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 <u>Slant Quotient</u> (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: 32.7Honolulu Star-Bulletin 50.0Detroit Free Press: 81.5

List of Media Outlets and their SQs can be found here

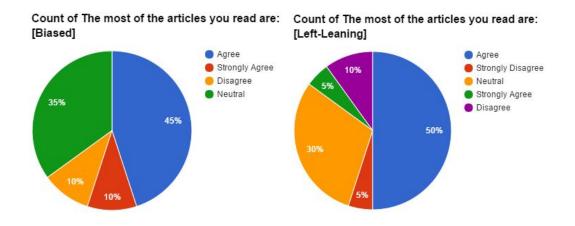
Between October 1996 and November 2000, conservative Fox News Channel was introduced in the cable programming of 20 percent of US towns. They use a voting data from 9256 towns to see if Republicans gained a vote share where Fox News was introduced. **Results found that republicans gained 0.4 to 0.7 percentage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

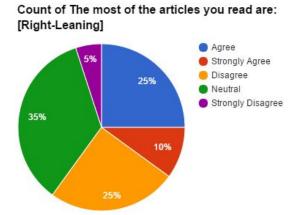
Questionnaire and User Testing (chuck in the results)

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.





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 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

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



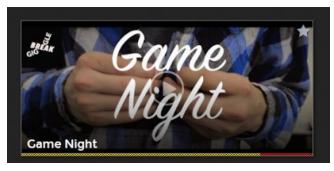
Article Comments

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, ha 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.



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

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