Final Project Design Process Book

Team: Basket
Project Title: Is the First Amendment Really Coming First?

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Last Edits:

11/07/2018 4 pm: Added week 0 section, questions we want to answer.
11/11/2018 7pm: Added Week 1 more detailed project plan
11/12/2018: Updated Project Plan timeline and features list
11/18/2018: Updated Process Book with prototype process information

Week 0

Abstract:

There has been a lot of discussion across the political spectrum about free speech and not a lot of data. We want to use data to explore the real situation surrounding free speech and the first amendment. Are college students raging against the constitution? Are they trying to prevent everyone from speaking? Are they betraying the free speech movement of their parents? We want to use data to see how bad the situation around free speech is, if it is even as bad as portrayed online. We aim to take data to draw objective and evidence based conclusions that will add to the online discussion around free speech. Our goal is to take away the dramatic hysteria and present the data in a clear and engaging way. We want to show the objective data surrounding free speech and craft a clear story about its true state in modern society.

Our data is predominantly taken from surveys and research papers from credible researchers. We have put them together in a google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QTMtLLT7IHMnR5TG7QAe0LaMv_ooQ74fVeJtykRaI9M/edit?usp=sharing

Week 1

Questions:

- Is free speech better protected at public universities or private universities? -> private universities have different rights to shut down speech under the constitution.
- Are Ivy Leagues/higher ranking colleges better at protecting free speech?
- Does the type of the speech matter?
- How many disinvitation requests are made and how many are successful?
- What side of the political aisle are pushing more for free speech shutdowns?
- Has the general attitude towards free speech changed over the last few years?
- Does what political party a state aligns with affect free speech at schools in that state?
- Do gender/age/beliefs/etc. affect whether a speaker is protested against?

Project Plan

By: Olivia Bryant and Emily Shoemaker

Goals and Tasks

Our main goal with this project is to easily display data relating to freedom of speech in the United States. We want to provide objective data on this divisive issue, to help people understand the state of free speech in the US. We also want to see for ourselves whether the state of free speech has been exaggerated in online articles, or if it truly is suffering at most US universities.

A secondary goal of this project is to make people aware of the importance of free speech and to make people recognize that it isn't being upheld across the US in different situations. We also want people to understand that it is not a single party issue, especially in our disinvited speakers visualization. We tend to hear about conservative speakers being disinvited to speak at liberal universities, but we want to show that the problem is across all universities. We also want to show that universal attitudes towards free speech issues have changed over time, and we want people to recognize that and decide if they believe it to have changed for the better.

There are a few tasks we want our visualizations to do. For our map of colleges visualization, we want people to be able to click on each school to see its name, whether it is public or private, and whether it is an Ivy league, and zoom in to different areas of the US map. An optional feature of this map would be to also overlay the political leaning of each state in the last election, so we could see how those data match up, but we will only do this if time permits it. Being able to click on each school to see its name will allow the map to look initially less cluttered, but give the user the ability to see if certain schools are more or less free speech friendly.

On our disinvited speakers visualization, we want to add a few ways to filter the data. We want to filter by gender of the speaker, school of the speaker, and what topics made them controversial. We think this filtering would allow people to see trends in the shut down of free speech and make our point impactful- that this issue affects people from many different groups. We also want to add tooltips so you can see who each speaker is and where they were speaker when you hover over each person, making it impactful to see who has been disinvited to speak. This would also allow the user to do further research on those speakers themselves.

On our line graph visualization, we also want to add a number of features. Since we found data answering different questions, we will have to allow filtering by question so the data is more seeable. We will also allow filtering by age, race, gender, and political affiliation. We want to show people that while there are general trends in different populations regarding their views towards free speech, no group is exempt from believing in free speech.

We also want to give an overall view of the history of free speech in America. We want to make a visualization that is a timeline with a multimedia overview of the free

speech movements on college campuses. It will feature images, text and sound clips. The y-axis of the timeline will show how pro-free speech or anti-free speech colleges were at that point/around the time of that event. Adding this timeline will put the rest of the information in the data visualization into context.

These tasks all support our goals because they help people realize the issue of infringement on free speech is universal. It affects people from all over the US and on both sides of the political spectrum, and is something we should all care about.

