

Overview

Students will analyze in detail the U.S. and Chinese positions on online rights and internet governance, filling out a graphic organizer and then completing a piece of persuasive writing in favor of or against one or more positions.

Length

One class, plus time for writing assignment

Materials

[Should the Internet Respect National Borders? \(World101\)](#)

[Remarks by Xi Jinping at the Opening of the Second World Internet Conference](#)

[U.S. State Department's Website on the Pillars of the International Strategy for Cyberspace](#)

Handout (attached)

Instructional Plan

1. Have students watch the [“Should the Internet Respect National Borders?”](#) video.
2. Have students fill out the attached handout using Xi Jinping’s speech and the State Department website.
3. Have students write a persuasive essay, perhaps in the form of a newspaper op-ed article or blog post, supporting or opposing one of the points set forth in the documents. Encourage them to consider the effects of the policy on all parties: the government, business owners, users, political activists, and so on.

Extension and Additional Resources

The Donald J. Trump administration recently released its own [cyber strategy](#). It is not addressed in the Splinternet video, and it does not contrast with the Chinese position as clearly as the Barack Obama administration’s positions did. However, it could be interesting to introduce the Trump administration document as a third point of view for comparison.

Online Rights and Internet Governance

Rights and Governance Online

Watch the [“Should the Internet Respect National Borders?”](#) video and read [remarks by Xi Jinping at the opening of the second World Internet Conference](#) and [the U.S. State Department’s website on the pillars of the international strategy for cyberspace](#), then fill out the chart below:

United States	China
Governance: According to each country, how are decisions about the internet made? Who makes them?	
Economics: What does each country suggest about the cyber economy?	
Freedoms: How does each country define freedom? How will they promote freedom?	
Cybercrime and cyberwar: What does each country propose to do about these problems?	
Other: What other issues does each country discuss?	