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CS 203

Final Project Proposal

Question:

We would like to analyze and compare both George W. Bush’s and Barack Obama’s first and final State of the Union speeches. More specifically, we would like to analyze each President’s talking points as these talking points represent what the President believes to be a large issue within the nation. By doing this, we can compare the data from both Presidents to compare their priorities and achieve a sense of what kind of President each man was and if they had achieved their initial goals. We think that State of the Union addresses are extremely important for a nation and that they can be seen as a systemic plan for the nation and so in analyzing these speeches we will be learning intended direction for the country at the time.

Functions needed:

Def totalwords.py

This function will count the total amount of words in a speech

Def countwords.py

This function will return a list of what was determined to be ‘Unique words’ and the top 10 most used words within the speech

Def compare.py

This function will compare the data between Barack Obama and George Bush and return the compared data

Def isTalkingpoint.py

This function will analyze a speech and determine what is considered to be a talking point and what parts of speech refer to what talking point

Def talkingPointRatio.py

This function will return how much each talking point takes up of the whole speech and therefore dictating how important each talking point is

Def plotData.py

This function will plot the data and comparison between the two presidents in a visual easy to understand fashion.

Challenges:

We feel that the most challenges we will face will come during the coding of our functions. More specifically, we think that we will find most difficulty in writing the methods Countingwords and isTalkingPoint. These two methods are the most conceptual and high functioning methods of the whole project. We have to take something very conceptual, and run it through coding that relies on mathematics in order to prove a point. We also will be given a lot of information from the speeches and must decide what is helpful to the purpose of our project. For example, if a President talks a lot about irrelevant topics in his speech, we have to ignore that.

Sketch:

