

# Research Document (really here to justify our problem space and prototype)

## Academic studies (figure out how to make these articles directly relevant)

“Perceptions of media bias were unrelated to the overall amount of discussion but were positively related to conversations with ideologically like-minded individuals” (Eveland & Shah, 2003)

Tim Groseclose pitches a [Slant Quotient](#) (or SQ) for media outlets. He quotes: “An SQ of “0” means that the outlet sounds approximately as conservative as a speech by Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) or Jim DeMint (R-S.C.). An SQ of “100” means that the outlet sounds approximately as liberal as a speech by Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) or Barney Frank (D-Mass.)”. SQ = 0, Conservative; SQ = 100, liberal; SQ = 50.4, centrist.

Examples:

- The Daily Sentinel: 32.7
- Honolulu Star-Bulletin 50.0
- Detroit Free Press: 81.5

List of Media Outlets and their SQs can be found [here](#)

Between October 1996 and November 2000, conservative Fox News Channel was introduced in the cable programming of 20 percent of US towns. They use a voting data from 9256 towns to see if Republicans gained a vote share where Fox News was introduced. **Results found that republicans gained 0.4 to 0.7 percentage points in theses towns. Implies that fox news convinced up to 28 percent of viewers to vote republican.** (DellaVigna & Kaplan, 2007).

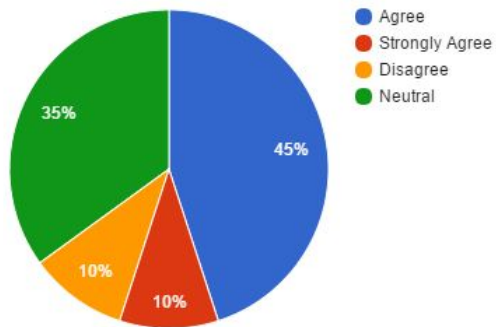
## Questionnaire and User Testing (chuck in the results)

### Questionnaire

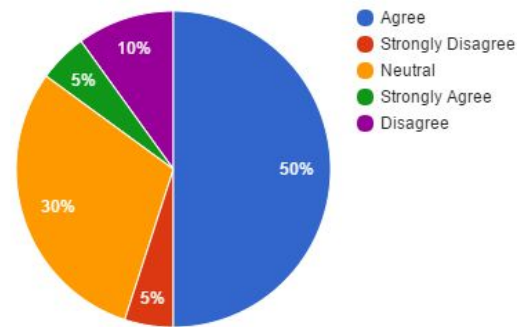
55% of our users used news aggregators to get their political news. 50% of them also used ABC news as their source. Of the users who selected “news aggregators”, 50% selected reddit, and 27.8% select “other”. These included the Old Reader (RSS), Apple News and Facebook. A large majority (65%) of our users reported reading political news less than 4 days a week while a quarter said that they read it every day.

In terms of their perception of news bias in media, only 10% of the participants strongly agreed that “most of the articles” they read were biased while 45% “agreed”. Interestingly, 35% of the participants selected neutral. This may have been an error in questionnaire design since users may have assumed that in selecting “neutral” they were dictating that most of their news articles were neutral.

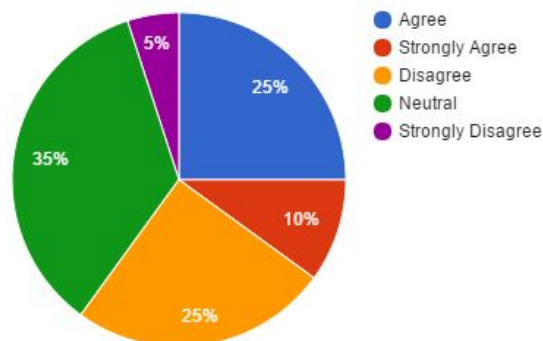
Count of The most of the articles you read are:  
[Biased]



Count of The most of the articles you read are:  
[Left-Leaning]



Count of The most of the articles you read are:  
[Right-Leaning]



## User Testing

Users were given 5 tasks to be completed:

- Sign up
- Log in
- Submit Article
- View Article
- Vote on Article

Wireframe

Final prototype

## Observations and Use Context

This would be used as a sort of news aggregator for newsreaders interested in political news. Although there is a tendency for the development of this webapp to focus on people with only an interest in politics, there is also potential for it to be exposed to users who need politically diverse information.

- May observe a spike in use leading up to or during elections

We need to get the product out for testing so that we can define “observations”

- Other documents: statistics or reports that help map the domain.
- Observations: what is the use context?
- Requirements based on data.

