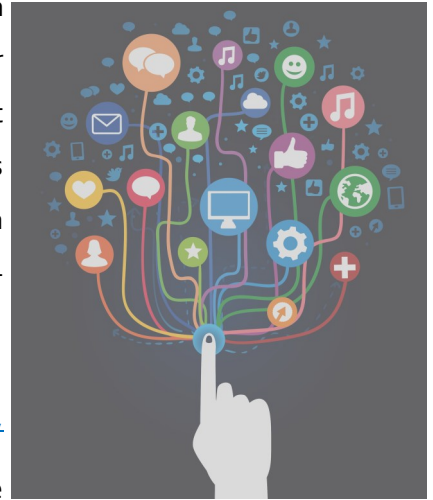
"Public Attitudes Toward Computer Algorithms"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Algorithmic Amplification and Platform Design

[Feedback Loops and Echo Chambers: How Algorithms Amplify Viewpoints \(February 4th, 2019\)](#)

"Whether it's allegations of ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, anti-Muslim violence in Sri Lanka or the "gilets jaunes" protests in France, it is clear that social media platforms are helping spread divisive messages online at an alarming rate and potentially fueling offline violence. But the debate is about whether these platforms are an essential cause, without which these events could not have happened, or merely reflect real-world tensions."



[The Quest to Design an Ethical Social Media Platform \(November 2nd, 2018\)](#)

"Social media use is pervasive in our culture. And it's on the rise. At the start of this year, there were almost 3.2 billion people using social networks worldwide, up 13 percent from 2017. There are more than 11 new users every second. Meanwhile, we're learning about the damage excessive social media use can do to our health and our society. As awareness of the pitfalls of being constantly connected grows, a small number of tech professionals are working to introduce ethical principles into social media design. But what does an ethical social media platform actually look like?"



[Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers \(December 28th, 2016\)](#)

"You've probably heard the term Filter Bubble and/or Echo Chamber at least once or twice in the past few months. It's a term that has been circling the media for some time about Facebook and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. But what do they mean exactly? How does it relate to the internet or more specifically Facebook and Google? How does it affect you?"

Did You Know?

"A recent survey released by Deloitte found that, on average, Americans check their phones 46 times per day. Collectively, that's a whopping eight billion daily phone checks in the country. The number of times you check your phone appears to be related to your age. For example:

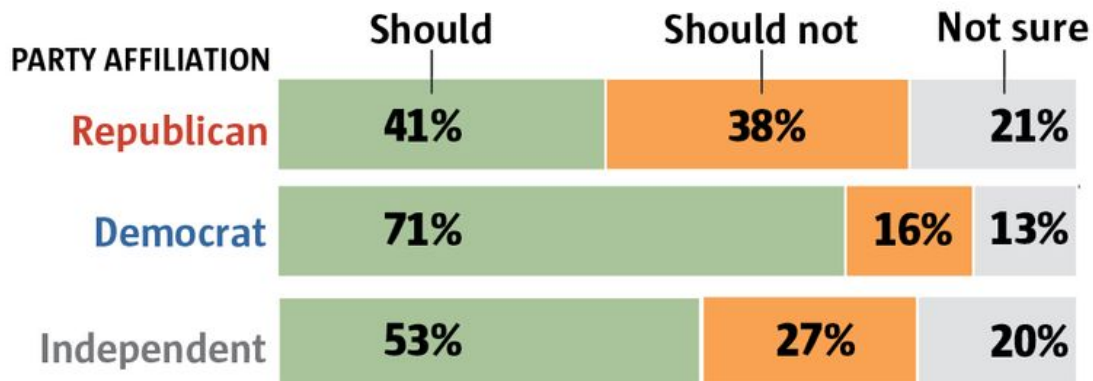
- People aged 18 to 24 checked their phones an average of 74 times per day.
- People aged 25 to 34 checked their phones 50 times a day.
- People aged 35 to 44 checked their phones 35 times per day."

