

## Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

### STORY

#### **China-Google Battle Over Internet Freedom,**

01/26/2010

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/arts/jan-june10/google\\_01-26.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/arts/jan-june10/google_01-26.html)

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

### PROCEDURE

#### **1. WARM UP**

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

#### **2. MAIN ACTIVITY**

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

#### **3. DISCUSSION**

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.]

### INITIATING QUESTIONS

#### **1. What is censorship?**

#### **2. How do you access the Internet? How do you search for things on the Internet?**

#### **3. What social networking sites do you use?**

#### **4. How is social networking used in politics or political movements?**

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

#### **1. What did the search engine, Google, threaten to do?**

##### ANSWER

Google has threatened to pull its business out of China, ending a 2006 compromise in which the popular search engine company agreed to allow the government to filter taboo topics on searches done inside the populous Communist Party-run country.

#### **2. Where did Google claim that hackers attacks came from?**

##### ANSWER

Google followed the hackers trail to servers in Taiwan and eventually back to mainland China.

#### **3. What is the number one search engine in China?**

##### ANSWER

While Google is the most-used search engine on the Internet, it ranks a distant second in China, behind Baidu.

#### **4. What was the White House reaction to the censorship fight?**

##### ANSWER

The U.S. government stepped into the dispute by supporting Google's stand against censorship.

**5. What is the People's Daily?**

**ANSWER**

China's top newspaper is the state-run People's Daily.

**6. Name 3 sites and at least 2 issues that the Chinese government censors in China.**

**ANSWER**

The sites Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are all blocked in China.

The government also filters sites that allow discussion of events like the bloody 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre or the treatment of Tibetans.

**7. Why does David Lampton say it is important for the Chinese State to control the internet?**

**ANSWER**

David Lampton, director of the China Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University, explained that "information control is at the heart of the Chinese strategy to maintain social stability."

**8. According to some scholars how are Google's and Chinese citizens' demands similar?**

**ANSWER**

Some scholars, including GuoBin Yang, author of *The Power of the Internet: Chinese Society in the Information Age*, argue that "Google's refusal to censor its Chinese search engine is consistent with Chinese citizens' broad demands for openness, transparency, and speech freedom, and should be taken just as seriously as those popular demands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Does it surprise you to hear that the Chinese government controls the Internet in China?**

**2. Do you think the United States government controls the Internet at all? Explain your answer with examples.**

**3. How should the United States deal with cyber security?**

**4. Do you think uncensored access to information is a basic human right? Why or why not?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.