

Media Literacy

Professor Lipkin

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Final Project Outline/Script

Topic: Social Media Laws

I. Introduction

- A. According to [Winston & Strawn LLP](#), social media law deals with issues that pertain to user-generated content and the specific sites that host and spread this content.
- B. In an effort to protect and improve adolescents' mental health, Utah passed a law in March called the Social Media Regulation Act that states that residents under 18 will not have access to social media unless they receive direct permission from a parent or guardian. If a parent or guardian consents to their child using social media, they will have access to everything their child does on the sites.

II. Coverage of topic by news media outlets

- A. A way in which [Time Magazine](#) covered the topic was by using research that challenges the new law in Utah and how it's being enforced.
- B. On the other hand, a way that [AP News](#) covered the topic that differed from the way Time Magazine covered it was by providing more quotes from Utah

Governor Spencer Cox on why he decided to enact the law, and the general positive reaction that this decision received from parents.

- C. However, a similarity in the way in which Time and AP News reported on Utah's new social media law is that they both explained what the law is intended to do and why it has been enacted.

III. Most recent social media law

- A. If Utah's Social Media Regulation Act wasn't bad enough for young people who want to use social media freely, Montana just became the first U.S. state to completely ban the use of TikTok inside the state, which will take effect next year on January 1. Montana Governor Greg Gianforte [tweeted](#) yesterday that he did this "To protect Montanans' personal and private data from the Chinese Communist Party."

IV. Analysis of responses to the topic from the public on social media

- A. Most of Gianforte's replies were negative, and people of all ages are taking to social media to give their two cents on recent social media laws.
- B. Many are saying that these laws in Republican-led states like Utah and Montana are a form of censorship, that it should be the citizens' choice on whether or not they want to use social media, and that there are bigger problems in America than things like TikTok that legislators should be worrying about.

V. How this topic relates to media literacy

- A. This topic relates to the concepts of media literacy that we have discussed over the course of this semester because there are restrictions being placed on the

ability for people to access, use, and analyze content on social media, especially young people.

- B. Also, it is apparent that the media has influenced the democratic process as elected officials are enacting strict laws that we've never seen before, especially with Montana becoming the first U.S. state to completely ban TikTok.

VI. The implications this topic had on me

- A. The implications that this topic has had on me personally is that people in power are making drastic decisions without taking every possible factor into consideration.
- B. Utah's governor is allowing parents to have complete control over their children's social media usage because he thinks that will protect adolescents. But what about kids who have abusive parents who will be put in harm's way if their parents find anything they don't like on their children's social media?
- C. Additionally, everyone has different perceptions of what age a child is and when teenagers should be allowed to make their own decisions about their social media usage.

VII. The topic's relevance in five and ten years

- A. In five years and in ten years, I think this topic will still be extremely relevant because we are living in the age of technology and social media advancements.
- B. Social media is a way that many people keep up with one another and express themselves, and I think that will always be the case.

VIII. Implications of the topic for future generations/Conclusion

- A. I think that the implications of this topic for future generations are that people in power want to control as much as they possibly can of what citizens do.
- B. By taking away social media or enacting strict laws on social media, legislators are suppressing citizens' freedom of speech and their right to decide for themselves if they want to use social media or not.
- C. Also, adolescents will be made to feel as though they aren't trustworthy since the right to privacy is being taken away from them when legislators allow their parents to surveil everything they do on social media if they're even allowed to have it in the first place.