<https://time.com/4147614/smartphone-usage-us-2015/>

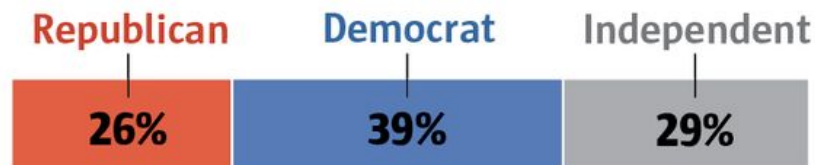
Regulatory Ethics: Censorship vs. Safety



Question: *Should social media platforms restrict online content or accounts that share rumors, conspiracy theories and/or other misleading information that could undermine trust in voting in U.S. elections?*



COMPOSITION OF REGISTERED VOTERS



Note: The WA poll, conducted by SurveyUSA from July 10 through 13, includes 801 registered voters and has a margin of error of ± 4.6 percentage points. NOTE: Figures may not total 100% due to rounding.

[Mill, Free Speech, & Social Media](#)

"It is arguably the paramount value in liberal democracies and the foundation of our other liberties. The fervent endorsement of free speech by so many today can be traced back to John Stuart Mill's reasoning in Chapter 2 of his essay *On Liberty* (1859). Mill made a powerful argument for allowing free speech because, he said, it is essential in the search for truth. Yet, whilst Mill had a clear conception of the end benefits of free speech, many of its modern defenders tend by contrast to see it as a *prima facie* good: something that should be allowed except where there is a particular reason not to. The implication is that free speech has an inherent value, not just an instrumental one, and this suggests a fundamental shift in how we understand it. Hence, in this article I will argue that the classical liberal version of free speech espoused by Mill is no longer compatible with the digital age, especially for social media."

Regulatory Ethics: Censorship vs. Safety



[Freedom of Expression](#)

"At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to: define censorship, explain the fundamental role of freedom of expression in a democratic society, identify at least three reasons to support and three reasons to oppose blocking Internet content in the name of national security, appreciate the tension between individual freedom of expression and collective national security in a democracy, identify areas of agreement and disagreement with other students reach a decision, individually and collectively, on the deliberation issue using evidence and sound reasoning, explain the importance of deliberating this question in a democratic society."

[What Are the Pros and Cons of Censorship on Social Media? \(July 5th, 2024\)](#)

"The impact of social media on the way we express ourselves is truly astonishing, and we're not even limited to one platform. From Facebook to Instagram to Twitter and YouTube, these platforms have different features that allow us to share our ideas and opinions and form online communities. In a nutshell, social media is an avenue for free speech. However, as more people join the conversation, the clash of ideals and principles leads to debates and arguments. While necessary in discourse, an increasing number of people are spreading hoaxes and propaganda, resulting in polarizing opinions and heated discussions. As a solution, censorship has been widely implemented to reduce production and consumption of harmful and extremist content. However, there are always two sides to every coin, and censorship is not an exception."

[The Word Censorship Has An Actual Meaning: A Defense of Content Moderation \(April 16th, 2024\)](#)

"Last month, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Murthy v. Missouri*. Plaintiffs in that case – Republican State Attorneys General in Missouri and Louisiana, along with individual plaintiffs – allege the Biden Administration coerced social media companies to remove disfavored speech about COVID-19 under threat of retaliation if they did not comply. Whether that actually happened, or the platforms were performing their routine content moderation practices, free from government interference, is something the Court will likely decide this term. Key to that analysis, however, is disentangling censorship from content moderation."

[The Supreme Court Showdown Over Social Media "Censorship" and Free Speech Online \(September 29th, 2023\)](#)

"About a year ago, an especially right-wing panel of the far-right United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that Texas's state government may effectively seize control of content moderation on social media websites such as Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook."

Regulatory Ethics: Censorship vs. Safety



[Censorship and National Security \(2022\)](#)

"Censorship and national security are closely intertwined concepts that have evolved over centuries, reflecting the balance between protecting state interests and upholding individual freedoms. Historically, governments have viewed dissent and criticism as potential threats to their authority and stability, leading to the implementation of censorship measures. This trend became particularly pronounced with the emergence of centralized nation-states in early modern Europe, where monarchs like Queen Elizabeth I sought to control public discourse to safeguard their reigns."

