

# Capstone 2017 Documentation

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## Team info

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Mission Statement: Our mission is to analyze news articles and determine whether they are positive or negative and research the effects that they have on the world.

Agenda: We gonna do work and accomplish all of our goals and dreams.

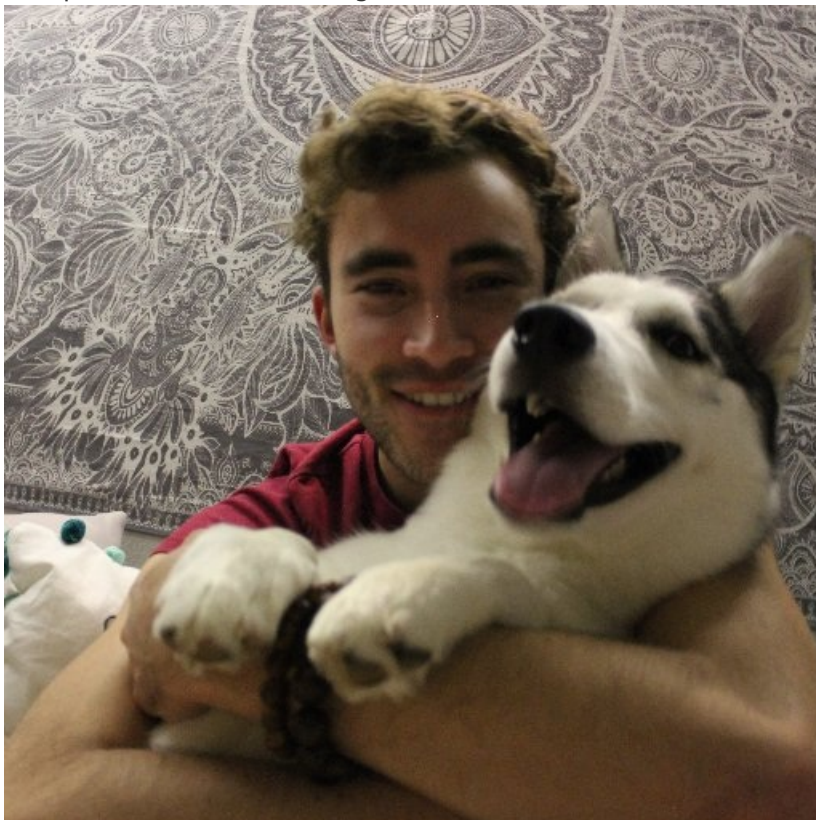
Thoughts: (insert Step Brothers reference) Fake news is a growing concern today and we want to do something about it.

Beliefs: The Earth is NOT flat. The sky is not the limit, the mind is.

