



public utility  
bandwidth

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## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Shortly after beginning the video by stating that, “Net Neutrality means that the government will, one day, control the Internet,” Mr. Gabriel asks, “Doesn’t ‘neutral’ mean that no one is picking winners and losers, that everyone is equal? Maybe according to the dictionary, but not according to the people behind the Net Neutrality movement. For them, ‘neutral’ means the government regulates the internet like a public utility – and that means bureaucrats making key decisions about how the internet is run.” Why do you think that advocates for net neutrality want the government to regulate and run the internet? Do you think that having the government regulate and run the internet is a good idea? Why or why not?
- Mr. Gabriel goes on to share with us that, “...in 2015. The Federal Communications Commission—the FCC—under the Obama Administration, came up with Net Neutrality rules and regulations and imposed them on consumers. No open hearings. They just did it.” Why was it wrong for the FCC to create and to impose rules affecting so many companies and so many consumers without hearing both sides of the issues, without asking for input from all constituencies affected, and without valid justification for making such a drastic and sudden change? Explain. Considering the breadth and scope of the consequences of its decisions, do you think that the FCC is too powerful or is too lacking in oversight? Why or why not?
- Later in the video, Mr. Gabriel notes that big bandwidth users, “...argued that without regulations, a very small number of companies—the ISPs—would wield enormous censorship powers. Our free speech would be in jeopardy. Ironically, the only companies that have been censoring content are many of the same ones that want Net Neutrality: Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter—the big users, companies that, coincidentally, had a very close relationship with the Obama Administration... Following decades of exploding Internet growth, the government suddenly interjected itself with a bunch of new rules to stop a non-existent threat.” What is so ironic about the major bandwidth users arguing that small ISPs would censor content and wield too much power? Why do you think that the government at the time complied, and appeased those big companies?
- Later in the video, Mr. Gabriel notes that in regards to net neutrality rules they, “...were rescinded in 2018 when the FCC rolled back the Obama-era regulation under the principle that innovation would be much more likely to happen if the government got out of the way. In other words, the FCC returned the Internet to its pre-2015, pre Net Neutrality state. Sounds like common sense, right? Just leave the internet alone and let tech do its thing. Unfair or bad-faith practices by ISPs, should they occur, can be addressed by existing anti-trust laws – as they always have.” In what ways, specifically, might the government hamper tech innovation if it regulated and ran the internet? Do you agree that the principle of getting government out of the way of innovation is good, common sense? Why or why not? Do you think that existing anti-trust laws (and a long, solid history of associated juris prudence) is good enough to deal well with any issues that would come up with ISPs in the absence of net neutrality? Why or why not?
- Mr. Gabriel concludes the video by stating, “...if you want the current – or any other – administration to control the internet, you’re for Net Neutrality. If you want the Internet to remain free of government meddling, you’re against it.” What do you think Mr. Gabriel means by ‘government meddling?’ Explain. Do you view the debate over net neutrality as an issue of equality versus freedom? Why or why not?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Facebook

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “THIS IS SO ZUCKED UP! Facebook now censoring Prager University, including a Kimberley Strassel video on ... wait for it ... censorship,” “Worse Than Shadow Banning: Facebook Censors Millions From Viewing PragerU Posts,” “PragerU claims it is being ‘heavily censored’ by Facebook — and they have evidence to prove it,” “First Info Wars, and Now PragerU Has Found Itself Being Targeted for Censorship on Facebook,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What happened to Prager U’s Facebook page? Who is Kimberly Strassel, and what did she have to say about it? What did Prager U’s CMO have to say about it? What social media giant has Prager U filed a lawsuit against, and why? How did Facebook respond to the incident? Who is Mike Brown, and what did he say about Facebook’s censorship of Prager U? What did Dave Rubin do, and what did the outcome of his actions suggest about YouTube?
- Do you think that a problem with using ‘hate speech’ as a condition of removing content is that ‘hate speech’ is too subjective to be reasonably defined? Why or why not? Who do you think should be the arbiter of ‘hate speech,’ in terms of deciding what is appropriate content for social media platforms and supposedly coding algorithms for that? Explain. Why do you think that huge bandwidth-sucking, social media platforms are censoring conservative content? Do you think that these companies should be allowed to control content based on their own political positions? Why or why not? What are the negative short and long term consequences for internet users in America and all around the world of these companies skewing and censoring content delivered on their platforms? Do you find it ironic that Facebook and YouTube, companies who argued for net neutrality in order to fight against censorship, are censoring content that they don’t like? Why or why not?
- What do you think the most significant underlying issue in the net neutrality debate is- i.e. what do you think the debate is actually about? Explain.



