

News With Friends



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PROTOTYPE

House Passes \$4 Trillion Budget, Clears Way for Trump Tax Plan
October 26, 2017 | 11:38am

INSTRUCTIONS: Interact, react and deduce what your friends think about the article. Click on the reactions below to see what your friends had to say about their article on the topic!

How to Start:

1. Right-click on your mouse
2. Select reaction
3. React!

SEARCH GOALS

1) Users are presented brief instructions on how to react to the article

House Passes \$4 Trillion Budget, Clears Way for Trump Tax Plan
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WELCOME TO: House Passes \$4 Trillion Budget, Clears Way for Trump Tax Plan

Marxists, despite predictions from the left, have voted to pass the Senate's \$4 trillion budget measure. With the House of Representatives in voting no, the budget passed 250-172. This will give the president his own budget that directs the government to spend less than it has to in order to achieve its ultimate goal of tax cuts. The House passed the Senate plan that would allow tax cuts for corporations and individuals.

React:

1. Right-click on your mouse and see how your friends feel about their article on the topic!

2) They are able to react to the article by highlighting and selecting an emoji reaction

By passing the budget today, we can send a clear message to the American people: Real tax reform is on the way. It will give us the tools we need to make sure that our tax system is fair, simple, and transparent. It will also allow us to keep our promise to the American people to pass a budget that will not break Medicare and Medicaid, and deliver a better deal to the working American.

REAGAN'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS: "This Republican budget is already aimed at saving through the plan to end the tax deduction for state and local taxes. It would also end the deduction for charitable contributions, which would cost 1 percent of Americans' pay. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) said Democrats shouldn't make assumptions about a tax plan that hasn't been written yet. 'The devil's in the details and those details haven't even been released yet,' Black said.

Republicans and President Trump believe they can deliver a massive tax cut to Americans and businesses this year. They will increase economic growth and never need to fix the middle class. "We're going to make history," Black said.

HURRICANE IRMA: — the most active month on record for hurricanes in the Atlantic — Nicaragua vowed to sign the agreement in solidarity with other nations already struggling with the effects of climate change. Nicaragua's president, Daniel Ortega, signed the Paris Agreement on Saturday, becoming the latest country to do so.

SYRIA: The addition of Syria, whose strongest President Bashar al-Assad became a fierce winner of the ongoing civil war, has transformed the conflict into a regional struggle between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and others, and offers a painful recognition of a cause of the conflict. Beginning in 2006, Syria suffered its worst drought in nearly 900 years, forcing as many as 1.5 million Syrians to move from the countryside to cities. The migration movement has been a major factor in the conflict, as both sides have sought to recruit fighters. The drought has called the conflict a "Syrian civil war."

The Trump administration will continue the administration of Donald Trump's efforts to cut \$1.5 trillion over the next five years. An additional \$10 billion will be spent on climate adaptation, especially in high-tower states like New York, New Jersey and California. New York Republicans voting "no" were Dan Dromm, Claudia Tenney, Lee Zeldin, Eric Adams, John Catsimatidis, Peter King and Michael G. Antonucci. The budget resolution that was passed last week set aside \$10 billion for restoration of the energy of New York facilities to deduct state and local taxes.

3) Different reactions are highlighted different color for visual emphasis

React Reactions

Congrat! Your entire group has finished reading the top article of today. Today's topic was about "House passes \$4 trillion budget, clears way for Trump tax plan" and today you've assigned a right-reacting article from New York Post. Below are the total stats on how you and your friends reacted to your article! Click on a reaction to see what your friends reacted to!

Like	1
Angry	1
Surprised	5
Sad	3
Angry	4

4) After reacting, users can see the accumulative reactions of all the group members

ANGRY

Mr. President — the most active month on record for hurricanes in the Atlantic — Nicaragua vowed to sign the agreement in solidarity with other nations already struggling with the effects of climate change. Nicaragua's president, Daniel Ortega, signed the Paris Agreement on Saturday, becoming the latest country to do so.

Rochelle: Article By Business Insider - Center Left

- Big news - Budget just passed: Trump
- Cutting rates unifies Republicans.

Jessica: Article By New York Times - Left Leaning

- The budget resolution that is currently being finalized would reduce the deficit by \$1.5 trillion in additional deficits from tax cuts over the next decade, but the proposed tax cuts already revealed would cost well over \$2 trillion.

5) When viewing by reaction, users are able to see the reactions by each friend and their given article.

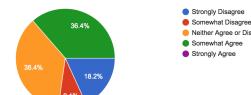
USER STUDY

11 interviewees

17 interview questions

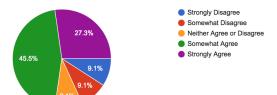
After reading your friends' reactions, do you think you got a good summary of their articles?

11 responses



Was seeing your friends' reactions to their given article helpful for you understanding the various political perspectives?

11 responses



“Was especially interested in seeing what people reacted sad and angry to”
- Jocelyn, 18 years old

6) They are even given the option to view all of one specific friends' reactions.

News With Friends Demo Script

Hi! We are News With Friends, a messenger chatbot and web based application. Our names are Mehdi, Rochelle, Jessica and Alex. Over the course of the semester, our team has focused on helping users break out of their political echo chambers from the inside out, which means we wanted to allow them to openly discuss diverse political perspectives within their own friend group.

In particular, we focused on “How might we embolden the way millennials currently share news to make it amusing, yet effective towards understanding differing news opinions?” We did this by focusing on distributing the top news topic of the day to a group of friends and allow them to use 6 familiar reactions to show how the article makes them feel.

News with Friends is an easy three step application. First, is your interaction with the messenger group and chatbot. The messenger group allows friends to quickly and openly discuss about the topic after they read it and the chatbot is a fast and easy way to send out special links and facilitate discussions. The chatbot will send each individual an article on the top topic of the day, but with a catch that each individual will get an article from a different news source, so one might get an article from CNN, BBC, FOX news etc.

Second, the user can read and react to any parts of the article. When the user first comes across the article in our website, it is very minimalistic with no other information besides title, pictures, and content. This is to stop people from forming biases about the article before even reading it. Also, if a user knows the article given to them is from a news source they don't like, they are not very inclined to read it. When a user highlights parts of the article, a popover

with the 6 facebook reacts pops up, offering users to react to specific parts of the article differently.

Lastly, after submitting their reactions, the user can now see detailed stats in chart, by reaction and by user format to get a good and comprehensive summary of their friends reactions. Not only will they get a good summary of their friends reactions, but also they will be able to get a summary of other political perspectives without having to read multiple articles on the same topic. Based off our user research, over 70% of interviewees felt they got a good summary of other political perspectives from our product. Overall, the users are able to have this opportunity to read and engage in articles while being exposed to different perspectives, which make it easy to have discussions with friends afterward. and no longer go through the struggle of finding articles to read everyday.

Next steps for if we wanted to continue this project would be to do three things: alter the facebook reacts, make the chatbot more integrative, and provide more information in differing forms on statistics page.