# Analysis of existing forum-like discussion boards

For the sake of consistency, the Politics Subreddit has been chosen for the Reddit images.

## Landing Pages

HackerNews has a very bare-bones layout for displaying their list of articles. In terms of mitigating color schemes on a page, HackerNews has basically pressure-cleaned the entire page and painted it in orange light beige and black. The submission guidelines, FAQ and other information regarding HackerNews can be found on the bottom footer, completely separate from the rest of the content.

Reddit on the other hand is much more colorful. The thumbnails display the article's source logo. Users are aware of the subscribers on a page as well as the submission guidelines, upcoming events and how many users are currently on the page.

The screenshot shows the HackerNews landing page with a list of 26 articles. Each article entry includes a score, a title, the author, and the source. The layout is clean and minimalist, with a focus on the text of the articles.

Score	Title	Author	Source
1	Virus stole poison genes from black widow spider	bbccom	bbc.com
2	Show HN: I made a Chrome extension that helps battle impulsive procrastination	chrome.google.com	chrome.google.com
3	SubmitHub: how a solo founder built a \$46k/mo SaaS business in 10 months	indiehackers.com	indiehackers.com
4	LightGBM - A fast, distributed, gradient boosting framework	github.com	github.com
5	Cheran: The town that threw out police, politicians and gangsters	bbc.com	bbc.com
6	The surprising benefits of a mid-career break	bbc.com	bbc.com
7	Caddy - HTTP/2 Web Server with Automatic HTTPS	caddyserver.com	caddyserver.com
8	Numerai - A hedge fund built by a global community of anonymous data scientists	numerai.com	numerai.com
9	The cryptops crypto challenges	cryptopals.com	cryptopals.com
10	A Tour of Python's Data Visualization Landscape, Including Ggplot and Altair	dansaber.wordpress.com	dansaber.wordpress.com
11	Ask HN: \$1k+ side projects, what was the best thing you did to market it?	reddit.com	reddit.com
12	Orbit - Distributed, serverless, peer-to-peer chat application on IPFS	github.com	github.com
13	Optical Mouse Teardown: a look at the sensor	electronupdate.blogspot.com	electronupdate.blogspot.com
14	Run Kubernetes on a Mac with Kube Solo	des.com	des.com
15	Electrons in Graphene Behave Like Light, Only Better	columbia.edu	columbia.edu
16	Programming books you might want to consider reading	danluau.com	danluau.com
17	Chipotle Eats Itself	tastecompany.com	tastecompany.com
18	Interview with J.J. Allaire	radiolab.com	radiolab.com
19	The Birkana hexadecimal number symbols	venar.blogspot.com	venar.blogspot.com
20	Today's Innovations Are Tomorrow's Baseline	collaborativefund.com	collaborativefund.com
21	Schauble Seeks Decision on EU Financial Transaction Tax in 2016	bloomberg.com	bloomberg.com
22	Jakarta's Aeromovel - mass transit powered by pressurized air	youtube.com	youtube.com
23	New paper: "Why most of psychology is statistically unfalsifiable"	medium.com	medium.com
24	Build and ship native GUI apps on Python with Beeware	talkpython.fm	talkpython.fm
25	Fivetrn (YC W13) is hiring back-end developers in SF and Pittsburgh	reddit.com	reddit.com
26	How to Destroy the Myth of the Proper Solution	hackernoon.com	hackernoon.com

The screenshot shows the r/politics subreddit landing page. It features a header with navigation links and a list of posts. Each post entry includes a score, a title, the author, and the source. The layout is colorful and includes a sidebar with a login form and a 'Submit a New Link' button.

Score	Title	Author	Source
66	Polling Megathread [10/16]	self politics	reddit.com
5799	Republican HQ in Orange County firebombed	thefirstdoberman.com	thefirstdoberman.com
3390	Trump: Islamic State may take over U.S. if Clinton wins	usatoday.com	usatoday.com
1774	Clinton video ties Trump to conspiracy theorist Alex Jones	truthful.com	truthful.com
2573	Dealing with death threats after a Clinton endorsement	arizona.republic	arizona.republic
1568	There are five living U.S. presidents. None of them support Donald Trump	illegalsystem.com	illegalsystem.com
1377	Trump accuser Summer Zervos fights back with new witness	reddit.com	reddit.com
	Donald Trump is blaming "animals representing Hillary" for the GOP office fire	reddit.com	reddit.com

## The Anatomy of a Submission

Users can only upvote submissions. Once you upvote a submission, the upvote arrow disappears and an option to “unvote” the submission appears

