

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

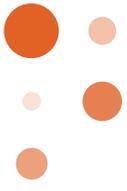
- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Bozell points out that, “Apple, Google, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, the giants of social media, are demanding conformity to their values... This image is perfectly captured not by an ad, but by this recent real-life scene. Row after row of men and women stare up at Tim Cook, Apple’s CEO, as he makes a presentation – ironically – before a civil rights group. ‘We only have one message for those who seek to push hate, division, and violence: You have no place on our platforms,’ Cook tells his audience. ‘You have no home here.’ ‘Hate?’ According to whom? ‘Division?’ According to whom? The answer is obvious. According to Apple, Google, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. They are becoming the Big Brother Orwell foresaw.” Do you think that public social media platforms should force users to conform exclusively to the political ideology of the companies that create the platforms, especially considering that all of the major platforms conform to the same ideology? Why or why not? In what ways are the social media giants becoming Big Brother? Explain.
- A little later in the video, Mr. Bozell explains that, “[Apple CEO Tim] Cook’s ideas are exactly the same as his fellow chief executives at Google, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. Disagree with Big Brother on, say, politics or morality and Big Brother will shut you up by shutting you down. And what is it that Big Brother doesn’t like? Well, Tim Cook, said it. Anything that doesn’t conform to his left-wing worldview. The examples are numerous and growing.” In what ways do social media platforms ‘shut people down?’ Explain. Why do you think that all of the major social media companies share the same Leftist ideology?
- Mr. Bozell notes that, “YouTube continues to restrict over 100 of PragerU’s videos, finding them ‘inappropriate for children.’ These include titles like ‘Why Did America Fight the Korean War?’” Considering that there isn’t any violence, disturbing imagery or dialogue, bad language, or anything else that could reasonably be described as ‘inappropriate for children’ in the PragerU videos restricted by YouTube, why do you think that YouTube has taken such action? Do you think that YouTube is purposefully censoring PragerU exclusively because YouTube doesn’t like PragerU’s conservatism? Why or why not?
- Later in the video, Mr. Bozell shares with us that, “Broad-based studies by the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology and by Northwestern University have confirmed what these examples clearly suggest: bias against conservatives at Google and other Big Tech sites. And this is the bias we can plainly see. What we don’t see, what Big Brother hides from us, what is referred to as “shadow banning,” may be even more pernicious.” In what other ways might Big Tech be censoring and acting against conservative groups and individuals besides the obvious ways that can be plainly seen? Explain. Do you think that Big Tech companies should be specifically targeting conservatives and conservative groups? Why or why not?
- At the end of the video, Mr. Bozell concludes that the solution to Big Tech censorship and conformity control is to, “Simply return to the open market of ideas that served Big Tech so well for so long. Stop the censorship and let people make up their own minds. Otherwise America – and the rest of what has been known as the Free World – will cease to be free. That’s how serious the Big Tech threat is.” What, exactly, is the ‘big open market of ideas that served Big Tech for so long?’ What do you think Mr. Bozell means when he warns that the free world will no longer be free if Big Tech doesn’t allow for free speech? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: PragerU

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “PragerU files new lawsuit against Google in YouTube ‘censorship’ row,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What does PragerU’s lawsuit claim, in both the federal and state suits? What is ‘Restricted Mode’ and how is it being applied to PragerU? What is two-track litigation? What is YouTube’s position on the allegation of censorship towards PragerU content?
- What factors do you think led to all of the Big Tech companies becoming so politicized, and specifically towards the Left? Explain. In the article, PragerU CEO Marissa Streit states that YouTube claims to be “... a public forum for free expression, but they behave instead as a publisher with editorial controls. You cannot have it both ways.” Do you think that social media platforms should be aligned with American values such as free speech and allow for open dialogue on their public forums, or do you think that Big Tech companies should consider their services to be private and therefore subject to censorship and conformity to a single viewpoint? Why is the act of Big Tech censoring a benign educational institution such as PragerU such a serious threat and concern to freedom?
- Do you think that PragerU will prevail in their lawsuits? Why or why not? What might the implications and consequences for others be if PragerU loses their cases? Explain.