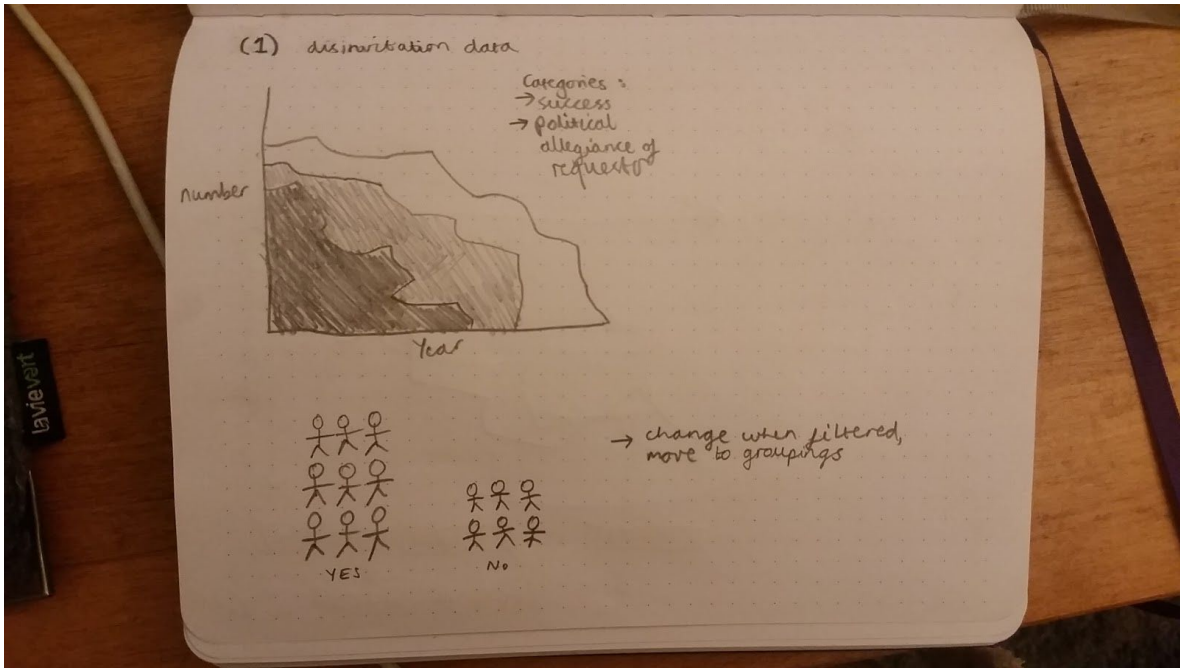
Description of Data

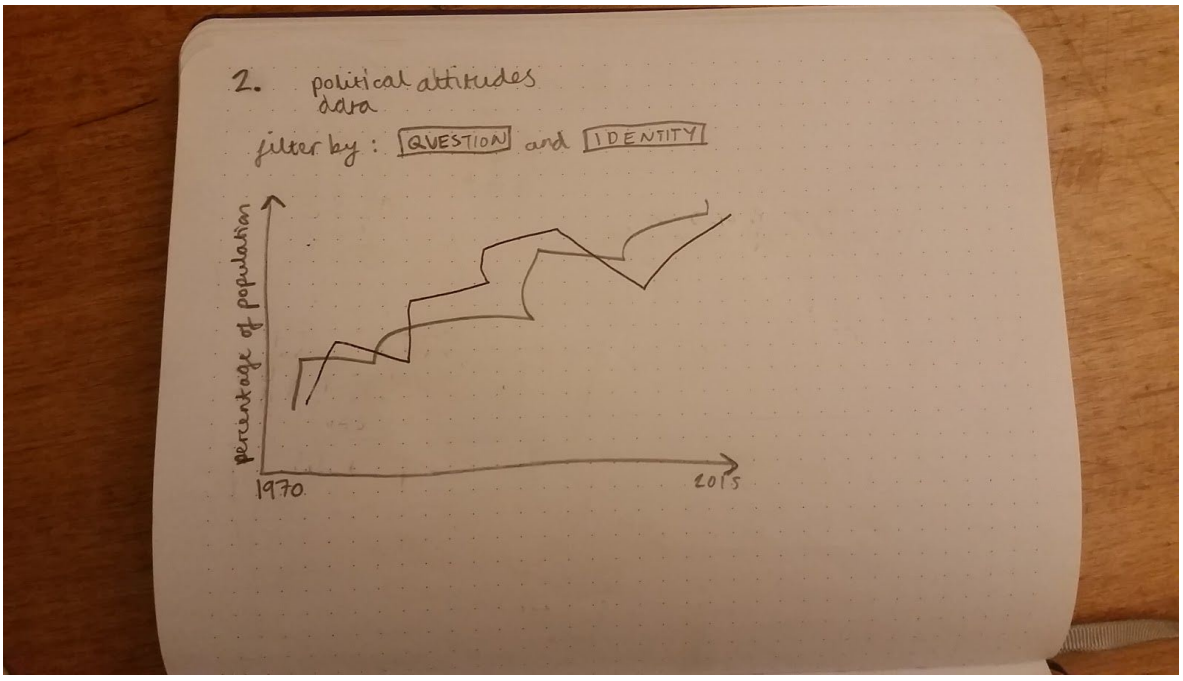
We have 3 main data sets we plan to use. The first comes from the GSS, or general social survey. This group collects data about the views and attitudes of people around the United States. Since it has been collecting data for a long time, sometimes trends can be seen spanning more than 80 years. Additionally, their data comes from a wide variety of respondents representing the United States. More about the survey itself can be found here: http://gss.norc.org/About-The-GSS . The data from those surveys that we plan to use is centered on free speech. We have data about responses to questions such as “Should a communist book be removed from a public library?”, and the age/race/political affiliation of the respondents.

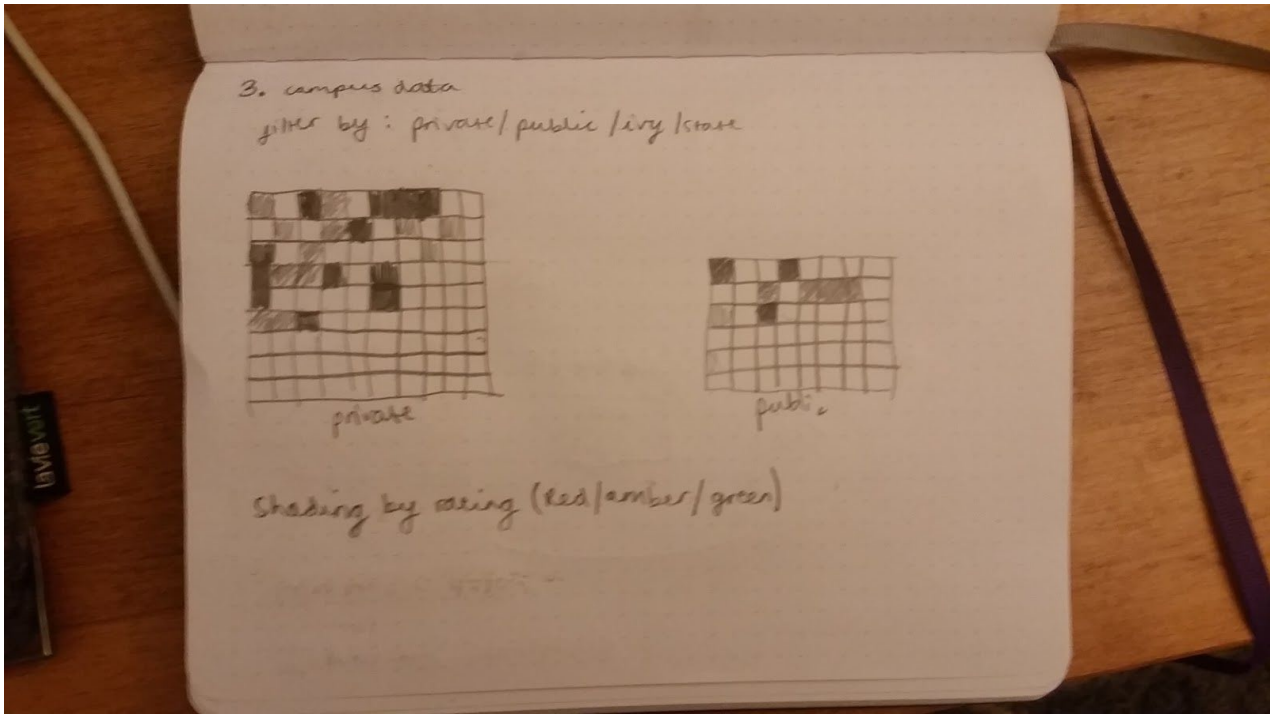
The next data set we intend to use comes from FIRE, the foundation for individual rights in education. FIRE collects data about first amendment rights on different college campuses and holds data about how well their policies uphold freedom of speech. We found a dataset of controversial speakers, whether they were turned away from different college campuses, which colleges those were, why the speaker was controversial, and whether the disinvitation came from the right or left of the speaker.