# QUIZ

## WHAT IS NET NEUTRALITY?

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1. If you want the Internet to remain free of government meddling, you're \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. for Net Neutrality
  - b. against Net Neutrality
  - c. a socialist
  - d. an authoritarian
  
2. Unfair or bad-faith practices by ISPs, should they occur, can be addressed by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Net Neutrality
  - b. existing anti-trust laws
  - c. the President of the United States
  - d. Congress
  
3. YouTube's parent, Google, had more than \_\_\_\_\_ meetings at the Obama White House during his presidency.
  - a. 24
  - b. 76
  - c. 208
  - d. 427
  
4. The only companies that have been censoring content are many of the same ones that want Net Neutrality.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. How are Internet Service Providers like a typical utility company?
  - a. They're monopolies.
  - b. They're forced to charge all users the same price.
  - c. They're regulated by the FCC.
  - d. They aren't.



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://twitchy.com/gregp-3534/2018/08/17/this-is-so-zucked-up-facebook-now-censoring-prager-university-including-a-kimberley-strassel-video-on-wait-for-it-censorship/>

# **THIS IS SO ZUCKED UP! Facebook now censoring Prager University, including a Kimberley Strassel video on ... wait for it ... censorship**

Posted at 5:37 pm on August 17, 2018 by Greg P.

Prager University is reporting that Facebook is now “heavily” censoring its videos on the social media platform, including the outright deletion of some posts:

BREAKING: We're being heavily censored on @Facebook.

Our last 9 posts are reaching 0 of our 3 million followers. At least two videos were deleted last night for “hate speech” including our recent video with @conservmillen.

SHARE to spread awareness about big tech censorship! [pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc](https://pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc)

— PragerU (@prageru) August 17, 2018

The WSJ's Kimberley Strassel says one of her videos, on censorship no less, was one of the posts pulled by Facebook:

this is crazy. my own @prageru video about free speech was in fact censored.  
<https://t.co/wwkceeFg3u>

— Kimberley Strassel (@KimStrassel) August 17, 2018

Another of the banned videos is on ... wait for it ... baseball:

Look at that screen shot. Facebook is banning a @prageru video in praise of baseball.  
<https://t.co/WBif78wYfb>

— Ezra Levant ☐☐ (@ezrelevant) August 17, 2018

Many, many on Twitter warned this would happen next after Alex Jones was suspended:

Good job everyone!

Blocking videos on free speech...is exactly the result America deserves.

Congrats to @facebook, @jack and @Twitter, and everyone else that supported this idiotic policy.  
<https://t.co/Do6iHbWb8t>

— Pradheep J. Shanker, M.D., M.S. (@Neoavatara) August 17, 2018

“Alex Jones isn’t the hill to die on you dummies. There is no slippery slope.”  
Our brave conservative thought leaders are gonna sit out the corporate fight until we’ve lost that part too. Principles indeed. <https://t.co/3pTgpiFOEj>

— Doctor Jesse Kelly® (@JesseKellyDC) August 17, 2018

Weekly Standard: We actually need these tech oligarchs to ban \*more\* people.  
Facebook: That can be arranged. <https://t.co/SUdsVqDjaH>

— Sean Davis (@seanmdav) August 17, 2018

For those amused at Milo and Alex Jones, how do you feel about PragerU being blacklisted?

Still funny?

You consider yourself above these people. Your enemies don't. In fact, you're more dangerous because your "hate" is respectable.

— Melissa Mackenzie □ (@MelissaTweets) August 17, 2018

Fix this Facebook, AND FAST!

