

## Summary of Results

The most popular article section on the page was the first thing noticed by two of the users, one of them said it was due to the background. The users initial observations were good, it included “professional”, “layout is good”, “standard news interface”. One user noticed the logo was large.

## Negative Issues

Overall the usability testing went well as it revealed a major functionality flaw and many aesthetic flaws.

- When participant two was navigating between sections the page content began to refresh with random sections filling the content. I had the user reload the page and try again. This was a major issue as the user was unable to click on articles at times.
- Two of the users suggested that there were too many articles listed on the page and they felt “overwhelmed” by the amount of them.
- During the search section of testing a user got confused by the description in the search help.
- Another user said that having an ‘order by’ select box by the search textbox and button is confusing and “not intuitive”. He suggested it would be better to place it at the top of the search results page returned by a search.
- The colour scheme used in the RIA was a minor issue with two of the users. One commented that it was “off” and another went in depth and said that each component like the nav bar, popular list and articles on their own were designed well but the colours “clashed” when combined.
- One user was very annoyed that the cards which news articles were displayed in were not always the same size at the bottom. He spent a minute telling me that he would not use the site purely because of this flaw.

## Response to Negative Issues

To fix the issue with the wrong section being returned I looked at the console for irregular behaviour. There was 10+ ajax requests being made when only two should have been made. I had recently made changes to how I bind click event methods so I looked into this further. I found the bug which was click bindings were being re-added to section buttons every time a new section was clicked. To fix this I used the `jQuery.off()` method to remove bindings before rebinding buttons and links.

To respond to the users who felt 'overwhelmed' by the amount of articles displayed I experimented with a few different article amounts until I found an amount which seemed much less overwhelming. I reduced the total number of them from 32 to 20.

To deal with the search help advice being unclear I re-read it a few times and decided that less was more in this case. It previously contained examples of how to use the different search functionality available but this has now been removed and I have shortened the instructions and made them much more direct.

For the issue with the 'order by' select box not being in an 'intuitive' position, I decided to let it remain where it was. I personally think it is the best location for the select box as it informs the user that there are different ways to search for articles without explicitly saying so. However if I was to implement this change I would simply append the select box with the search results and rebind it when it is created.

The color scheme issues was quite clear before testing but I struggled to make improve it. The feedback in testing I received was very helpful and it helped me to pinpoint the necessary changes. One user suggested making it more "consistent" and another said the different colours used "clashed". To fix this I changed the colour of the navbar from red to black. I then changed the background colour of the popular article section from a dark grey to a light grey.

To fix the card height I experimented with a few minor changes to the CSS. In the end I implemented this change by changing the `margin-bottom` CSS property of cards which to 'auto' which forced them to match heights with the longest card.

## Table of Usability Results

	Question	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3
1	Main page observations	<b>Layout is good. Clicked on most popular article first. Professional look.</b>	<b>Looks like a standard news interface. Most popular is first click</b>	<b>Looks normal. Logo is big.</b>
2	View news items on Home tab?	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Find descriptive overview of a news article?	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Return from detailed overview to section?	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Are all tabs clickable?	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Can you view the most popular articles?	Yes	Yes	Yes
6a	Select article and view detail?	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Access and comment on search help?	Yes	Yes	<b>Doesn't understand search help description.</b>
8	Perform a search?	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Comments - unexpected screen behaviour?	No	<b>Wrong section being returned</b>	No
10	Comments - layout confusing or awkward?	No	<b>Search order by should be in search results page</b>	No
11	Comments - search unclear?	No	No	<b>Confused by advanced search information</b>
12	Comments appearance / layout issues?	None	<b>News cards uneven.</b>	<b>Make colors better</b>
13	Comments - changes suggested	<b>Overwhelmed by amount of articles upon load.</b>	<b>Make cards same size. Use better colours, less articles on page</b>	<b>Colors, search</b>
14	Comments - recommendations, anything else	No	<b>Use consistent colours</b>	No