We are using another database from FIRE for our map as well. They have hundreds of colleges around the US ranked as red, yellow, or green for bad to good policies on free speech. We can use these rankings to create a map of the United States and free speech in schools, and compare those to political leanings of the states the schools are in as well.

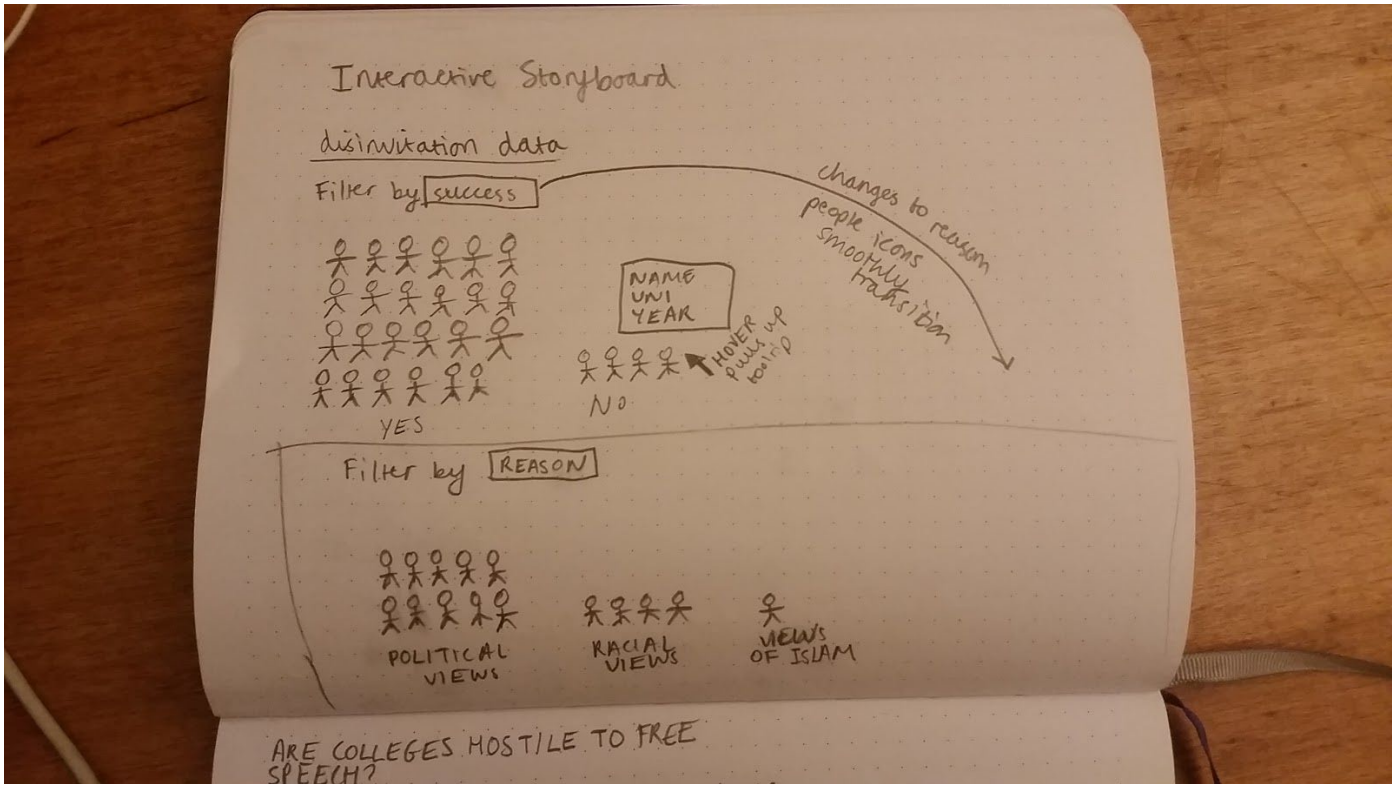
Sketches

