

## COMP 598 Final Project Report

### Overview

The goal of this project is to understand the salient topics concerning each candidate in the most recent US election and analyze their level of engagement in liberal and conservative forums. Liberals through the /r/politics reddit thread posted about Trump and Biden more often than conservatives on /r/conservative. However, both communities share the same most salient topic - election fraud, where Trump was mentioned the most and whose lawsuits and lawyers though Sydney Powell were the most discussed subjects. In contrast, the transition process is the least addressed topic for both communities. Moreover, Trump is the most discussed candidate starring in topics such as election fraud as well as other negative views relating to recount obstruction, golfing during Covid and exceptionally a few praises from conservatives. On the other hand, Biden was discussed less and in a more neutral tone in topics such as policies and becoming president elect. He was the least present in the topic of election fraud.

### Data

We collected 2010 Reddit posts from two subreddit (/r/politics and /r/conservative) during 3 consecutive days (21st to the 23rd of November 2020) at a consistent time, 8pm. The posts were saved as a dictionary in a JSON file. Before filtering the posts and keeping only those containing Trump or Biden, the dataset had more than 1000 posts per subreddit, /r/politics and /r/conservative. We initially collected more than 1000 posts since the raw JSON files contained pinned posts, which we removed from the dataset since they were repetitive and their value lies in their comments and not their title. Originally the number of posts obtained was: 1004 for /r/politics (336, 334, 336 respective of the days) and 1006 (335, 335, 336 respective of the days) for /r/conservative.

As a design decision, the “hot” posts were pulled instead of “new”, “top”, or “rising”. While filtering the posts containing only Trump and Biden, we ignored the posts about family

members of Trump and Biden such as Donald Trump Jr, Ivanka Trump, and Hunter Biden. Moreover, posts containing Anti-Trump and Trump-Appointed have been kept as representations of Trump. In order to filter out candidate-related posts, we only accept posts mentioning “Trump” or “Biden” bordered by non-alphanumeric characters with the word capitalized. This is to avoid any irregular uses of the word “trump” such as “trumps”, etc. However, special characters are accepted, including hyphen and single quote, for the purpose of keeping phrases such as “anti-Trump”, “pro-Trump”, “Trump’s”. After we finished filtering the posts, only 45% of total posts were kept though 64% of the posts from /r/politics and only 25.6% of the posts from /r/conservative. We acknowledge that this might impact an accurate perception of salient topics since the posts are mostly from a liberal channel. The analysis will be based on the 931 filtered posts that contain 123 posts mentioning both candidates (13.21%), 633 posts mentioning only Trump (67.99%) and 175 posts mentioning only Biden (18.80%).

The following are the post filtering results:

	Subreddits					
	Politics			Conservative		
Attributes	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Total # of posts	225	235	213	65	90	103
# of posts that refer to both Trump and Biden	38	33	29	5	9	9
# of posts that refer to Trump	149	165	135	49	67	68
# of posts that refer to Biden	38	37	49	11	14	26
Total per subreddit	673			258		
Grand total	931					

*Table 1. Posts engagement regarding the candidates and subreddits*

## Methods

Since the goal of the project was to assess saliency, we decided to define salient topics as the posts benefiting from high reddit users engagement . Hence “top” and “hot” topics were preferred over “new” and “rising”. As opposed to “top”, which sorts by the difference between upvotes and downvotes over a time, “hot” posts indicate the highest engagement at the time they were collected<sup>[1]</sup>, which we consistently collected at 8pm. Stickied posts are ignored since they are pinned to the top by a moderator regardless of time and user involvement, thus are not representative of salient topics. We also filtered the posts keeping those only mentioning the presidential candidates and removed off-topic posts concerning family members. To ensure format compatibility and consistency, our data files were shared as tsv.

To develop the topics, we performed an open coding on 200 posts chosen proportionally to the number of filtered posts obtained from each day and each subreddit. This was to ensure a more comprehensive and valid topology in case the contents from each day or subreddit are vastly different. Given the limited time of the project, we only did single annotation. A consequence of this approach are disagreements on the coding of posts that fit into two categories. For instance, the second half of the title “Wall Street Journal Bails on Trump’s claim of a stolen election, says Giuliani is Not a ‘Serious Practicing Attorney” suggests a general opinion (topic “o”), but the first half is related to election coup and fraud (topic “e”). Different subjective understanding of post titles could result in inconsistency in coding, but these errors are inevitable under the limited conditions of single annotation. To minimize these errors, the code book included a description, good and bad examples as well as edge cases. The latter was always accompanied with an explanation to maximize clarity. Three annotators conducted individual coding of the topics, and ambiguous data were taken out and discussed among the annotators to ensure higher annotation quality. We used Excel to annotate the files.

