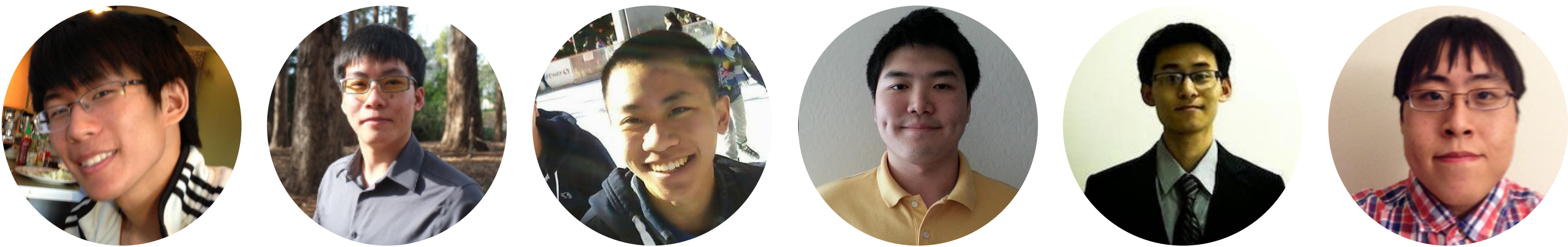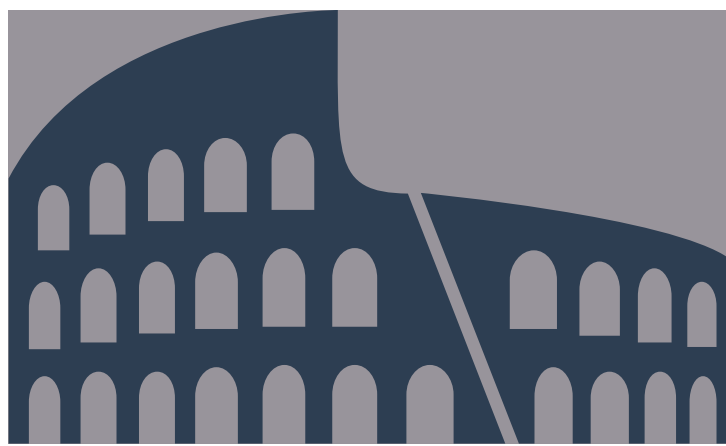# The Coliseum

18 - Penpal Gladiators
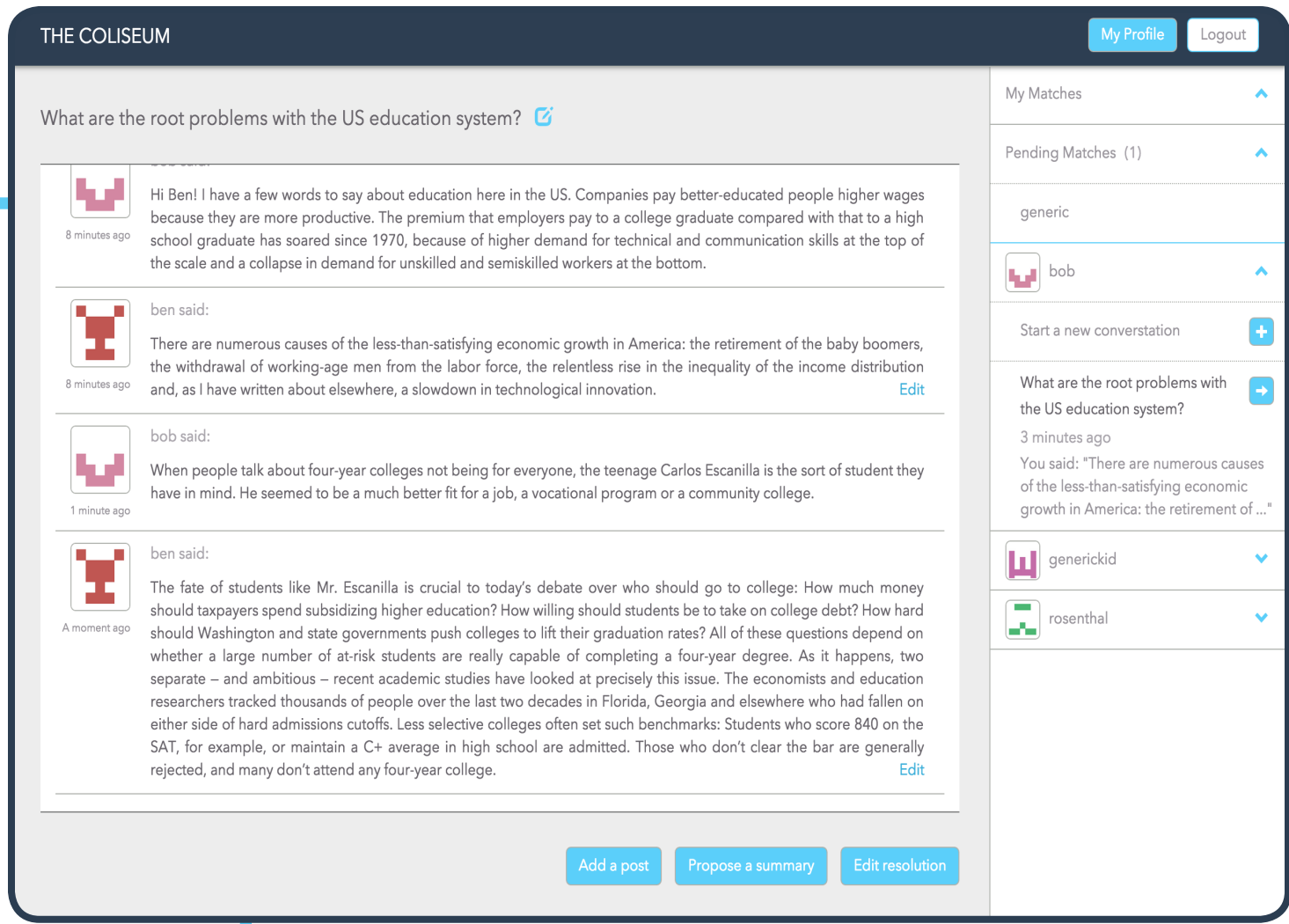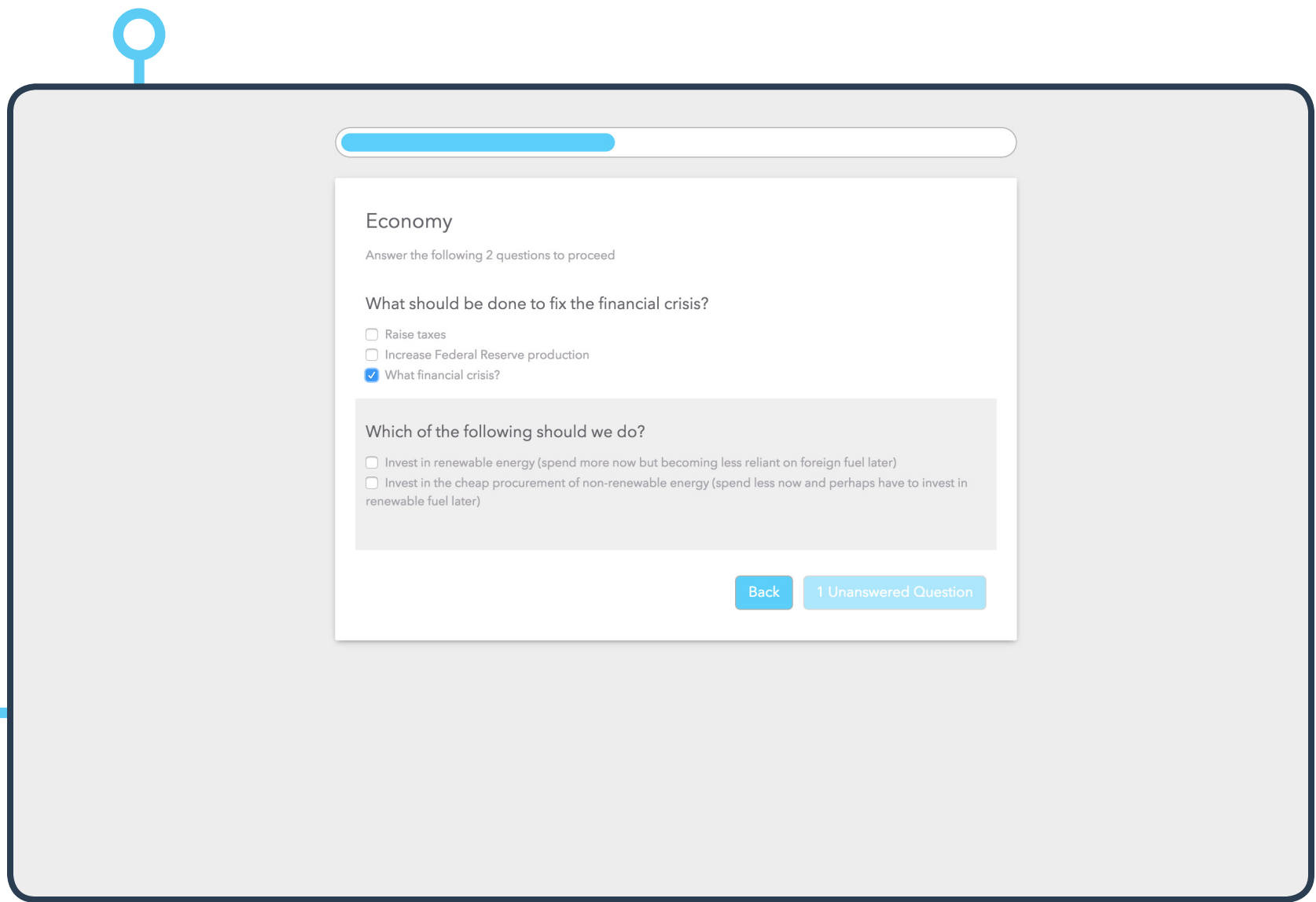