PenPal Gladiators User Documentation

Version 1.0.1

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1 Welcome!

What is Penpal Gladiators? It's a place where you can engage in open dialogue with people of differing opinions. Our hope is that through Penpal Gladiators, you'll be able to better understand those whose political views differ from yours, and in the process learn something about yourself too. So, ready to gladiate? Let's get started!

2 Creating an Account

Creating an account is super simple! There are three steps: registering an email and password, selecting survey topics, and completing a survey.

2.1 Registering

If this is the first time you've visited the app, go ahead and enter your email and password to register. Don't worry about your username yet – that'll come later.

2.2 Selecting Survey Topics

Before we can match you with others, we need to get an idea of where you stand. We'll ask you to select some topics that interest you, and ask you some questions related to those topics.

2.3 Completing the Survey

When you're ready, go ahead and start answering the survey questions. You can go back at any time to change topics or answers. When you're done, there will be a summary page showing the topics and answers you've chosen. You can go back and edit any answers now if not, you're all set!

3 Editing Your Profile

It's important for other gladiators to get a sense of who you are, so we highly recommend completing your profile. To get to your profile, just click "Profile" on the top right corner of the page.

Here, you can change your username, provide some info about your political stance, or write a short summary about yourself. You can also change your email and password as well.

4 Finding a Match

4.1 Finding Other Gladiators

Once your account and profile are all good to go, let's look for people to gladiate with! Simply click "Match" on the sidebar on the right side of the page, and you'll get a list of gladiators who are good matches for you based on the responses you provided in the survey. Pick a gladiator who you want to get matched with, and a request will be sent to them.

4.2 Pending Matches

You can track the requests you've sent out to other gladiators here. It'll let you know whether they've accepted or declined your request.

4.3 Incoming Matches

Here you can see requests from other gladiators to be matched with you. Feel free to either accept or decline them.

5 Gladiating

Now that you have someone to gladiate with, let's start gladiating! Gladiating is very similar to the online communication that you're used to – it's a cross between a chat conversation and a forum.

5.1 Starting a Conversation

To get started, let's start a conversation if there isn't one yet. Just click "Start a new conversation", and pick a topic or question you'd like to gladiate on.

5.2 Post Types

You can interact with the conversation through three ways – posting a simple reply, posting a summary, or working on your resolution. We'll get to resolution later.

5.2.1 Reply Posts

This is the simplest kind of post, and it's just like any post you've ever made on other sites. Here you can have a back-and-forth conversation with the other gladiator.

5.2.2 Summary Posts

Throughout the conversation you may feel like you want to summarize what's been said so far between you and the other gladiator, or offer your perspective of what they've said, maybe for clarification. You can do this through the summary post, and once it gets submitted they'll see it and either approve it, or not approve it if they don't see eye to eye with you. You'll also see summary posts sent from the other gladiator, and you can choose whether to approve them or not.

5.2.3 Resolution Posts

The last kind of post is called a resolution, and while it's not exactly a reply post like the other two, it's still very important. Our goal is for you to be able to build to a consensus on the conversation, whether that's coming to a mutual understanding, or even agreeing to

disagree. Throughout the conversation, both you and the other gladiator can contribute to the resolution post with points that both of you agree on.

5.3   Reaching a Consensus

The last kind of post is called a resolution, and while it's not exactly a reply post like the other two, it's still very important. Our goal is for you to be able to build to a consensus on the conversation, whether that's coming to a mutual understanding, or even agreeing to disagree. Throughout the conversation, both you and the other gladiator can contribute to the resolution post with points that both of you agree on.