Net Neutrality

What is net neutrality, and what does it mean for people who use the internet? Whether you've been following discussions about net neutrality over the past several years or you are just learning about the debates, explore the concept of net neutrality and the impact overturning existing net neutrality would have on the internet as we know it now.

Conversation Questions

1. Should internet access be considered a public utility, which is accessible evenly among all customers through regulation, or a commodity, which is accessible through supply and demand?
2. To what degree should a government be involved in the regulation of the internet?

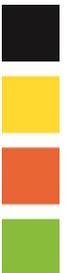## Key Definitions (from *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)

- *net neutrality* – the idea, principle, or requirement that internet service providers should or must treat all internet data as the same regardless of its kind, source, or destination
- *Internet service provider* – a company that provides its customers with access to the internet and that may also provide other internet-related services (such as email accounts)
- *Federal Communications Commission* – independent agency charged with regulating all interstate and foreign communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable

Listen

"Bonus: Why Should We Care about Net Neutrality?"
https://goo.gl/kyC4yT

This episode from the *Examining Ethics* podcast, which is produced by The Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University, explores the ethical implications of net neutrality laws and proposed changes to such legislation.

The CIVIC LAB at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.

Watch

"Net Neutrality II: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)"
https://goo.gl/JCCG9f

Oliver, who hosts a cable news program full of satire, dives into the topic of net neutrality and its role in ensuring equal access to online information.

Explore

"What is Net Neutrality?" from the American Civil Liberties Union
https://goo.gl/Y87BtZ

This question-and-answer-style resource from the ACLU, an organization in favor of preserving net neutrality, defines net neutrality and explores potential implications of its end.

"Am I The Only Techie Against Net Neutrality?"
by Josh Steimle from *Forbes*
https://goo.gl/9nY92U

In this opinion piece from 2014, Steimle argues in favor of the overturning of net neutrality in order to allow for a truly free market internet landscape.

"Network Neutrality" from the American Library Association
http://www.ala.org/advocacy/telecom/netneutrality

Explore why the American Library Association has identified net neutrality as an issue tied to intellectual freedom.

"The End of Net Neutrality Could Shackle the Internet of Things" by Klint Finley from *Wired*
https://goo.gl/bNe3DS

Finley explores the implications of the end of net neutrality for the burgeoning market of the so-called Internet of Things—internet-connected devices integrated throughout the homes and lives of a growing number of Americans.