
Banning TikTok Revisited

Videos:

“Expert calls for the nationwide TikTok ban: This is China’s ‘nefarious operation’”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPAWjY0oDWs> (3:54 minutes)

“N.H. Gov. Chris Sununu says TikTok should not be banned”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwVe3hqyRM> (4:29 minutes)

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. In the Fox Business video, Stuart Varney said that one third of U.S. adults under the age of 30 are getting their news from TikTok. Is TikTok a good source for news? Why/Why not? Do you get news from TikTok?
3. In the CNBC video, Chris Sununu said he banned TikTok from government devices in New Hampshire. Why would TikTok present a risk to government devices?
4. In the Fox Business video, Brent Bozell said “information and news are blending into one thing.” What did he mean by this? What’s the difference between information and news?
5. While Chris Sununu banned TikTok from government devices, he does not believe private citizens should be banned from using it. In this context, what is the distinction between government officials and private citizens? Should they be subject to different rules regarding TikTok? Why/Why not?
6. Brent Bozell said that Joe Biden is going to use TikTok in Biden’s re-election campaign. Is this a good idea? Why/Why not?
7. In the CNBC video, Brian Sullivan said: “We know our phone is basically a video recording device for all of our movements, all the time, everywhere.” Are you concerned with companies and governments using your phone to track you? Why/Why not?

8. Brent Bozell dismissed the economic price of banning TikTok, claiming that business owners who use TikTok will “just go somewhere else.” What did he mean by this? Do you think there would be an economic price for banning TikTok? Why/Why not?
9. Chris Sununu said that misinformation is not exclusive to TikTok. Do you think misinformation is a problem on social media in general? Why/Why not? Have you experienced misinformation?
10. Brent Bozell said there are more videos on TikTok that praise Hamas than videos that praise Israel. [TikTok has addressed this](#), but regardless, should TikTok be blamed for the content that users post on the platform? Why/Why not?
11. When discussing banning social media apps, Chris Sununu said: “I’m a free market guy.” What does being a “free market guy” have to do with this topic? What is the free market position on banning TikTok?
12. Brent Bozell said multiple times that the Chinese government is the number one enemy of the United States. Do you agree with him? Why/Why not?
13. Chris Sununu said: “[O]nce you ban TikTok, you better get ready for another dozen that you have to ban tomorrow, and probably another hundred that you have to ban next year.” What did he mean by this?
14. If TikTok were banned, would you be personally affected? If so, how?
15. Do you think people spend too much time on social media? Why/Why not?
16. Should we be more concerned about our privacy when it comes to social media? Why/Why not?
17. If there are legitimate concerns about TikTok being used to invade privacy or for propaganda, is a government ban the best solution? What other solutions might there be?
18. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
19. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
20. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
21. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
22. For more on this topic, check out our original pairing, “[Both Sides of the Issue: Banning TikTok](#).”