



Use of the Internet

Task: Online Censorship and Freedom of Speech

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **online censorship and freedom of speech**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

The interplay between online censorship and freedom of speech is a subject of ongoing debate and scrutiny in our increasingly digital world. While both concepts are undoubtedly complex, they hold significant implications to make a move for the way information flows and ideas are shared in virtual spaces. There is certainly a delicate balance to strike between protecting individuals from harmful content and upholding the principles of free expression. I may be wrong but the boundaries between what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable content can be subjective, leading to diverse perspectives on the matter. It is essential to engage in thoughtful discussions that go beyond surface-level small talk and delve into the pensive considerations surrounding online censorship and freedom of speech. Resilient in its nature, the discourse surrounding these topics is fueled by a collective desire to navigate this terrain and make informed decisions that foster a safe and inclusive digital environment. In the following paragraphs, we will explore the intricacies of this complex relationship, examining the challenges, potential consequences, and potential paths forward.

The challenge of online censorship arises from various factors. Firstly, the sheer volume of content available on the internet makes effective moderation quite difficult. With an overwhelming amount of information being uploaded every second, it completely becomes an arduous task to review and regulate each piece of content. Complicating matters further is the subjectivity surrounding the definition of acceptable content. Different perspectives and cultural contexts render the notion of objectionable material quite subjective, making regulation a complex endeavor. Balancing the need for protection against harmful content with the principles of freedom of speech poses a significant challenge. Striking the right balance necessitates responsible content moderation, ensuring that harmful content is limited while legitimate expressions are not suppressed. It is essential to find mechanisms for control that are transparent and accountable, avoiding an inscrutable or unfettered exercise of power. Successfully addressing the challenge of online censorship requires a delicate approach that promotes responsible content moderation without compromising the principles of freedom of expression.

Achieving a delicate balance between freedom of speech and online responsibility is paramount in today's digital landscape. It basically entails ensuring individuals' right to express themselves while upholding social accountability. While freedom of speech is a fundamental principle, it is not without limitations. The necessity to protect individuals from harmful content and maintain a safe online environment cannot be overlooked. Striving for



responsible content moderation practices is absolutely crucial. Platforms must navigate the complex terrain, essentially balancing the promotion of individual expression and the safeguarding of public welfare. The rise of social media and online platforms has brought a yearning for open dialogue, but it also demands vigilance in curbing misinformation, hate speech, and harmful content. Ignoring this responsibility could lead to detrimental consequences, where the online space becomes a breeding ground for toxicity and harm. Ultimately, it is a sink or swim situation where the nonchalant approach to content moderation is insufficient. Taking into account the concerns of both freedom of speech and online responsibility, platforms and governing bodies must work together to establish guidelines and practices that strike the right balance and foster a healthy digital ecosystem. Finally, it is through thoughtful and collaborative efforts that we can navigate the complexities and challenges inherent in maintaining a harmonious coexistence of freedom and responsibility in the online realm.

Striking a delicate balance between freedom of speech and online responsibility is both totally challenging and necessary for cultivating a secure and inclusive digital sphere. Don't you think it might be detrimental if we overlook the potential consequences of unrestricted online expression? While the value of freedom of speech is undeniable, it is equally important to acknowledge the need for responsible conduct and accountability. By doing so, we can transcend the inherent challenges and promote a digital space that fosters constructive dialogue and mutual respect. To simply turn a blind eye to the potential risks would be shortsighted. Recognizing that this balancing act is inevitable, we must navigate the complexities to ensure that freedom of speech is upheld while simultaneously protecting against harmful content and promoting an environment that is welcoming to all. It is through mindful considerations and proactive measures that we can maintain a safe and open digital landscape for the benefit of society as a whole.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the challenge of online censorship, as well as balancing freedom of speech and online responsibility.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the challenge of online censorship, as well as balancing freedom of speech and online responsibility. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of view of the speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing freedom of speech and online responsibility is challenging but crucial to ensure a safe and open digital space.
Culture's Influence on Family Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume of content makes moderation difficult. Subjectivity of acceptable content complicates regulation. Balancing protection and freedom of speech is a challenge. Striking the right balance requires responsible content moderation. Finding mechanisms for control without becoming inscrutable.
Family Expectations and their Impact on Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring freedom of speech while maintaining online responsibility. Balancing individual expression and social accountability. Necessity of protecting individuals from harmful content. Striving for responsible content moderation practices.

Marks: +_ / +10

Grammar Used in the listening task:

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off