8. ▲ Caddy – HTTP/2 Web Server with Automatic HTTPS (caddyserver.com)  
227 points by amjd 11 hours ago | hide | 63 comments

8. Caddy – HTTP/2 Web Server with Automatic HTTPS (caddyserver.com)  
227 points by amjd 11 hours ago | unvote | hide | 63 comments

1569



Trump accuser Summer Zervos fights back with new witness nbcnews.com

submitted 6 hours ago by Awards\_from\_Army  Popcorn

341 comments share [!+c]

1635



Trump accuser Summer Zervos fights back with new witness nbcnews.com

submitted 6 hours ago by Awards\_from\_Army  [+1]  Popcorn

356 comments share save hide report [!+c]

1633



Trump accuser Summer Zervos fights back with new witness nbcnews.com

submitted 6 hours ago by Awards\_from\_Army  [-1]  Popcorn

356 comments share save hide report [!+c]

# Article Comments

These are the commenting structures from HackerNews and Reddit. They both follow a hierarchical structure in that a user can reply to any comment; essentially creating a new branch of conversation. In HackerNews, it is represented only with indentations without further indication as to which comment it is in reply to. Reddit, on the other hand, has colored indentations to signify that comments are on the same “level” or hierarchy as another comment. Users also have an option to see the parent comment.

Acomar3 hours ago [-]

Maybe this is the wrong thread for this comment, but I'm wondering if I'm alone in this. Anyone else find they procrastinate for reasons myself. It's very rarely that I'm procrastinating without any reason, but instead that I'm actively avoiding whatever it is I think I should do. The list includes:

- \* I don't have a clear handle on what I should be doing
- \* I don't understand how to do whatever it is I should be doing
- \* I'm tired/frustrated and not able to think clearly
- \* There are way too many different things vying for my attention (too many things I should be doing)

And probably more than that I'm not recalling at this moment. So this extension, at least for me, would be solving the wrong problem and so tackling/mitigating these problems?

realx

Ajibinbero2 hours ago [-]

I know your first 2 points too well.

Most people would advise you to calmly break the task at hand into small tasks/steps. Personally, my problem is that the tasks of breaking them into easy-to-do steps that forces you to plan your solution (1st point) and understand the problem (2nd point), is concept already). By having a list of really really small items you get a feeling of progress every time you tick an item off the list; some inertia to it; so make the items so small you'll have no excuse not to do it. Remember: if you still feel confused about an item. The sensation of ticking off items is what should get you going; that's what gives you the sensation of progress and that enables better. So actually write your list (on paper or digitally using Trello, Todoist, etc.), don't just "think it"; that's key.

Meditation is also good to sharpen your focus.

RS.: I'm also a procrastinator; there are good days and there are bad days; there's no cure. This is the kind of thing that is mana

realx

Agtirioni2 hours ago [-]

I still couldn't find a method for the worst source of procrastination for me: not having a clear understanding of where a task kills my productivity completely.

In all my jobs, I've tried to ask more and more questions but I have come to the conclusion that few people have an answer. On the other hand, when the why's are clear, I don't have any trouble working at full speed to accomplish that goal (and vice versa). Just writing this reply made me think I'm also often more productive when what I'm working on will be used by others or (after I realize nobody cares about the results, until then I might be working super motivated and unaware).

realx

Acriddell2 hours ago [-]

What type of meditation works well for you? Have you tried Calm or Headspace? Any opinions on that type of guidance?

realx

Aitem51 minutes ago [-]

Headspace is a classic Samadhi+Vipassana meditation wrapped into casual language. I used it a bit for a couple of years. I also highly recommend "Mindfulness in plain English"[0]. I wish I found it sooner.

[0]: <https://www.amazon.com/Mindfulness-English-Bhante-Henepola-Gu/>

realx

Ahyperbovine3 hours ago [-]

You forgot the #1 reason:

- \* I don't want to do what it is I should be doing.

;)

realx

Acomar2 hours ago [-]

Clinton Losing Millennial Support Nationally and in Key States (nbcnews.com)

[-] susquehanna\_wreed 2299 points 2 days ago

Did she ever have support from Millennials?

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[-] HidetsuguoFshaka 951 points 2 days ago

Only millennials I've heard talk about the election in my master's program are Trumpers.

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[-] ColossusBear 1740 points 2 days ago

This is my experience as well. They are either Trump supporters or hate both candidates and won't touch Clinton. This election isn't about Clinton, it's if you hate Trump enough to go vote for Clinton.

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[-] Living\_like\_a\_ 1369 points 2 days ago

“ This election isn't about Clinton, it's if you hate Trump enough to go vote for Clinton.

Bingo.