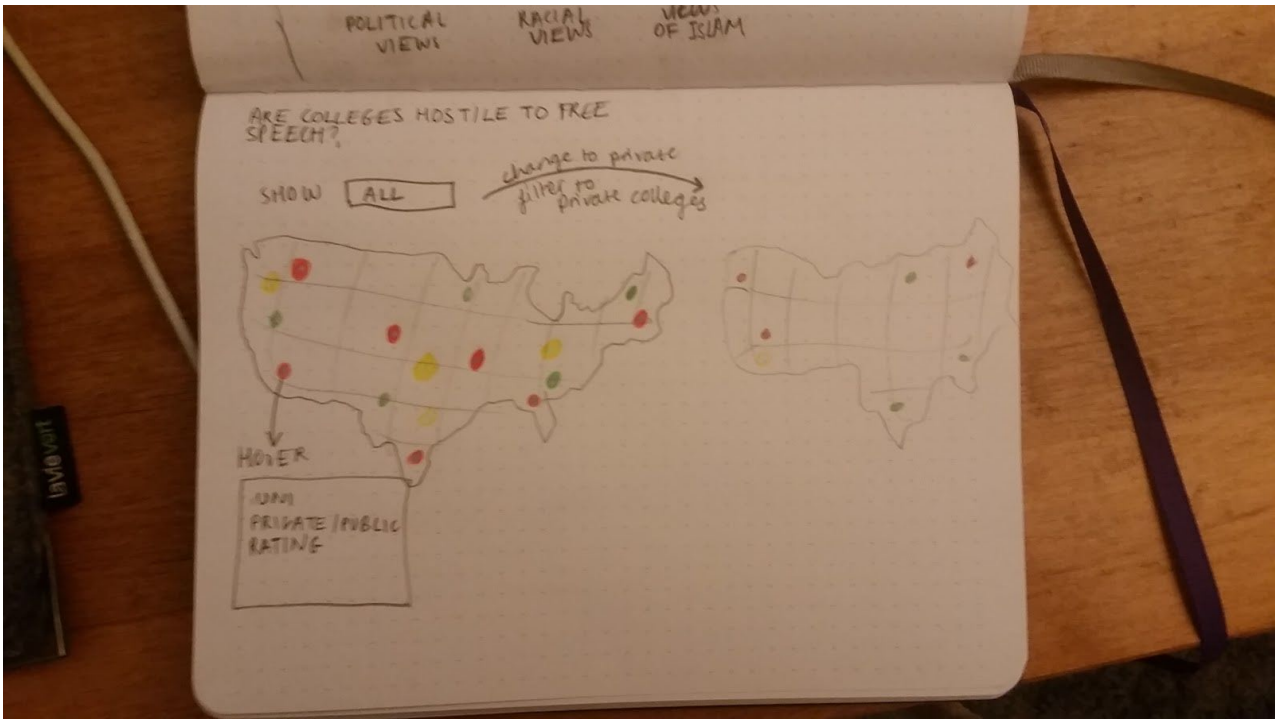

(1) disinvitation data
Categories:
→ success
→ political allegiance of requestor
Number
Year
YES
No
→ change when filtered, move to groupings


2. political attitudes data
filter by: QUESTION and IDENTITY
percentage of population
1970
2015

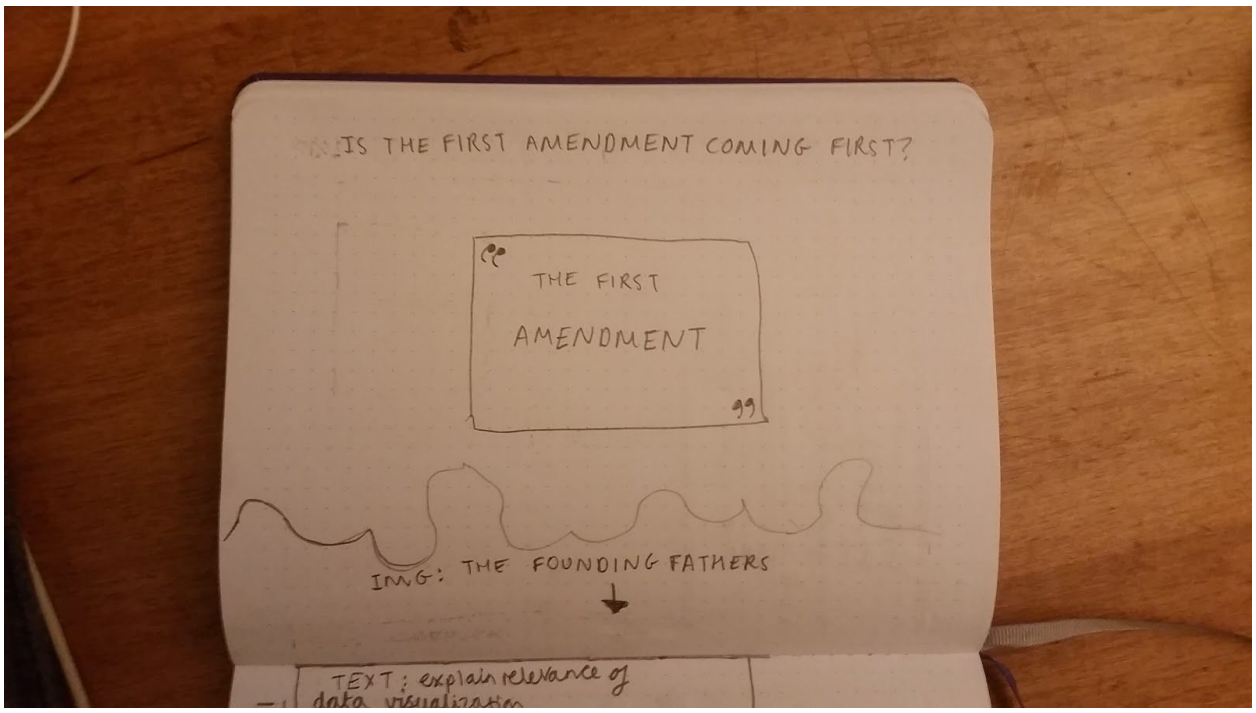

3. campus data
filter by: private/public/ivy/state
private
public
shading by rating (red/amber/green)