<https://www.charismanews.com/politics/72708-worse-than-shadow-banning-facebook-censors-millions-from-viewing-prageru-posts>

## **Worse Than Shadow Banning: Facebook Censors Millions From Viewing PragerU Posts**

2:45PM EDT 8/17/2018 The Kairos Company



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg (Robert Scoble via Flickr)

Internal Facebook analytics reveal that as of Thursday, Aug. 16, at 10:00 p.m. PDT, posts by PragerU on the social media platform have been completely invisible to its more than 3 million followers. In a post by PragerU media personality Will Witt, the nonprofit revealed that the organization's last nine posts have been blocked by the social network, including two videos which have been deleted completely as "hate speech." Currently, visitors to PragerU's Facebook page are unable to see any of its most recent posts:

"Our last 9 posts have been completely censored reaching 0 of our 3 million followers. At least two of our video posts were deleted last night for 'hate speech' including a post of our recent video with The Conservative Millennial, Make Men Masculine Again, " wrote Will Witt on Facebook.

"This is a first for us," says PragerU CMO Craig Strazzeri. "While we've experienced blatant discrimination from Google/YouTube, which is why we've filed legal action against them, this represents a whole new level of censorship by Facebook. At this point, Facebook has provided little clarity saying it will get back to us in another two to three business days, which in the world of social media might as well be an eternity.

"This is very troubling behavior from the world's largest social network. Not only are they obviously ratcheting up their algorithms to target mainstream, conservative content and labeling it as hate speech, but they are now completely blocking our posts from public view. This is shocking and it should deeply concern every single American."

This newest development on Facebook comes just 10 months after PragerU first filed its lawsuit against Google/YouTube in U.S. District Court, and just days after discovering that 47 additional PragerU videos have been restricted by YouTube. This brings the total number of PragerU videos restricted on YouTube to 88, or more than 10 percent of educational nonprofit's entire online media library. Many families enable restricted mode in order to keep inappropriate and objectionable adult and sexual content away from their children, not to prevent them from watching animated, age-appropriate, educational videos.



PragerU v. Google/YouTube, has placed the educational media organization at the center of a heated national debate about freedom of speech online, and carries with it profound implications for both the future of the First Amendment and more generally, political debate in America. The court case is currently being appealed at the Ninth Circuit Court. More than a half million grassroots supporters have added their names to PragerU's online petition and thousands more have donated in support of the organization's legal fund.

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/2018/08/18/prageru-claims-it-is-being-heavily-censored-by-facebook-and-they-have-evidence-to-prove-it>

# PragerU claims it is being ‘heavily censored’ by Facebook — and they have evidence to prove it

Aug 18, 2018 12:48 pm



Facebook censors PragerU videos, then claims it was a mistake. PragerU did not buy the excuse. (Image source: YouTube screenshot)

Chris Enloe Weekend Editor

Prager University, which produces conservative content including man-on-the-street and explainer videos on conservative values and philosophy, claimed Friday that Facebook is heavily censoring its content.

And they have the evidence to prove it.

## What are the details?

The video outlet posted an image to social media showing its Facebook analytics. The picture shows that the last nine PragerU videos posted to its Facebook page — which has millions of followers — reached almost zero people, while two videos were deleted altogether.

BREAKING: We're being heavily censored on @Facebook.

Our last 9 posts are reaching 0 of our 3 million followers. At least two videos were deleted last night for “hate speech” including our recent video with @conservmillen.

SHARE to spread awareness about big tech censorship! [pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc](https://pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc)

— PragerU (@prageru) August 17, 2018

The report comes amid growing concerns about the power social media giants wield over the flow of information on the internet.

For several years now, there have been concerns that tech giants like Facebook and Google passively censor conservative-leaning news outlets and pages by limiting the reach of their content. Limiting reach reduces visibility, which in turn hurts their ability to advertise and make money.

### **How did Facebook respond?**

In a tweet, the company apologized for “mistakenly” removing the videos, which limited the reach of subsequent content. The company also said it restored the deleted videos.

We mistakenly removed these videos and have restored them because they don't break our standards. This will reverse any reduction in content distribution you've experienced. We're very sorry and are continuing to look into what happened with your Page.

