

Final Round

Section III. Political & Ideological Fragmentation (Section Topic)

A. The role of social media, “news”, and other information outlets.

In an article published in September of 2021 by Brookings, it asserts that social media contributes to partisan animosity. The article makes the claim: a range of experts have concluded that the use of social media contributes to partisan animosity in the U.S. In an article published in October 2020 in the journal *Science*, a group of 15 researchers summarized the scholarly consensus this way: “In recent years, social media companies like Facebook and Twitter have played an influential role in political discourse, intensifying political sectarianism.” In August 2021, a separate quintet of researchers summed up their review of the empirical evidence in an article in the journal *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*: “Although social media is unlikely to be the main driver of polarization, they concluded, “we posit that it is often a key facilitator.”

You are a group of professors who teach political science at different colleges in the region. All graduating seniors at the colleges you teach at must take your senior political science class. You are all gathered together to first examine the ways in which social media and social media apps have contributed to political polarization in the United States and perhaps in other Modern World countries/cultures. Identify at least three consequences of the extreme polarization. Finally, your task is to develop four key teaching principles that you will all incorporate into your college classroom for your students as they graduate and join the working world of adults.

Link: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-tech-platforms-fuel-u-s-political-polarization-and-what-government-can-do-about-it/>