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As a teacher, the internet is vitally important for me and my students. Ending net neutrality undermines the very values the United States of America is founded upon, the ability to freely publish and access information, whether that includes criticizing the government and protecting citizens' liberties, promoting your business, or researching for academic purposes. When an ISP can determine who gets preferential treatment, they can, in a sense, pick the "winners," stifle business competition which has helped America to be an economic superpower and a place where the "average joe," through innovation, can compete with the big established businesses, lead to greater consumer choice, better and more efficient products, and economic growth through competition (just think about the countries where nationalization or communism have limited competition). ISPs could also muffle unpopular political opinions because those people, U.S. citizens, do not have the resources to pay for "fast lanes" or preferential treatment, thus restricting our 1st amendment rights through almost a poll tax for free speech, press, and religion. It could also heavily burden academia, an area that the U.S. continues to lead the world, because cash-strapped scholars and research programs won't be able to publish and disseminate their work effectively. The government has a duty to promote the general welfare and the progress of science and the useful arts. The FCC's decision isn't just important for the U.S., but also for the rest of the world. We set the standard. Are we setting one that promotes the values of our country that fights for its people or ones of monied interests that mostly benefit the wealthiest?