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I think net neutrality is one of the most important values in this day and age. Requiring all information to travel at the same speed on the internet is equivalent to allowing each person to have his or her voice heard and treated with the same importance and respect. Large cable companies already have an large amount of control over our lives, and while this may seem like an overstatement, it's important to recognize just how integral a part of modern life the internet is. We use it as a tool for things as essential as filing taxes, applying for jobs, and applying to college. And while one might make the claim that one doesn't need to do such important things through the internet, it is not right to give cable corporations the right to interfere with the speed at which these online actions happen—this would unfairly slow down and deem secondary or less important the online actions of those who use certain websites that cannot afford the premiums required by the cable companies to have the "high speed" coverage. This creation of an internet hierarchy essentially rewards those with more money an unjust advantage over the rest of us. And while it has been claimed that our internet service will not be slowed down, it is the separation of our online speech from wealthy companies and individuals' speech that is fundamentally contrary to the most central purpose of the internet: to provide a level playing field devoted to the free and independent exchange of information. The risks we run by allowing net neutrality to be dismantled include loss of this fundamental principle of equality, and the benefits provided by eschewing net neutrality can only be reaped by cable companies, who would simply make more money than they already do.