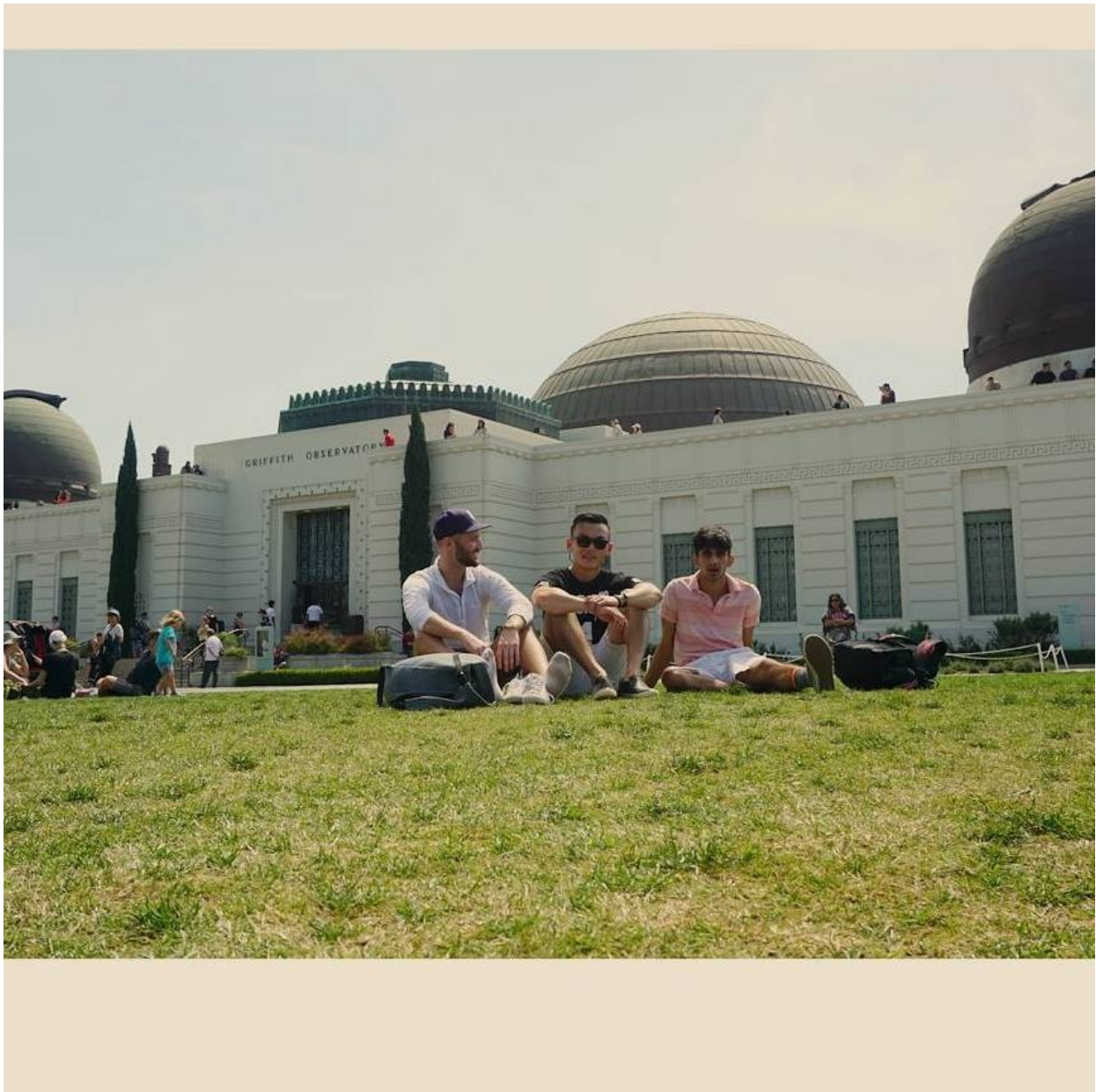
Team Name: Squad

## Team Members:

- Zach Bryant: Nickname = Zen Master Zach. I work on campus as an IT Support Specialist. Yes, I save lives. Really though, I am in charge of keeping all the printers in the computer labs filled with paper. I can get you swipe access to the labs for after hour access ;) I am a senior in Computer Science and will graduate December 2017.



- Kurt Bognar
- Ali Raza: I am a senior at the University of Missouri studying Computer Science. I do research at the iDAS Lab where I am currently developing a data mining library.



- Jared Welch
  - Senior at the University of Missouri. Passionate about improving my skills. Excited for the potential of our application.



- Justin Renneke: Senior undergraduate of Computer Science at the University of Missouri, graduating December '17.



## introduction(2)

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## Problem statement and solution (3)

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### Problem Definition

Today, the average consumer of media content is very susceptible to unknown bias in the sources that they use. Because all media sources most likely have some bias, in order for consumers to be most informed, they need a reliable way to measure bias and account for it in their research/consumption of media information. If users could know what bias and relevant information about the statistical history for a particular news establishment, it would increase consumer ability to gather and trust information from media.

Similarly, currently, it is very difficult to document and discuss media bias in a way that is provable and measureable. There needs to be a standard to use, or a metric to measure by, in order to determine how much of a report is

motivated by bias and how much seems to be motivated purely by facts.

## Problem Solution

We propose the following software solution:

Using published text from media sources, and computer analysis, we propose a software system that uses these published works and the resulting data to provide means to measure how that media source reports on certain topics. This would fix both issues above.

For the first problem, having this data will allow users to have an objective source analyze the data and output information that they can then use to judge the media source. All the data will be relative to the source, and all source data should be analyzed in the same way to prevent harming the integrity of the data. Having a metric that is gathered in the same way for all sources allows consumers to compare data for one source, to the same measurement for a different source, allowing them to make better judgements about bias regarding sources they use.

The problem of documenting media bias also is solved, as this data could be used as evidence for or against these sources to use as a basis for research and reports, which is an objective metric, rather than the opinions of the reporting person or eye witness interview.

## Requirements

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### User

- Any person who is interested in obtaining a better understanding of media bias can expect to use this software to explore measureable indicators of bias which will be presented in the form of data analysis and visualizations.
- The software will provide an interactive user experience based on menus and UI elements that will allow the user to explore the data presented.
- The user will be presented with both static and dynamic options for data presentation, including the option to input article text and receive back information regarding analysis of its content.

### Hardware

- This will require more detail and discussion about the direction of our project