

Net Neutrality: A Debate for Modern Times

TOPIC: ETHICS

GRADES: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: TEACHER DISCRETION (MULTIPLE DAYS)

SOFT SKILLS: RESEARCH, COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, CRITICAL THINKING, PROBLEM SOLVING

Introduction:

- In this simulation, students will read and learn about Net Neutrality as a current topic of debate. Net neutrality is the idea that the web is open to everyone, meaning that internet service providers can't block content or intentionally slow down load times for websites. The principle, which was initially approved by the FCC in 2010, essentially states that web access is a human right that should be available for all (Fortune, 2017). Through this activity students will develop an educated opinion on the issue. Each student group will also develop a set of rules governing the topic of net neutrality.
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Learning Outcomes:

- Students will describe the issue of net neutrality and understand its importance today.
 - Students will develop a set of governing laws on the issue based on research and an understanding of the issues.
 - Students will experience how difficult it is to control the internet domain.
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Materials:

- Internet Access
 - [Worksheet](#)
 - Readings as selected by the teacher (Options listed at end of lesson)
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Activities:

1. Students should be guided through a basic discussion on net neutrality. It is suggested that the teacher read all articles below. Teacher discretion allows for the deletion or insertion of any other articles. More current articles may exist.
2. After a whole class discussion, students should be assigned 2-3 readings of the issue. Students should be tasked with developing a list of positives and negatives of net neutrality regulation.
3. Students should then be required to find 3-4 more sources of information on net neutrality. Students should cite sources and label them as blogs, opinions, scholarly articles, journals, news sources, etc.
4. Once students have read the articles, students should be placed in small groups. Each group will then share the resources found and hold an informal discussion on net neutrality.

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5. Each student group should then work to develop a list of suggestions regarding net neutrality. The simulation can be that each group has been tasked by their congressman to report on how he/she should handle the issue of net neutrality. The congressman is wanting concrete advice on how to proceed on the topic. Therefore, a simple, “no regulation required” while not suffice. Students need to support their advice with concrete evidence.
6. When all groups have completed their suggestions on regulations, a whole group sharing of ideas and discussion should occur.
7. [Worksheet available here](#)

Optional Enrichment:

1. Students could be required to write to the local Congressman or Senator on the topic.

Articles for Review:

1. <http://fortune.com/2017/07/12/net-neutrality-fcc-google-facebook-netflix/>
2. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nelsongranados/2017/05/31/the-net-neutrality-debate-why-there-is-no-simple-solution>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/11/upshot/a-super-simple-way-to-understand-the-net-neutrality-debate.html>
4. <http://thehill.com/opinion/technology/353146-net-neutrality-debate-fails-to-recognize-middle-ground>
5. <https://www.livescience.com/59200-how-net-neutrality-debate-affects-your-internet.html>

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