Final Thoughts and Reflections

We initially proposed to allow users to create an account on the website, which would be saved into our database. It would allow users to choose preferences for articles, allowing them to be given a personalized feed of summaries which would be displayed on their front page. However, we ended up scrapping the idea because implementing an account system is incredibly time consuming, and none of us have familiarity with coding such a thing. Further, it would have required us to pursue the more complicated route of provided tagged and summarized articles in a constant stream. Lastly, since we used Firebase, we would have been creating a complex infrastructure on a relatively basic and barebones database system, which would not have been easy to accomplish.

We were going to design the website with a newspaper in mind. Essentially, the background was going to be a clean white while the accents were going to be in a dark black. However, the final product appeared to be incredibly bright, which made viewing the webpage on bright screens (or at night) uncomfortable for the user. As such, we changed the style of both the website and the Android application to be a darker color scheme. We used a soft gray with lighter gray text, which makes the service much more usable in most environments.

All of us learned plenty about the particular coding languages we used. Since we lacked familiarity and were diving into something new, we feel we have come a long way in our studies. We also found we worked incredibly well as a team. Meetings were engaging and fun, and we often found ourselves hanging out afterwards just to chat.