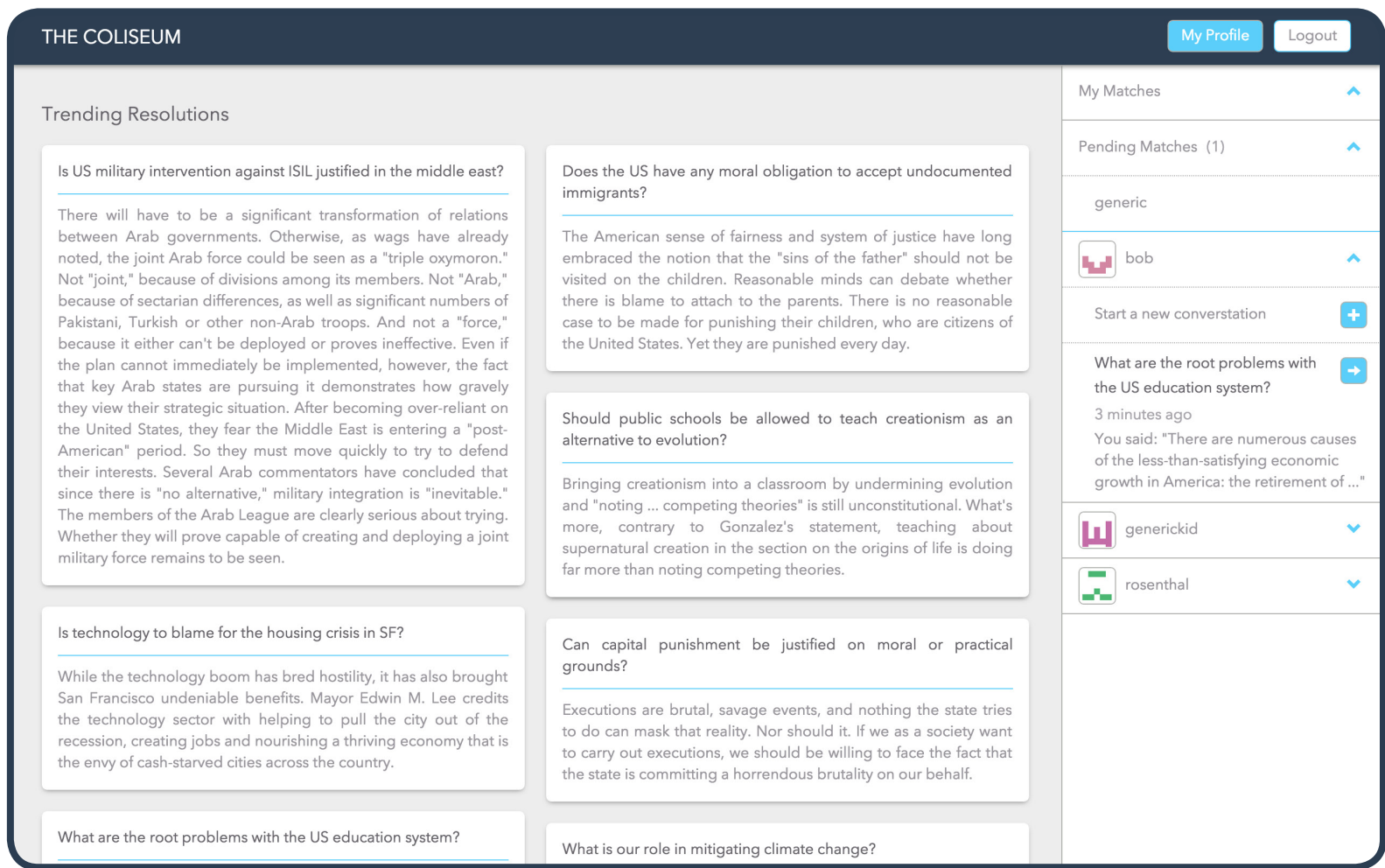
> "An online community where people of unlike political persuasions come together to be heard in exchange for deliberative listening."

