*Directions*

*This assignment asks you to develop a political-economic analysis of conditions that explain the rise of the commercial Internet in the U.S.*

*Watch the documentary “*[*Digital Disconnect*](https://umass.kanopy.com/video/digital-disconnect)*” (*[*https://umass.kanopy.com/product/digital-disconnect*](https://umass.kanopy.com/product/digital-disconnect)*) and, please write an essay (500-750 words) discussing:*

*1) Three economic, political or regulatory factors that explain the development of Internet infrastructure and services mostly as a commercial enterprise in the U.S., and 2) provide a relevant conclusion on what you learned through this documentary about changes in the evolution of the Internet in the last 30 years: what was intriguing and illuminating about this documentary? What is the main takeaway or idea you learned through this case study?*

*NOTE that this assignment does not ask you to discuss the socio-political impacts or consequences of Internet development. INSTEAD, it asks you to analyze the factors that explain how and why a government-funded military, research and educational network project (ARPANET) evolved and transformed into the hyper-commercialized network of networks we know today as the Internet.*