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How-To Proposal

For my How-to Guide project, I am going to work with the New York Times API. You can view this API at this website here: <https://developer.nytimes.com/>

I chose to work with this API because I have always been interested in current events and local/world news. Through the New York Times API, I can make GET requests for articles based on certain search criteria. All New York Times articles from Sept. 18, 1851 to present day can be searched. Searches can be performed on the article body, headline and byline. In addition to the search criteria that is specified, I can search articles by year or have the returned search results to be sorted by newest to oldest publication date (or oldest to newest). It is also possible to search for the frequency a given word appears in articles for a given year.

One idea that I had would like to explore would be to look at trends for the frequency a word appears in articles for a given year. For example, through the use of the API, I could search for when the word “computer” started getting used most frequently in articles. Another similar idea would be to search for how many times the word “war” is used vs. “peace” in various articles.

In addition to performing general searches of articles in the New York Times database, I am also able to make requests with the API for movie reviews, most popular articles (based on category) and top stories.

I have a lot of flexibility of what I can then do with the returned search results with the New York Times API. After making a request to the API, I could simply display one article on a webpage that most closely matches the search criteria or I could display multiple articles and create my own “online newspaper”. I could then also organize these articles based on various criteria (year, alphabetically, etc.) to create a better user experience for a website.