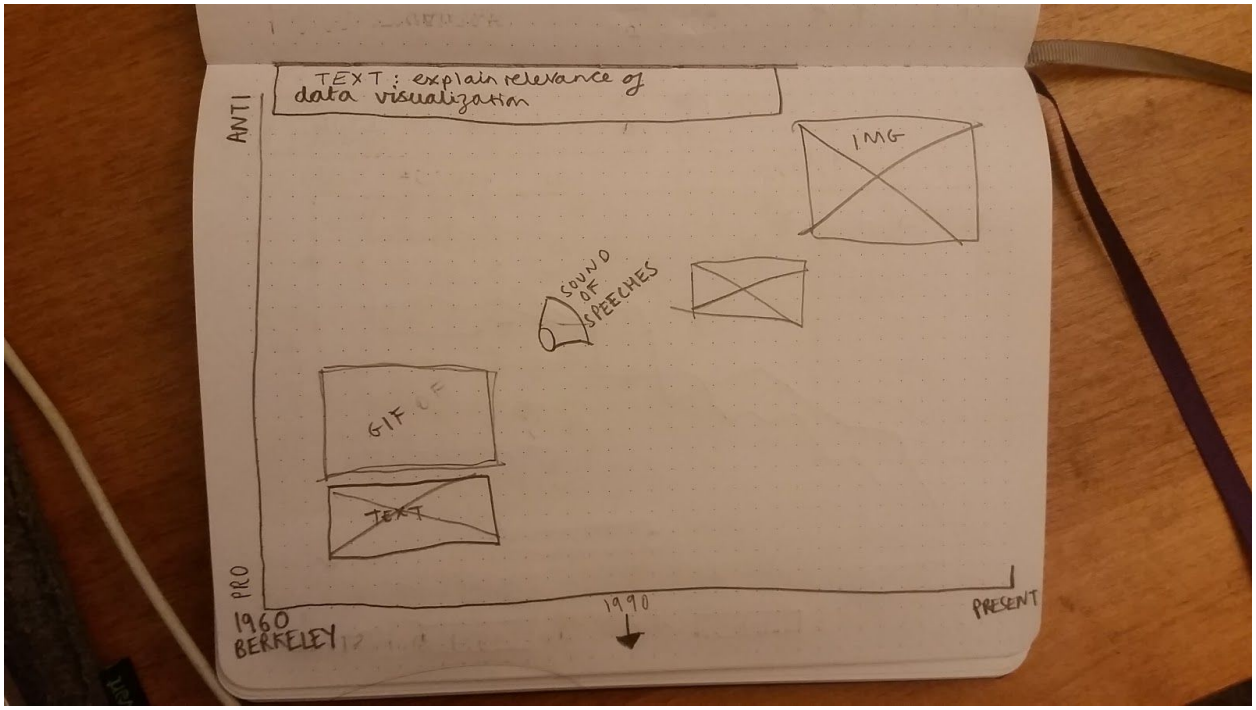
Storyboard

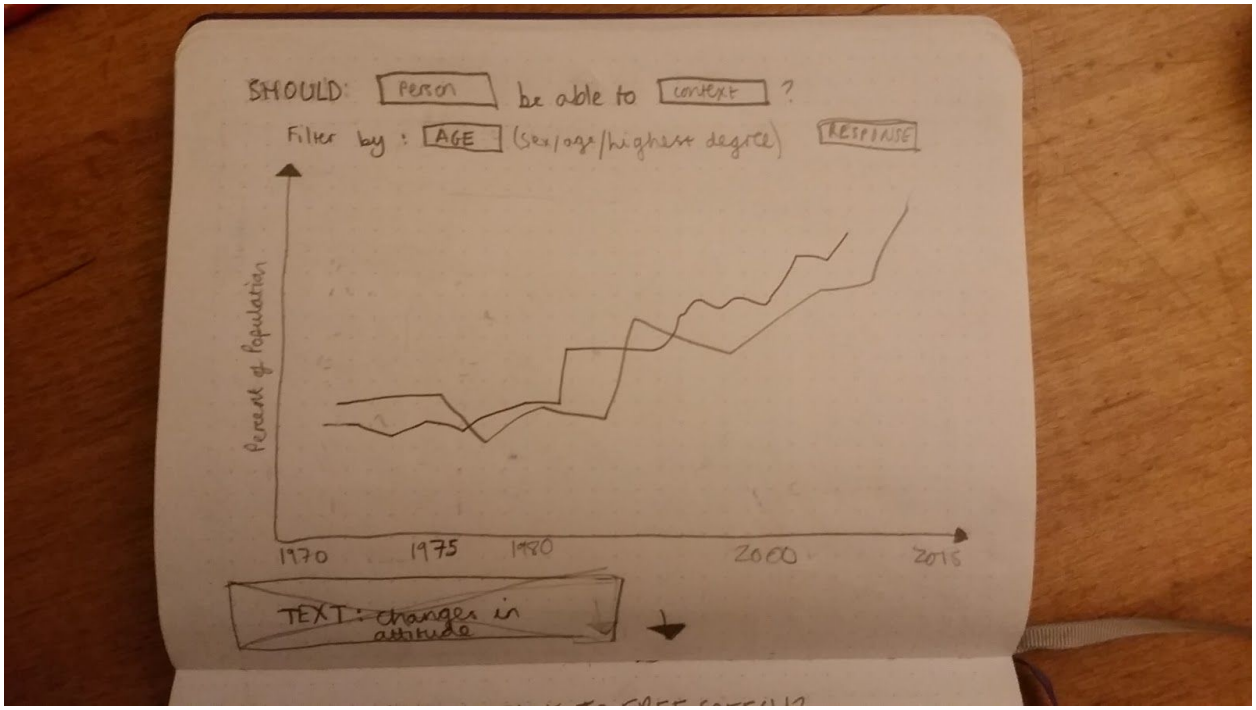

Interactive Storyboard
disinvitation data
Filter by success
changes to reason people icons smoothly transition
NAME
UNI
YEAR
HOVER pull up box
YES
NO
Filter by REASON
POLITICAL VIEWS
RACIAL VIEWS
VIEWS OF ISLAM
ARE COLLEGES HOSTILE TO FREE SPEECH?

