**Data:**

The data used to perform the required analysis was gathered from the “politics” and “conservative” subreddits using Reddit’s public REST API on 2020/11/27 through 2020/11/30. We decided to gather an equal number of posts on each day in order to arrive at a total of 1000 posts per subreddit. Because the analysis was only to be done on posts mentioning either Trump or Biden, we made sure to only save posts that contained the surnames of either one of the presidential candidates, meaning that posts were filtered upon collection as opposed to cleaning the collected dataset. This involved scanning both the title and the content of the post for the surnames of the candidates before saving it to an output file. While this process may have been more computationally expensive than gathering 2000 posts that would be filtered after collection (as a larger number of requests to the Reddit API would have been made), it allowed us to analyze a larger sample size of posts and better represent the trends present in each of the subreddits.

Because each post collected from the Reddit API contains a sizeable number of features, we decided to only choose fields that we felt would be most interesting when analyzing trends in topics and engagement. These included the name of the author, the title of the post, the post’s content, the number of up and down votes received, it’s gildings, and the news article linked to the post. All posts from a given day and subreddit were saved to a json file where each line of the file was an object representing a single post. While the post’s content and title were the only things used to determine the topic assigned to the post, we felt that it may be interesting to gather the up and down votes as well as the gildings in order to have more insight on the engagement that the post received. This could be later used to analyze which topics received praise from other users. The news article link was collected because we were curious about which media outlets would be most present on each of the subreddits and about what type of content they were inclined to post.

**Topics:**

After having collected all the relevant data required to perform the analysis, we needed to select 200 random posts among the data collected in order to perform an open coding and establish the topics to be used to categorize the data. To determine a preliminary list of topics, we coded the first 50 posts as a team. We decided to code the remaining 150 posts individually and compare our categorizations in order to resolve any misunderstandings about the topics defined. Following this process, we were able to characterize 8 topics which we deemed to be mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive:

1. Future Administration: this post title or content directly refers to the plans and policies to be implemented by Biden after inauguration. It also refers to any challenges the administration will face once in office. Examples:
   1. *BREAKING: Biden Announces 6 New Major Picks For His Economic Team*
   2. *Biden under pressure to remove Trump transgender military ban quickly*
   3. *Biden Must End the War He Helped Start - Yemenis call on the president-elect to stop the onslaught.*
2. Lame Duck: this post title or content directly refers to any actions unrelated to the election taken by Trump in the final months of his presidency. Examples:
   1. *Trump Sought Options for Attacking Iran to Stop Its Growing Nuclear Program*
   2. *LATEST: Trump Pardons Michael Flynn, Who Endured Years of Apparent Prosecutorial Misconduct by FBI*
   3. *Supreme Court reviews Trump plan to exclude undocumented immigrants in redistricting*
3. Overturning 2020 Election Results: this post title or content relates to the legal battles that the Trump team is engaging in the overturn the election results and to the ongoing recount efforts in different states. Examples:
   1. *Biden Gains Votes In Recount Of Milwaukee County Requested By Trump*
   2. *Trump rails at judges as another court rejects his lawyers' claims of voter fraud*
4. Trump Legacy: this post title or content relates to Trump’s future relationship with the Republican party, retrospectives on his tenure as president, impact of his presidency on the political and social landscape of the United States, his relationship with the media, as well as his ambitions to run in 2024. Examples:
   1. *Op-Ed: To stamp out Trumpism, the U.S. needs to deal with these six things*
   2. *Hawley 2024? Missouri Republican could be \u2018Trump 2.0,\u2019 say conservative supporters*
   3. *An Honest Liberal Reporter Reminds Progressives of Their Unhinged 2016 Electoral College Plot Against Trump*
5. Election Fraud: this post title or content relates to statements of skepticism over election results as well as to evidence confirming claims of fraud. Examples:
   1. *Trump Addresses Irregularities in Pennsylvania: 'We Won This Election by a Lot*
   2. *Audible Gasps and Laughter From Crowd and Panel at PA Hearing When Witness Says Vote \u201cSpikes\u201d Went 600,000 For Biden and 3,200 For Trump (VIDEO)*
6. Transition: this post title or content relates to the procedural steps in the power exchange process between Trump and Biden or any actions taken by Biden’s team before the inauguration to prepare for the presidency. Examples:
   1. *Biden to receive first presidential intelligence briefing on Monday*
   2. *White House coronavirus adviser Deborah Birx hopes to brief Joe Biden about pandemic on Monday*
   3. *Laura Ingraham: I regret to inform you that Biden will be president*
7. Election Insights: this post title or content relates to the analysis of election night results such as breakdowns of how and why given demographics voted for their candidate of choice. Examples:
   1. *Obama takes jab at Hispanic voters for supporting Trump.*
   2. *Obama: Republicans portraying white men as 'victims' helped Trump win votes | Barack Obama | The Guardian*
   3. *In Trump v. Biden, Native American voters played a crucial role. It's time to recognize that*
8. Other Political Happenings: this post title or content relates to any other news item reporting things said or done by either one of the presidential candidates. Examples:
   1. *Biden will likely require walking boot for several weeks after fracturing foot*
   2. *"Donald Trump appears to admit Covid is 'running wild' in the US | Donald Trump"*
   3. *Joe Biden, Jill Biden's Heartfelt Thanksgiving Message receives warm response from Netizens*