QUIZ

BIG TECH IS BIG BROTHER

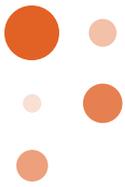
- 1. Which social media giants are demanding conformity to their values?**
 - a. YouTube
 - b. Twitter
 - c. Apple
 - d. All of the above,

- 2. Big Brother, in the form of Apple's CEO Tim Cook, doesn't like _____.**
 - a. censorship
 - b. shadow banning
 - c. Microsoft
 - d. anything that doesn't conform to his left-wing worldview

- 3. Megan Murphy, a Canadian feminist, is permanently banned from Twitter for refusing to refer to the transgendered by their preferred pronoun, and for writing "women aren't men."**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. YouTube continues to restrict _____ PragerU educational videos as 'inappropriate for children.'**
 - a. 50
 - b. 80
 - c. 100
 - d. Over 100

- 5. What is the solution to the problem of advancing swiftly toward an Orwellian, 1984 world of stifling, one-way-of-thinking conformity?**
 - a. Keep restricting ads of conservative political figures.
 - b. Stop using 'hate' speech.
 - c. Stop the censorship and let people make up their own minds
 - d. None of the above.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

BIG TECH IS BIG BROTHER

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<https://www.foxnews.com/tech/prageru-files-new-lawsuit-against-google-in-youtube-censorship-row>

PragerU files new lawsuit against Google in YouTube 'censorship' row

By [James Rogers](#) | [Fox News](#)

PragerU has filed a new lawsuit in its legal battle with Google, ramping up its allegations of online censorship against the tech giant and its YouTube video-sharing service.

Founded by radio host Dennis Prager, the conservative nonprofit produces short videos that promote concepts such as limited government and free markets.

The suit was filed against Google and its YouTube subsidiary with the State of California Tuesday, marking the latest development in PragerU's ongoing legal tussle with the Mountain View, Calif.-based firm.

“This lawsuit is ‘round two’ of the parties’ dispute over whether Google/YouTube are above the law when it comes to regulating free speech and expression on YouTube solely because Defendants are private entities who own and operate YouTube for their own profit and commercial gain,” the suit claims.

Filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, the lawsuit alleges that the tech heavyweights are “continuing to unlawfully restrict and restrain speech and expression on the global social media and video sharing platform known as YouTube.”

The suit claims that Google and YouTube are violating California law in four ways. This includes unlawfully restraining free speech in violation of the state's constitution and discriminating against PragerU based on political, religious, “or other discriminatory animus” in violation of California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, according to the filing. PragerU also alleges that Google and YouTube are “engaging in unlawful, misleading, and unfair businesses practices” in violation of California's Business and Professions Code, as well as violating YouTube's terms of use.

YouTube's “Restricted Mode” filtering feature is being used to block some of the conservative nonprofit's content from the video sharing site, according to PragerU, which also claims that its content falls foul of YouTube's advertising restrictions. “Google/YouTube use these filtering mechanisms as a pretext to justify restricting and censoring PragerU's videos,” the court filing alleges.

The lawsuit means that PragerU is now running “two-track litigation” against Google at both state and federal court level.

The legal fight began in October 2017 when PragerU accused the companies of illegally restricting the nonprofit's content.

PragerU initially filed two federal claims against Google – one under the First Amendment and the other for unfair competition and advertising under the Lanham Act. That lawsuit also included five claims under California law, including a free speech claim. Additionally, PragerU filed state law claims for discrimination under the Unruh Act, unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices, and breach of contract.

“We’ve taken an appeal to the Ninth Circuit on the merits of the two federal law claims, and the state law claims were dismissed without prejudice,” explained lead PragerU attorney Peter Obstler in a statement obtained by Fox News. “In other words, the court made very clear that the state law claims were dismissed out of deference to state law courts, that the state courts should decide issues of their own law – not the federal court. Today we’ve come full circle by filing a state law action, as the judge requested we do, in a state court to litigate those issues there. So we’re now going to have a two track litigation.”

“We’re very optimistic we will win our federal suit based upon our case’s First Amendment merits,” said PragerU CEO Marissa Streit in the statement. “But there is reason to believe certain claims are even stronger in California. Specifically claims relating to YouTube’s breach of contract and consumer fraud. They claim to be a public forum for free expression, but they behave instead as a publisher with editorial controls. You cannot have it both ways.”

YouTube denies the allegations of censorship. "Restricted Mode is an optional feature used by a small subset of users to filter out videos that may include sensitive or mature content," explained a YouTube spokesman, in a statement emailed to Fox News. "Giving viewers the choice to opt in to a more restricted experience is not censorship. In fact, this is exactly the type of tool that Congress has encouraged online services to provide for parents and others interested in a more family-friendly experience online"

"PragerU’s videos weren’t excluded from Restricted Mode because of politics or ideology," the spokesman added. "A federal court has already held that PragerU’s allegations are meritless, and we believe the state court will reach the same conclusion."