

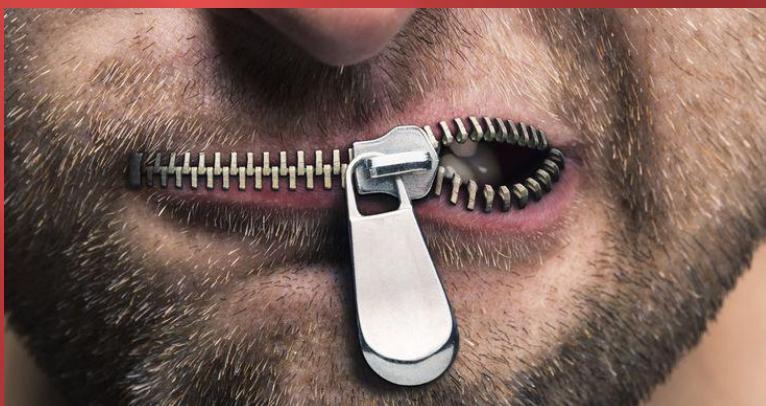
NEWS COMBINING PROJECT

By: Eryn Harvey

Overview

- ❑ Article from The Wall Street Journal titled “Rand Paul Interview Sparks Dustup Over Abortion Rights”
- ❑ <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/04/09/rand-paul-sparks-dustup-over-abortion-rights/>
- ❑ Paul was unwilling to answer specific questions on which exemptions to abortion bans he supports
- ❑ Democratic National Committee chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz wouldn’t comment on which, if any, restrictions she favors on the right to get an abortion

Identification of Theory/Description



- I selected the Spiral of Silence Theory
- The theory is defined as "the idea that people holding views contrary to those dominant in the media are moved to keep those views to themselves for fear of rejection." (pg. 268 Baran & Davis).
- Train example...what would you do?

Utilization of Theory

- ❑ My reasoning on why I believe this article is an example of the spiral of silence theory is because both Paul and Schultz try to avoid telling the public their views on certain abortion bans
- ❑ I think Paul's reasoning is because a good percentage of the country falls into the middle on the abortion issue, and he doesn't want to lose votes
- ❑ Paul does not directly answer the question, he makes a statement about life, and then asks a question to the Democrats

Utilization (Cont)

- Schultz responded to Paul's question, but then 'Republicans noted Schultz seemed to be calling for abortions without restrictions, the Democratic Party declined to clarify if her statement meant that she favored no restrictions at all on abortions.' (Byron Tau, Wall Street Journal)
- This is a prime example of the spiral of silence theory because the party doesn't want to respond to the question
- If she was to respond to the question her views may be unpopular, and she can fear rejection

Analysis

- ❑ This process has had an impact on the way I think because I now see the importance of mass communications theory, and how it is applied to news sources
- ❑ I liked this theory because it's relatable to everyone
- ❑ This will change how I view things from now on, every time someone doesn't want to talk about a controversial topic, I will remember the spiral of silence theory. I don't have to worry about the theory because I always say what's on my mind.

References

- <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/04/09/rand-paul-sparks-dustup-over-abortion-rights/>
- Baran, S. Davis, D. (2015). *Mass communication theory: foundations, ferment, and future*. (7th ed.). Boston: Cengage.
- <http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=spiral+of+silence+theory&view=detailv2&id=3C419902F22E335A6A06A6DE235D07772F90DDE8&selectedIndex=74&cid=O44nJNuz&simid=608016324221406287&thid=HN.608016324221406287&ajaxhist=0>
- <http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=spiral+of+silence+theory&view=detailv2&id=EA4E89A77FD13403680AA2C0A33441C59A555A21&selectedIndex=3&cid=nB8GEVN6&simid=608045607312428350&thid=HN.608045607312428350&ajaxhist=0>