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[-] metelcher 457 points 2 days ago

I met someone yesterday who is volunteering with the Clinton campaign because she is increasingly becoming president, and despite having voted for Bernie in the primaries and stating she didn't like Clinton or think she would make an even halfway-decent president. At least for that one person, it's a very real thing.

The irony is that we are in California which is so solidly blue that there is very little chance of Trump winning. Not really sure what my point is other than to relate a personal anecdote that I've seen this in a strange mindset.

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[-] weevil\_bay 289 points 2 days ago

It's not strange at all. This is a fairly common way for U.S. elections to work. The lesser known is more pronounced and insane this time around.

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load more comments (68 replies)

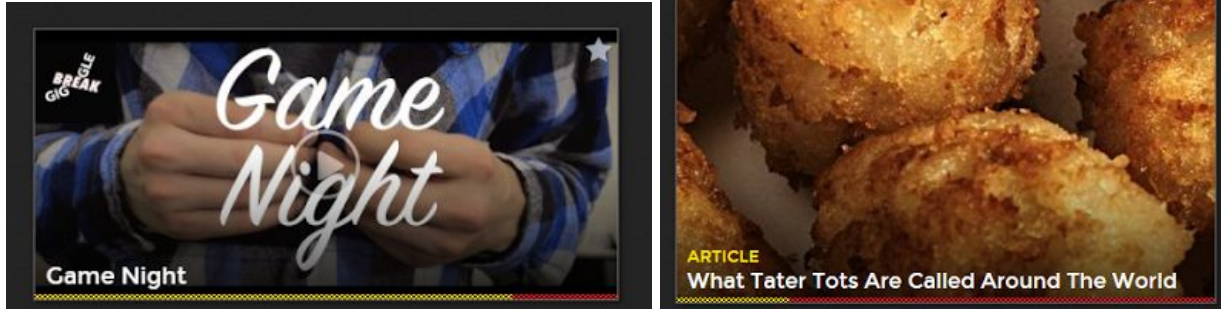
load more comments (87 replies)

load more comments (24 replies)

load more comments (296 replies)

## Other Voting methods

### Funny Or Die voting spectrum



I'm using the tater tots example on the right.



## User Journeys

### New user Signing up

1. New user hits landing page
2. Click the Sign Up button on the screen (positioned \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Enter a valid username, email and password
4. Click Sign Up
5. User checks their given email for a confirmation email
6. Accepts confirmation via email
7. Returns to the site

### Existing user submits an article

1. User logs in via Login button (positioned \_\_\_\_\_) with their username or email and password
2. Click the Submit an Article Button (positioned \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Input:
  - a. Tags
  - b. URL to the given article
  - c. Verification (to prevent spam)
4. "Submit Article"



5. User has a cool-down period of 12 hours before posting another article
6. Returns to site

#### New User tries to submit an article

1. User hits landing page
2. Click the Submit an Article Button (positioned \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Dialog box pops up
  - a. "To complete this action you must be logged in" or something
4. Go to "New User Signing up"
5. Go to Existing user submits an article

#### New User tries to vote on an article

1. User hits landing page
2. Views article
3. Scrolls to bottom of article to see the voting options
4. Clicks one of the options
5. Dialog Box
  - a. "To complete this action you must be logged in" or something
6. Go to "New User Signing up"
7. Return to article
8. Scroll to bottom
9. Vote Left Right or Neutral
10. Views the current status of the article

#### Viewing a specific article

1. User clicks on article card
2. Lightbox containing the article appears on the screen
3. Read The article

#### View comments of an article

1. Click on article
2. Scroll down

#### Changing profile/acct info/password

1. Once the user has logged in, selects "Your profile"
2. Selects "Change account information"
3. Change bday/username/email/password
4. Use password to confirm
5. Click confirm

#### Login

1. Upon viewing the landing page, the user enters their details (username and password)



2. Clicks login

#### Viewing different sorting

1. On the article feed
2. Click on the “sort by” button
3. View the choices to sort by NOT A FUCKIN DROPDOWN

## References:

DellaVigna, S. & Kaplan, E. (2007). The Fox News Effect: Media Bias and Voting. *The Quarterly Journal Of Economics*, 122(3), 1187-1234. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/qjec.122.3.1187>

Eveland, W. & Shah, D. (2003). The Impact of Individual and Interpersonal Factors on Perceived News Media Bias. *Political Psychology*, 24(1), 101-117.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/0162-895x.00318>

Groseclose, T. (2011). *SQs Explained*. Tim Groseclose. Retrieved 12 October 2016, from <http://timgroseclose.com>