

REGULATION ASSIGNMENT

As you do the readings over the next week, I want you to be thinking about how you think the government should regulate (or not regulate) media. For starters, indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. Also, please add a few sentences explaining your reasoning. Or, if you prefer, write a paper summarizing your opinions. Please think seriously about these questions and be prepared to debate. Over the next couple of months, we'll be discussing these issues and the reasons for and against certain kinds of regulation.

The government should require a license to legally operate a television or radio station.

The government should ban the sale of books or any other media product that teaches people how to construct bombs.

The government should require broadcast television stations to air a minimum of 3 hours per week of educational children's programming.

The government should ban broadcasters from airing commercials that interrupt news programs. (Advertising will be allowed only in-between programs, for example, on the hour and half hour.)

The government should allow companies to own only one media outlet (newspaper, television station, or radio station) per market.

The government should tax advertising and use that money to fund public broadcasting.

The government should ban explicit depictions of sex on TV.

The government should ban the portrayal of violence that leads to bodily harm during the "family viewing" hours of 7-9 p.m.

The government should require that broadcasters (1) devote a reasonable percentage of broadcasting time to the discussion of public issues of interest in the community served by their stations and (2) that such programs be designed so that the public has a reasonable opportunity to hear different opposing positions on the public issues of interest and importance in the community.

The government should require that all television stations donate, free of charge, four hours of prime time television time to be divided up equally among the presidential candidates who will appear on that state's ballot.