



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Legal Communications I & II

#FreeSpeech

May 19, 2020



Lesson: May 18, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will examine the intersection of social media and the 1st Amendment.

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

Develop an analogy that you feel describes the current state of social media.

Lesson/Activity

Georgetown University hosted a discussion on the intersection of social media and the First Amendment. The panelist explained the current social media landscape by using analogies and metaphors.

[Watch](#) and explain what each panelist means when they describe social media through the following analogies and metaphors:

- A city
- A house
- A marketplace of ideas

Lesson/Activity

Cyber security professor and author, Jeff Kosseff, talked about the Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act and the role it plays in how companies monitor and moderate content on their websites and apps.

[Watch](#) and answer the following:

1. What does Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act do?
2. Describe the history of this law.
3. How are internet platforms similar to bookstores under Section 230?
4. Describe the two types of recent criticisms against Section 230.

Practice

Find a recent news article about a social media platform moderating content or users. This can include a company blocking certain content, removing posts or banning users. Based on this article, provide the following information.

Summarize the action discussed in the article

In your opinion, was it appropriate for the social media platform to take this action?

Additional Resources

[Freedom of Expression](#)

[Social Media](#)

[Why the Government Should Not Regulate Content](#)