

Washington Post

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We began with a dataset of Washington Post fact checks from Claim Review. We began with 554 observations and in the process of cleaning our data, described below, we ended with 530.

In OpenRefine, we created a new column called ‘claimant_clean’ and manually sorted the names of all claimants to determine when there were different spellings of the same name. This was done via the cluster function embedded in the application. When iterations were found, we selected a single name to refer to each person by. For the claimant column, this cleaning process resulted in a reduction of claimants from 188 individual names to 169.

The Washington Post is not entirely consistent in its determinations of claim ratings. In theory, it has a standard ranking system ordered as follows: Geppetto Checkmark, One Pinocchio, Two Pinocchios, Three Pinocchios, Four Pinocchios. However, in our data, there were 335 normal claims (those rated on the WaPo scale of 5 standardized ratings) and 173 anomaly claims with a non-standardized text based rating. Of those 219, 189 were labeled with an anomaly claim repeated more than once. To accord these common anomalies with the standard rating system, we took the data to Glenn Kessler, the singular WaPo fact-checker and the individual most familiar with the scale. At this stage we sent the more common ratings (occasionally grouping similar ones together) and asking him where they fall on the ratings scale. For the purpose of concision, we removed claims that were tagged with uncommon anomaly ratings (1-2 observations). We began this process with 60 textual ratings, having the goal of eventually reducing down to the 5 rating ranking system.

Table 1: Claim Counts by Party

claimant_party	n
Democratic	282
Republican	248

Table 2: Claim Counts by Rating

textualRating	n
Geppetto Checkmark	11
One Pinocchio	6
Two Pinocchios	140
Three Pinocchios	121
Four Pinocchios	190
Disputed	8
Study in Dispute	1
Misleading	7
Needs context	41
Lacks evidence	1

textualRating	n
No evidence	4

Table 3: Claim Counts by Party and Rating

	Geppetto Check- mark	One Pinoc- chio	Two Pinoc- chios	Three Pinoc- chios	Four Pinoc- chios	Disputed	Needs con- text	No evi- dence	Study in Dis- pute	Lacks evi- dence
Democratic	9	2	89	60	86	8	4	22	2	0
Republican	2	4	51	61	104	0	3	19	2	1