Complete a Survey

How do we ensure *engaging* conversation? Surely not by pairing like-minded individuals together! When a new Gladiator registers, they complete a survey where they answer questions related to political topics that interest them. Our matching algorithm intelligently pairs Gladiators who might initially identify as having little to no common beliefs but that can find that they do share common ground.
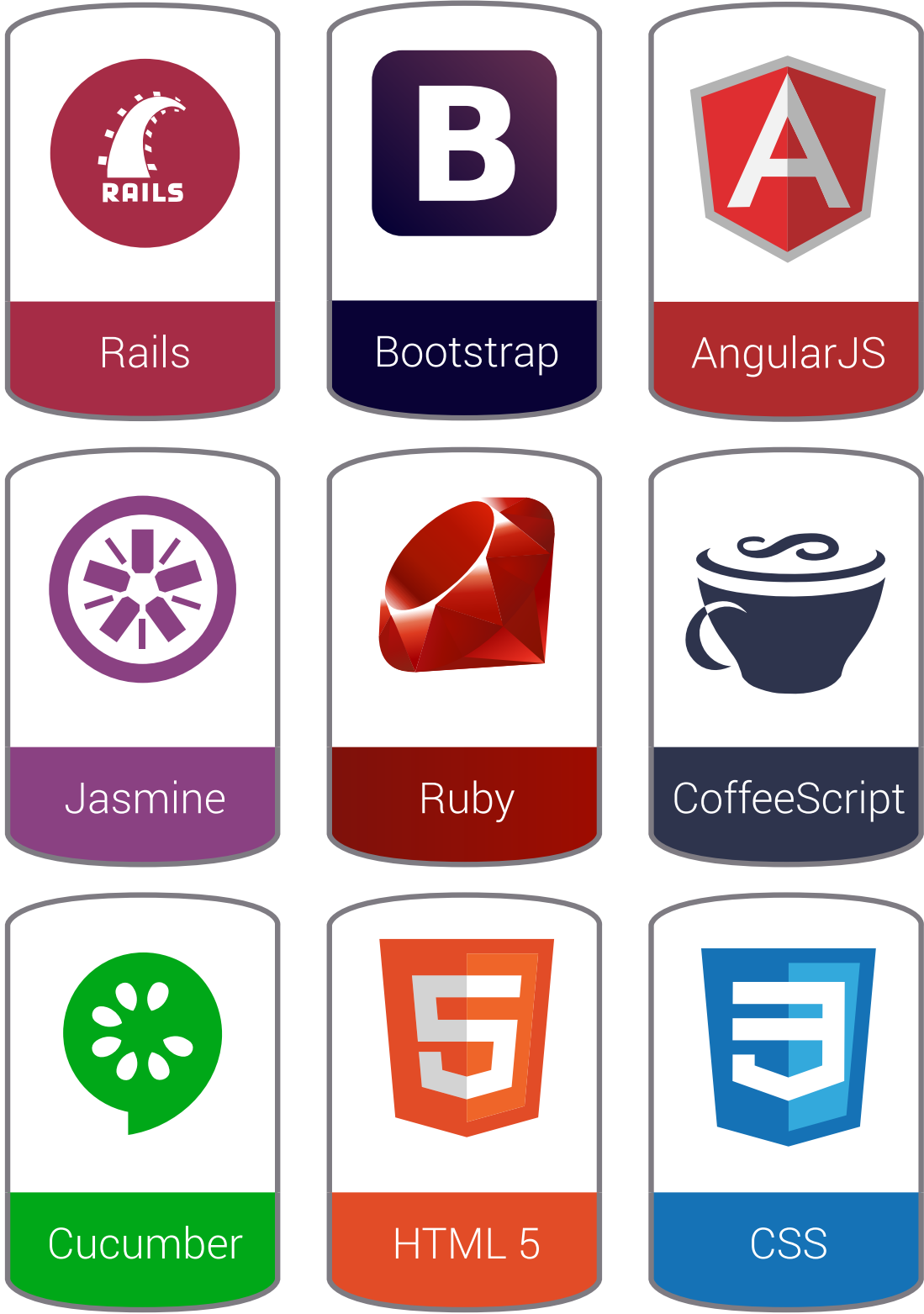
View trending resolutions

Share your resolution posts with other Gladiators! When two Gladiators have reached a mutual consensus (or agree to disagree), they can conclude their conversation with a jointly authored resolution that summarizes their collective viewpoints. Afterward, the concluded conversation might be selected to be displayed on the homepage for all Gladiators to see!

Start a new conversation with a Gladiator that you've been matched with and choose a political topic to discuss. Then, clarify your respective viewpoints with one another in a friendly debate using the simple forum-esque chat system. To encourage deliberative listening and reflection, periodically check in to see if you are understanding one another by summarizing each other's views using the special summary post types. When you are able to come to a conclusion, whether or not you have found common ground with your fellow Gladiator, jointly compose a resolution post that summarises what you have discussed so far.

Gladiate!

Challenges

- Keeping the entire team in sync and on schedule during each iteration with consistent scrum and work meetings.
- Prioitizing and selecting the best features during each iteration.
- Creating a maintainable and extendable architecture using a backend Rails server and a frontend AngularJS application.
- Balancing refactoring, design, and feature implementation for a beautiful app and amazing code.

Lessons

- A clean git repository ensures that the code is maintanable and easily indexable.
- Testing with with Cucumber and Jasmine allows development to occur without worrying about potential regression bugs.
- Continous deployment with Github, Travis, and Heroku helps make the transition from development to production easy.
- Working out differences amongst the team keeps the environment positive and productive.

Rails
Bootstrap
AngularJS
Jasmine
Ruby
CoffeeScript
Cucumber
HTML 5
CSS