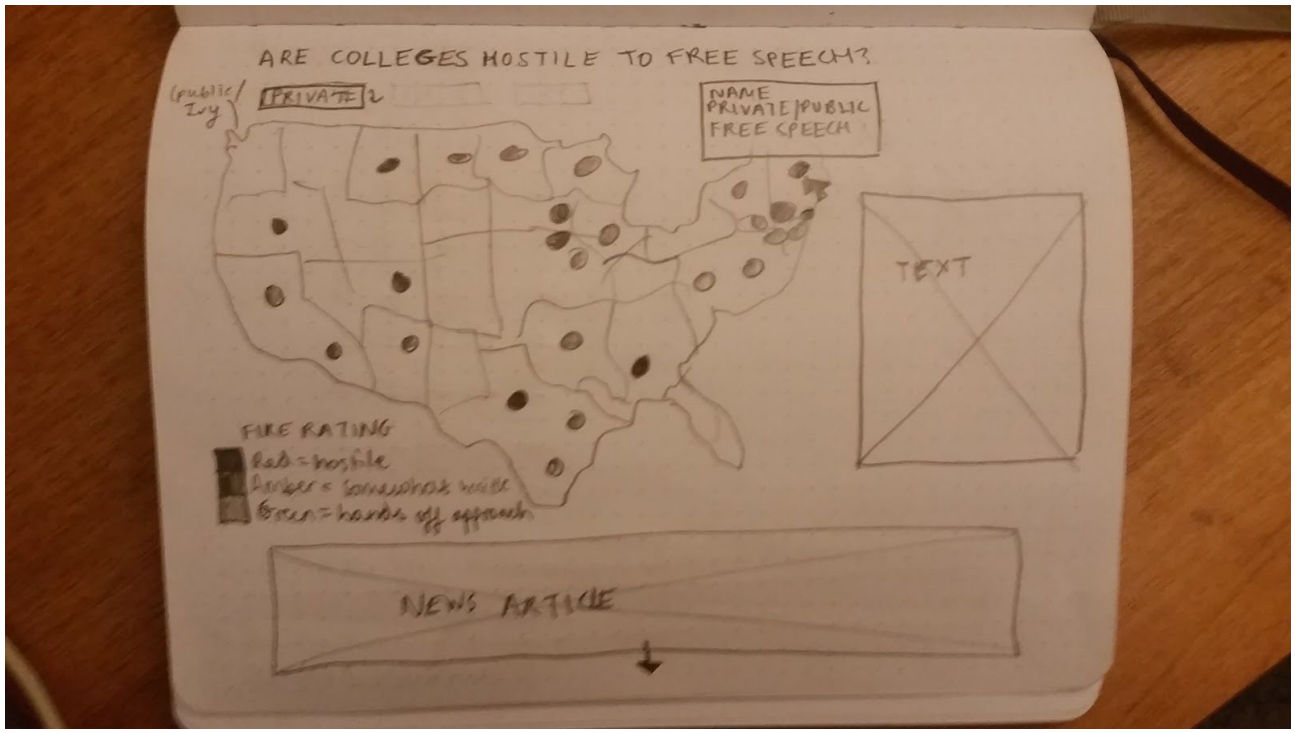

POLITICAL VIEWS
RACIAL VIEWS
OF ISLAM
ARE COLLEGES HOSTILE TO FREE SPEECH?
SHOW
ALL
change to private
filter to private colleges
HOVER
PRIVATE/PUBLIC
RATING