[Don't Be Too Tempted by Europe's Plan to Fix Social Media \(December 23rd, 2022\)](#)

"When it comes to regulating speech, good intentions do not necessarily result in desirable outcomes. In fact, there are strong reasons to believe that the [DSA] is a cure worse than the disease, likely to result in serious collateral damage to free expression across the EU and anywhere else legislators try to emulate it."

[How Platforms Could Benefit from the Precautionary Principle \(November 19th, 2019\)](#)

"In the summer of 2016, just a few months before the US presidential election, Facebook fired the humans that curated its trending news module. By August, the service was fully automated, and it produced strange results, highlighting false stories and other bizarre articles that didn't fit the category of "news." Effects aside, altering a major news-focused feature a few months before an election seems rather reckless. To date, Facebook has not given a clear reason for that decision nor revealed if they considered the potential consequences."

Regulatory Ethics: Censorship vs. Safety



[Does Social Media Kill Democracy? Freedom of Speech vs Censorship \(June 21st, 2019\)](#)

"Social media has become an integral part of our everyday lives. Accordingly, it also plays an important role for politics. How do social media influence politics and elections? How do politicians deal with social media contributions? What role does censorship play in this context? We will put you in the picture and look at how social media influences the political environment."



[The Harm Principle \(October 27th, 2016\)](#)

"The principle is a central tenet of the political philosophy known as liberalism and was first proposed by English philosopher John Stuart Mill. The harm principle is not designed to guide the actions of individuals but to restrict the scope of criminal law and government restrictions of personal liberty."

Fast Fact

About half of Americans support more regulations of tech companies."

https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2024/04/29/americans-views-of-technology-companies-2/?utm_source=AdaptiveMailer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=24-04-29%20Tech%20companies&org=982&lvl=100&ite=13851&lea=3344674&ctr=0&par=1&trk=aoDQmoo00001hMhRMAU

Youth, Mental Health, and Online Safety

[Potential Risks of Content, Features, and Functions: The Science of How Social Media Affects Youth](#)

“Almost a year after APA issued its health advisory on social media use in adolescence, society continues to wrestle with ways to maximize the benefits of these platforms while protecting youth from the potential harms associated with them. By early 2024, few meaningful changes to social media platforms had been enacted by industry, and no federal policies had been adopted. There remains a need for social media companies to make fundamental changes to their platforms. Psychological science con-



tinues to reveal benefits from social media use, as well as risks and opportunities that certain content, features, and functions present to young social media users. The science discussed below highlights the need to enact new, responsible safety standards to mitigate harm.”

[Protecting Children from Social Media](#)

“The subject matter of child-welfare debates changes over time as technological progress presents new challenges, but the contours remain eerily fixed. On one side stands the well-being of children; on the other, a range of economic interests and ideological commitments that insist on deference.”

[Social Media, Informed Consent, and the Harm Principle \(January 11th, 2025\)](#)

“This article examines whether social media users can validly consent to their own use of social media. It argues that, whether or not social media use is analogous to public health interventions, there is an obligation to provide users with information about risks and benefits, and absent that provision, there is no valid consent. Many or most users, in any event, do not have the capacity to consent, according to the criteria for capacity articulated in the ‘four abilities’ model: the ability to express a choice, the ability to understand the facts pertinent to the decision in question, the ability of a subject to believe that the information applies to them, and the ability to reason—in the sense of being able to consider and weigh (with reference to the patient’s own concerns, circumstances, and values) the main possible outcomes of the decision to opt for the intervention and the decision to opt not to undergo it. Even if an individual social media user is capacitous according to these criteria, many will fail to be judged capacitous if (as it is argued should be the case), a further criterion, identified by Jennifer Hawkins must be satisfied, namely that the individual can look after their own interests at least as well as most other people can. It follows from this consideration that not only can regulation of social media (in the form of a ban) be justified under Mill’s harm principle, but that non-regulation cannot be justified.”

