

Definition: Hate Speech

“There is no international legal definition of hate speech, and the characterization of what is ‘hateful’ is controversial and disputed. In the context of this document [UNITED NATIONS “Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech“], the term hate speech is understood as any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other identity factor. This is often rooted in, and generates intolerance and hatred and, in certain contexts, can be demeaning and divisive.“

UNITED NATIONS “Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech“ (2019), <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>, 9-12-2021.

Tasks

1. Define hate speech, using the community guidelines of different social media platforms:
 - Facebook: https://en-gb.facebook.com/communitystandards/hate_speech (<https://t1p.de/wlk4>)
 - Twitter: <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/hateful-conduct-policy>, (<https://t1p.de/f5jq>)
2. Compare and contrast the definitions of hate speech by social media platforms and the UN.
3. Discuss who should decide what is hate speech in an online global community?
(cf. <https://about.fb.com/news/2017/06/hard-questions-hate-speech/>, 9-6-2021.)

Focus: Donald Trump



(Screenshot, <https://twitter.com/jack/status/1349510769268850690>, 9-12-2021.)

1. Summarize Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's Twitter thread/ comment on having deplatformed @realDonaldTrump, <https://t1p.de/0kft>.
 2. Analyze CEO Jack Dorsey's Twitter thread about/ comment on having deplatformed @realDonaldTrump.
(This resource may help you to analyze tweets: "How to _Analyze Micro-Blogs", <https://t1p.de/bku5>.)
 3. Discuss whether social media platforms should be allowed to deplatform users.
- OR -
4. Comment on whether Trump's being deplatformed was justified. (Tweet your answer in response to Dorsey.)

tweet #1	I do not celebrate or feel pride in our having to ban @realDonaldTrump from Twitter, or how we got here. After a clear warning we'd take this action, we made a decision with the best information we had based on threats to physical safety both on and off Twitter. Was this correct?
#2	I believe this was the right decision for Twitter. We faced an extraordinary and untenable circumstance, forcing us to focus all of our actions on public safety. Offline harm as a result of online speech is demonstrably real, and what drives our policy and enforcement above all.
#3	That said, having to ban an account has real and significant ramifications. While there are clear and obvious exceptions, I feel a ban is a failure of ours ultimately to promote healthy conversation. And a time for us to reflect on our operations and the environment around us.
#4	Having to take these actions fragment the public conversation. They divide us. They limit the potential for clarification, redemption, and learning. And sets a precedent I feel is dangerous: the power an individual or corporation has over a part of the global public conversation.
#5	The check and accountability on this power has always been the fact that a service like Twitter is one small part of the larger public conversation happening across the internet. If folks do not agree with our rules and enforcement, they can simply go to another internet service.
#6	This concept was challenged last week when a number of foundational internet tool providers also decided not to host what they found dangerous. I do not believe this was coordinated. More likely: companies came to their own conclusions or were emboldened by the actions of others.
#7	This moment in time might call for this dynamic, but over the long term it will be destructive to the noble purpose and ideals of the open internet. A company making a business decision to moderate itself is different from a government removing access, yet can feel much the same.
#8	Yes, we all need to look critically at inconsistencies of our policy and enforcement. Yes, we need to look at how our service might incentivize distraction and harm. Yes, we need more transparency in our moderation operations. All this can't erode a free and open global internet.
#9	The reason I have so much passion for #Bitcoin is largely because of the model it demonstrates: a foundational internet technology that is not controlled or influenced by any single individual or entity. This is what the internet wants to be, and over time, more of it will be.
#10	We are trying to do our part by funding an initiative around an open decentralized standard for social media. Our goal is to be a client of that standard for the public conversation layer of the internet. We call it @bluesky: [...]
#12	This will take time to build. We are in the process of interviewing and hiring folks, looking at both starting a standard from scratch or contributing to something that already exists. No matter the ultimate direction, we will do this work completely through public transparency.
#13	It's important that we acknowledge this is a time of great uncertainty and struggle for so many around the world. Our goal in this moment is to disarm as much as we can, and ensure we are all building towards a greater common understanding, and a more peaceful existence on earth.
#14	I believe the internet and global public conversation is our best and most relevant method of achieving this. I also recognize it does not feel that way today. Everything we learn in this moment will better our effort, and push us to be what we are: one humanity working together.
	@jack: https://t1p.de/0kft , 1-14-2021.

Focus: Personal Experience

introduction to lesson:

“Madilyn Bailey Sings a Song Made of Hate Comments - America's Got Talent 2021“, <https://t1p.de/5g5t>.

Tasks

1. Anonymous survey: Have you ever been the victim of hate speech?
2. Share anonymously an example of the hate speech you have encountered (exact wording/ describe the image/ ... + the social media platform). Use: oncoo.de/Kartenabfrage.
3. Choose one of the examples of your classmates. React to this act of hate speech appropriately by using the following websites

content	title	website
reporting hate speech	ADL Cyber-Safety Action Guide	https://www.adl.org/adl-cyber-safety-action-guide (https://t1p.de/mp1q)
German	vs. Hate Speech with Memes	https://no-hate-speech.de/de/kontern/fuer-gegen-alle-hate-speech/
German	report Hate Speech	https://hassmelden.de/

Further information: TRIGGER WARNING: Graphic contents!

The Verge: „Inside the traumatic life of a Facebook moderator“. 2019.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDnjiNCtFk4 (https://t1p.de/2cgg)
Vice: „The Horrors of Being a Facebook Moderator Informer“. 2021.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHGbWn6iwHw (https://t1p.de/c0dr)