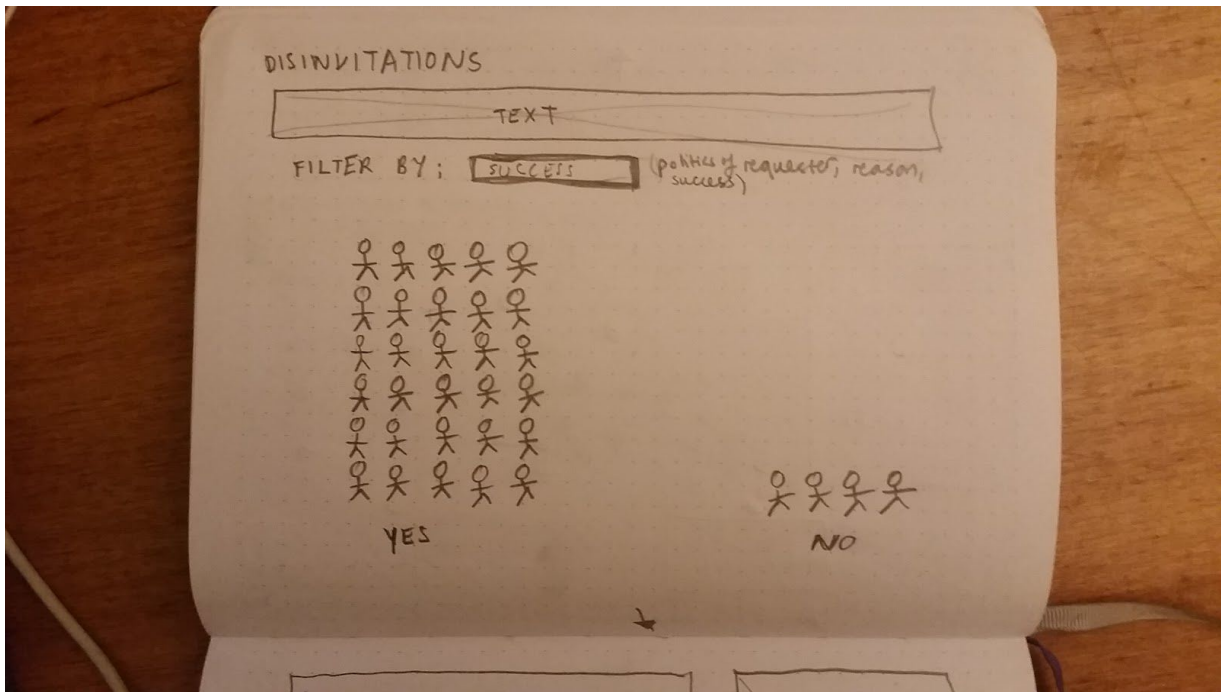
Webpage

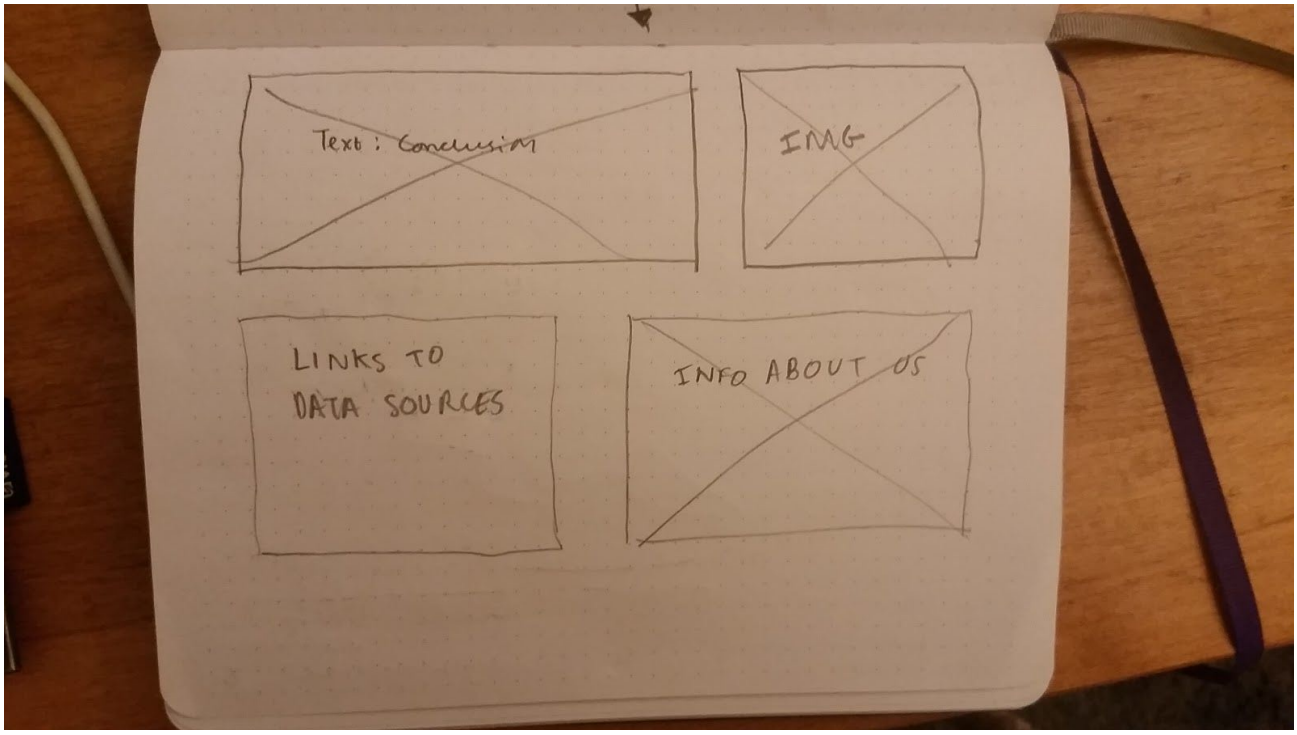

IS THE FIRST AMENDMENT COMING FIRST?
THE FIRST
AMENDMENT
IMG: THE FOUNDING FATHERS
TEXT: explain relevance of


TEXT : explain relevance of data visualization
IMG
SOUND OF SPEECHES
GIF
TEXT
ANTI
PRO
1960 BERKELEY
1990
PRESENT


SHOULD: Person be able to context ?
Filter by : AGE (Sex/age/highest degree)
RESPONSE
Percent of Population
1970
1975
1980
2000
2015
TEXT: changes in attitude


ARE COLLEGES HOSTILE TO FREE SPEECH?
(public/ Ivy)
PRIVATE?
NAME PRIVATE/PUBLIC FREE SPEECH
TEXT
FIRE RATING
Red = hostile
Amber = somewhat hostile
Green = hands off approach
NEWS ARTICLE


DISINVITATIONS
TEXT
FILTER BY; SUCCESS (politics of requestor, reason, success)
YES
NO



Timeline

11/11/18: Finish Project Plan

11/18/18: Finish Prototype V1

- 11/13/18: Emily and Olivia will finish cleaning and compiling data
- 11/14/18: Emily will complete initial timeline without filtering, Olivia will begin work on innovative timeline
- 11/18/18: Emily will draft map visualization, Olivia will begin making website with placeholders

11/25/18: Finish Prototype V2

- 11/21/18: Emily will update timeline and map, Olivia will begin disinvited speakers visualization
- 11/25/18: Emily will update website with more quotes/storytelling, Olivia will finish innovative timeline and disinvited speakers visualization

12/2/18: Final version and video

- 11/28/18: Emily will make last updates to visualizations, Olivia will finish website design and storytelling
- 12/1/18: Make video

Feature List

Must haves:

- Map visualization for the college free speech ratings.
- Line chart visualization based on the attitudes towards free speech over time and by different types of people.
- Timeline of free speech events
- Disinvited speakers visualization with moving people who get into groups depending on what we are filtering by (e.g. the political allegiance of the requester, whether the disinvitation occurred, what was ‘wrong’ with their speech).
- First Amendment - some background to add to storytelling. We want to establish what the First Amendment is and how it has been seen on college campuses over the years.

Good to have

- Filtering for line graph visualization
- Movement in disinvited speakers visualization
- Free speech quotes

Optional

- Sound clips in timeline - interviews with people at the free speech movements.
- Images of speakers to go with visualization
- Add zoom to map
- Add state party leanings toggle to map

Team Roles

- Emily: Make 2 visualizations, add quotes, create initial web page layout.
- Olivia: Clean data, make 1 visualization, create free speech timeline.