Youth, Mental Health, and Online Safety

[Social Media Bans: Balancing the Rights of Youth, Parents, and Governments \(September 5th, 2024\)](#)

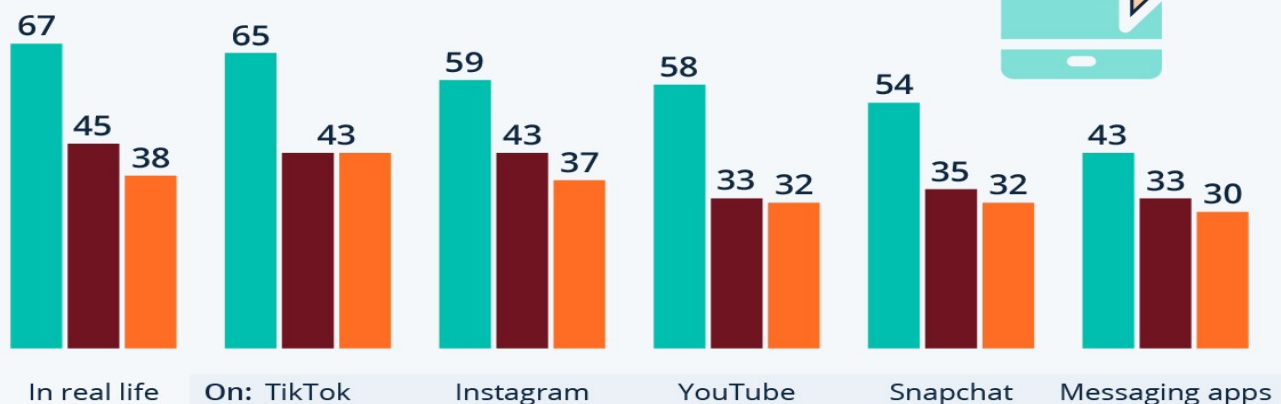
"From TikTok dance challenges to live footage of global events, social media is an information distribution powerhouse, inevitably occupying the phones of all age demographics. However, this status is tainted by the widespread concern over its overconsumption primarily among younger people. In 2023, the National Institutes of Health published a research report that hypothesized strong correlations between social media usage and youth mental health concerns. As a result, many state legislatures have felt compelled to enact legislation restricting social media accessibility. State-issued bans that target minors between the ages of 13 and 18 infringe on the Fourth Amendment's Due Process Clause, which protects parental rights to make decisions relating to their children's care and education. In addition, state governments' efforts to restrict social media usage in education reveal viewpoint discrimination that threatens free speech rather than effectively addressing youth mental health challenges."



Mental Health & Social Media: What Message Prevails?

Share of U.S. girls who report having had exposure to the following experiences at least monthly (in %)

- Helpful mental health resources/information
- Harmful suicide/self-harm content/information
- Harmful eating disorders content/information



1,365 U.S. female social media users (11 - 15 y/o) surveyed Nov. - Dec. 2022.

Real life: Total of 1,397 U.S. girls

Source: Common Sense Media



Youth, Mental Health, and Online Safety

[How Social Media may Benefit Teen's Mental Health \(February 16th, 2024\)](#)