— Facebook (@facebook) August 18, 2018

### **How did PragerU respond to Facebook's statement?**

They did not buy what Facebook was selling.

Does anyone really believe this was simply a mistake? <https://t.co/DZZ5MUmjg4>

— PragerU (@prageru) August 18, 2018

Removing two videos, marking them as “hate speech” and then subsequently censoring over 15 of our following posts to reach 0 of our 3 million followers is not a mistake. It's deliberate censorship of conservative ideas. <https://t.co/DZZ5MUmjg4>

— PragerU (@prageru) August 18, 2018

### **Anything else?**

PragerU sued Google last year alleging “intentional” censorship of its videos on YouTube, which Google owns. PragerU said 15 percent of its videos were placed in “restrictive mode,” which severely limited their reach.

[https://www.redstate.com/brandon\\_morse/2018/08/17/prageru-chopping-block-alex-jones/](https://www.redstate.com/brandon_morse/2018/08/17/prageru-chopping-block-alex-jones/)

# First Info Wars, and Now PragerU Has Found Itself Being Targeted for Censorship on Facebook

Posted at 3:00 pm on August 17, 2018 by Brandon Morse

The Alex Jones controversy was never about Alex Jones.

One of the things that I and many others had warned the denizens of the internet about when it was announced that Jones had been deplatformed on a number of networks was that he was just the first. Jones was the toe in the hot tub, or the proverbial canary in the coalmine.

The left's next censorship move may already be upon us, as the conservative education video channel PragerU has noticed some odd things happening to their channel on Facebook, and by "odd" I mean blatant censorship.

BREAKING: We're being heavily censored on @Facebook.

Our last 9 posts are reaching 0 of our 3 million followers. At least two videos were deleted last night for "hate speech" including our recent video with @conservmillen.

SHARE to spread awareness about big tech censorship! [pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc](https://pic.twitter.com/k83HqmlMRc)

— PragerU (@prageru) August 17, 2018

We just discovered that we are being heavily censored and shadow banned on @facebook. At least two of our video posts were removed last night for "hate speech" and our last 10 posts have reached 0 of our 3 million followers. More info and screenshots coming soon. STAY TUNED!

— PragerU (@prageru) August 17, 2018

Confirming PragerU's suspicions that they are being censored and/or shadowbanned by Facebook are various people coming forward, noticing that PragerU seems to have disappeared from their Facebook feeds.

I was wondering why you weren't showing up in my feed anymore.

— Garrett Long (@GTLongshot) August 17, 2018

Update: Well, I guess I was wrong. I just checked, and PragerU has disappeared from my Facebook feed. Gone, no matter how far down I scroll. I changed the settings to see your posts first, and still nothing. WTF?

— Mike Brown (@mb2982) August 17, 2018

Very weird indeed, Tyler. [pic.twitter.com/J4JvPVQmzP](https://pic.twitter.com/J4JvPVQmzP)

— PragerU (@prageru) August 17, 2018

I can't even access your Facebook page! It says "something went wrong" and half the videos don't play, they just go black when I click on them on my phone.

— >Talía Haykin | טליה (@thdpr) August 17, 2018

It should be noted that while Jones was kicked off of various platforms, PragerU seems to be getting restricted. This has already happened to them before via YouTube/Google, who, like Facebook, decided that the conservative ideas being presented are somehow hateful.

So while PragerU is not completely deplatformed, several platforms are making it harder to see their content. No matter how you slice it, Prager U is now being censored on multiple social networks.

PragerU and InfoWars are not the only channels to find themselves at the business end of major social network censorship decisions. Not long ago, YouTube interviewer Dave Rubin was showing the world how some of his videos were being selectively demonetized as well. He went so far as to make two different videos, one denouncing socialism in the title, and one promoting it. The one denouncing socialism was immediately demonetized, while the one promoting socialism still gained money.

It's safe to say that the censorship wave is targeted at the right. If the pattern keeps, it won't be long before we start seeing other conservative channels — from Crowder to the DailyWire — suffer the same fate.