Prototype V1

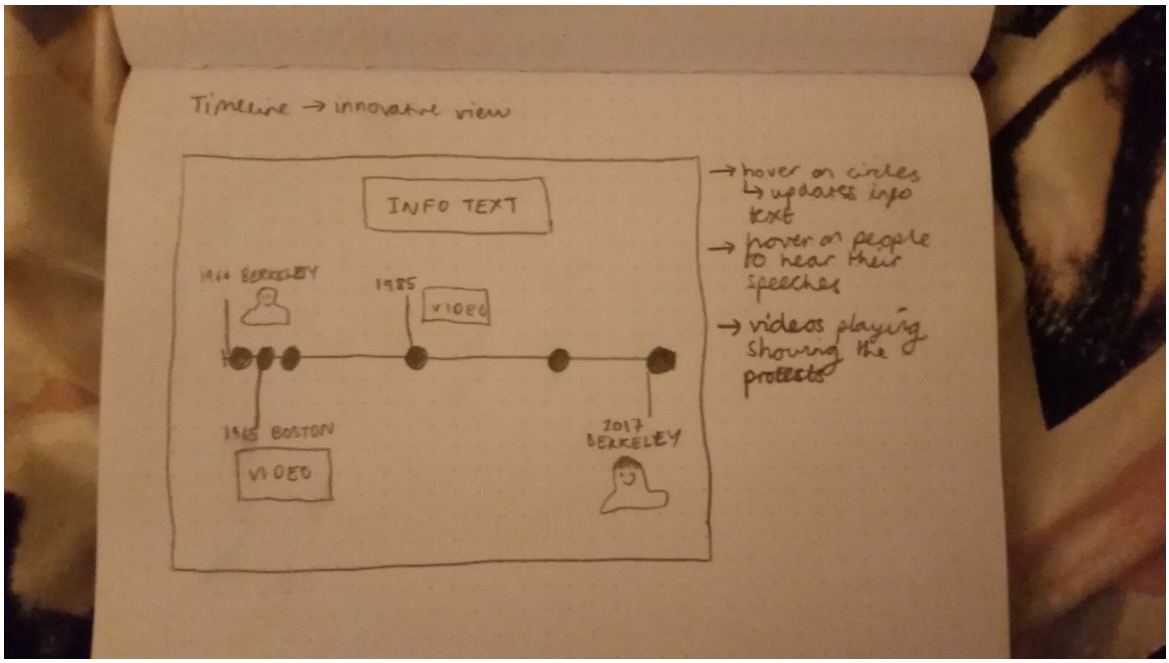
By: Emily and Olivia

Data Scraping

- Disinvitation database: We took this database from FIRE. It was almost ready to be used, but we had to manually edit out a few spelling mistakes. The database has been generated by users submitting their own experiences with disinvitation attempts so there were some input errors.
- FIRE schools database: We manually copied schools, ratings, and longitude and latitude into a spreadsheet.

- GSS attitudes data: After some difficult with trying to convert the .sav data to a csv, we realized we could make an account and download the questions and criteria we actually wanted to look for to a csv file, which meant that the database we were dealing with was a lot smaller and tidier.

Filtering/Interactivity storyboards



For our innovative design, we want to create a multimedia timeline with sound clips from key players in the free speech movement and videos from the protests. Information about the protest/movement can be found by hovering over the circles and it will update the information box. Prior to anything being hovered over, the information box will contain an explanation of how to navigate the timeline and an overall comment about the importance of college campuses in the free speech movements.

The line graph for the attitudes data already has filtering for the person who's speech we are considering. We will then filter by age, gender, political affiliation and highest degree obtained.

We hope to add zooming and panning functionality for the map, but this is in the 'would be nice to have categories.

For the disinvitation request visualization, there will be filtering options to group the 'people' by the success of the request, the political leaning of the requester, and the reason for the request.

For sketches of the interactivity for the line graph, the map, and the grouping visualization, see the interactive storyboard uploaded as part of the detailed project proposal. We have not changed our plan since then as the data wrangling and cleaning was successful and we believe that our original interactivity plans are possible and feasible to implement.

Storytelling plan

- We will start with an opening explanation of the First Amendment and why it has been a topic of conversation on college campuses recently.
- We will then look at the history of free speech movements on college campuses with our interactive timeline. We wanted to incorporate types of media into it that we have not used before - sound and video. The timeline has circles on it for each of the campus free speech events we are focusing on. When you hover on the circles, it updates the information text to tell the user about that particular event. The first three circles are already implemented to show how this will work. Any people on the timeline play that person's speech when hovered over. So far I have implemented this for Mario Savio's famous speech in 1964 as part of the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley. We also have videos. We have implemented one already showing the anti-Vietnam war protests in Boston in 1965. To dos:
    - Add more information regarding the rest of the free speech events.
    - Add labels and lines coming off the timeline to show which free speech events are available. We will have some going above the axis and some below to increase spacing between the events.
    - Add similar multimedia videos/images/sound clips as already implemented for the other free speech movements.
- We have already implemented most of the line graph visualization. We still need to add functionality to filter it by age, gender, highest college degree and political affiliation. Next to this we will add an explanation of the data and some suggestions as to why some attitudes have changed. We will also point out key trends.
- We will include a map of the FIRE ratings for colleges in the US. Next to this, we will have an explanation of what these ratings mean, and again, comment on key findings, such as the difference between private and public colleges. The map's point will be filtered by the type of the data and whether they are Ivy League or not. As an added extra, we hope to make the map zoomable.

- We will then have a large visualization looking at disinvitation requests provided by FIRE. We want to implement something that sorts the people into categories dependent on the success of the request, the political leanings of the requester.
- We will end on a conclusion that will provide some links to further reading and an overall look at the main takeaways from the visual article. Next to it we will include some photos of free speech on campus.
- In the footer, we will include our data sources and links to the media we used throughout the page.