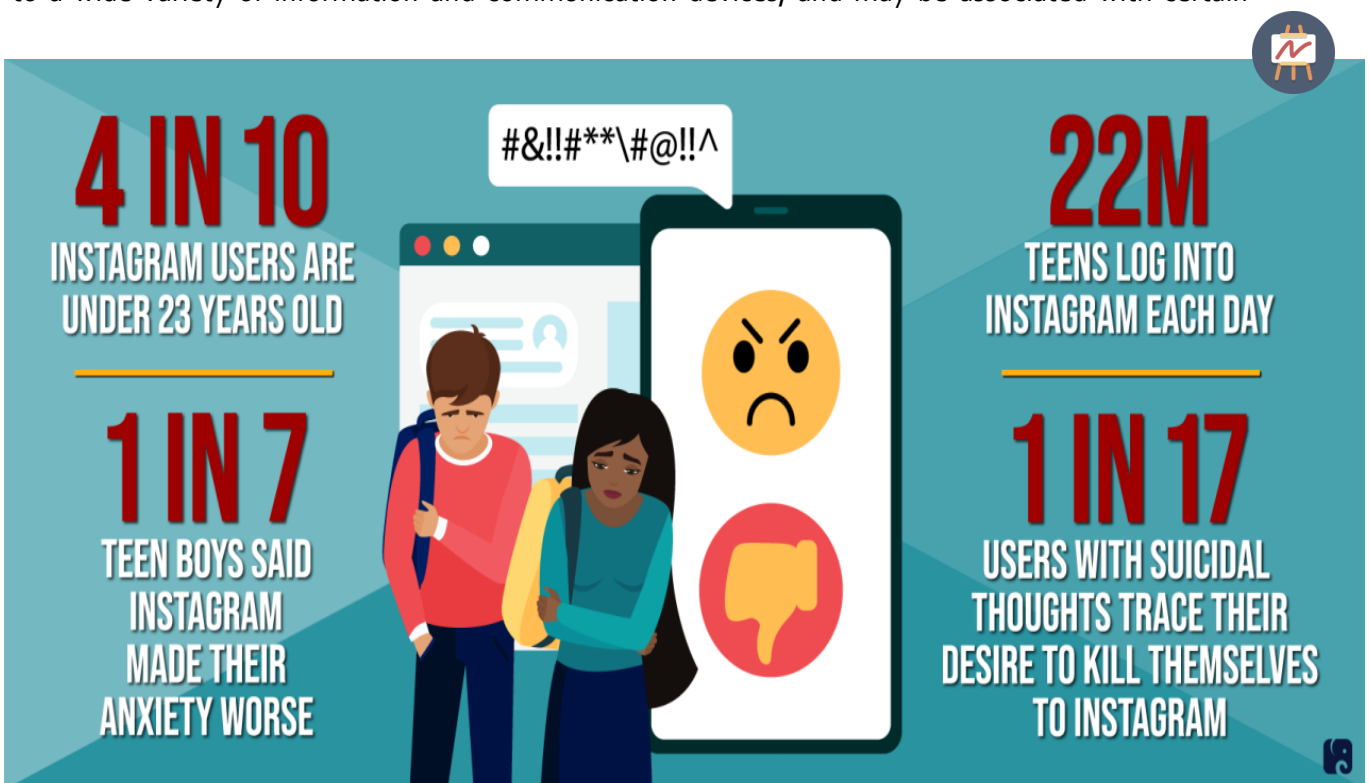
"We hear a lot about how social media is terrible for teenagers' mental health. A growing number of laws and lawsuits point the finger at social media companies as playing a major role in driving the youth mental health crisis. Criticisms include that social media invites unhealthy comparisons with peers that leave users feeling inadequate, the platforms are addictive and social media bombards impressionable minds with false and disturbing information. But those issues make up only one side of the coin, said Chelsea Olson, who works at the University of Wisconsin as a researcher in the pediatrics department and is a member of the university's Social Media and Adolescent Health Research Team."

[How Unregulated Internet Exposure Affects Digitally Savvy Children \(February 9th, 2020\)](#)

"In June of last year, we spoke with child psychologist and advisor to WebPurify Dr. Adam Pletter about how cyberbullying affects children and what parents can do if their kids are being harassed online. But cyberbullying isn't the only concern when it comes to digitally savvy kids. Recently, we reached out to Dr. Pletter, an expert on parenting in the digital age, and founder of IParent101, LLC, for further insight. This time we explored how unregulated internet exposure and device usage affects children."

[HEADS Up: Adolescents and the Internet \(March 2007\)](#)

"The Internet contains a tremendous amount of unregulated information. Internet use gives adolescents access to a wide variety of information and communication devices, and may be associated with certain



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