To compute the 10 most significant words in each topic, we combined all the non-Trump and non-Biden posts into one single category, and computed the tf-idf scores using the following definition:

$$TF(term||topic) = \# \text{ of times the word appeared in posts assigned to the topic}$$

$$IDF(term) = \log((\# \text{ of topics}) / (\# \text{ of topics the term is used in}))$$

Each word was treated case-insensitive and all the special characters were removed except for hyphen. This is to ensure that the meaning of compound words is preserved, so that words such as “pro-Trump”, “Covid-19” would remain intact. However, we removed all other special characters such as ‘, .<sup>TM</sup>!?( )\`’ in other words anything that wasn’t a word or a space or a hyphen was removed. Different symbols for quotation marks, namely “ ‘ ” and “ ’ ” were removed as well. We also removed the suffix “ ’s ” and “ ’s ” so that words such as “Biden’s” would turn into “Biden”. Afterwards, we counted the number of posts associated with each topic.

## Results

After filtering the posts and keeping only the ones mentioning Biden or Trump we had 931 posts. Using open coding, we found that these posts all revolved around 7 topics.

The first salient topic is Biden or Trump’s policies and nominees for different positions in the government (“p”). This theme is mentioned in 14.39% of the posts and it represents 20.54% of the conservative posts and 12.04% of the politics posts. The topic is mostly associated with Joe Biden (50%). 33.54% of the posts in “p” mention only Trump and 16.42% of the posts mention both candidates. Moreover, the number of posts in this topic increased every day starting from 21 posts on November 21st, followed by 29 then 31 posts on November 23rd in /r/politics. Additionally, the most salient word that characterized this topic was “picks” as seen in the following ordered list of top 10 salient words: ['picks', 'agreements', 'climate', 'east', 'peace', 'prescription', 'gm', 'omar', 'cabinet', 'arab']. It was also revealed through TF-IDF that climate and gm were salient since GM accepted to reduce carbon emission. Additionally, the words east, peace and omar and arab were also very

present in this category which might be related to Trump's peace deal in the middle east. If topic engagement is measured based on comments, for policies/nominees, the posts in the conservative chat had on average 102.21 comments, while in the politics thread, there were 96.81.

The second topic is transition ("t"). This grouping represents mentions of past or present transition processes from one president to the next. This is the least popular topic with only 45 posts (4.83% of posts). This topic makes up respectively 5.05% and 4.26% of the politics and conservative threads and commonly only refer to Trump (42%) or to both candidates (33.33%). Similar, in the conservative thread, the number of posts in this category increased everyday. On another note, the results from the TF-IDF were generally expected with just a few outliers. The most salient words are transition, begin, orderly, start, process, successor (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th). However, the second half of the salient words are unexpected. In 6, 7, 8 and 9th position we have, respectively, "produce", "netflix", "abusing" and "intel". Looking at the data, this is due to posts like the following: "Obama to produce Netflix series about Trump transition, unclear whether it will include abusing intel agencies to spy on successor". Moreover, if we assess saliency based on comments, in the conservative thread these posts had on average 153.36 comments and 281.65 comments in the politics thread.

The third topic found is recount, election certification and the electoral process/results ("r"). As the third most salient topic (16.11% of posts), it includes posts that discuss these concepts, but don't criticise the results or talk about fraud. This topic is more popular in the politics thread than in the conservative thread (17.24% vs 13.18%) and the majority of the posts only mentioned Trump (60.67%). We also noticed that the popularity of this topic increased every day in the politics thread. More noticeably, the volume of these posts increased by 42% between November 22 and 23 which might be due to Michigan being certified on November 23. On the other hand, the salient words associated with this topic, in order, are: ['recount', 'certifies', 'board', 'obstructing', 'observers', 'wisconsin', 'vote', 'michigan', 'unless', 'certification']. These results are expected since Michigan was certified

November 23 and Wisconsin was often discussed due to legal battles and claims of obstructing recount. The only unusual word is unless. If we look at the comments, in the conservative thread, people commented on average 178.68 comments per post and in the politics thread, they commented 355.66 times.

The fourth topic is Trump's concession ("w") and it includes any mention of Trump conceding, Biden being declared president-elect and Trump's next steps after his defeat. This represents 13.32% of all posts and predictably this was a much more common topic in the politics thread compared to the conservative thread (16.20% vs 5.81%). It follows that 66% of these posts only mentioned Trump and the most salient words are ['potus', 'account', 'golfing', 'concession', 'inauguration', 'congratulates', 'embarrassment', 'refusal', 'hogan', 'pressure']. The only results that appear abnormal are the words golfing, account and hogan. Hogan is salient because multiple posts show Hogan critiquing Trump and asking him to concede. Golfing is another salient word because a common expression requesting Trump's concession was "stop golfing and concede". Account appeared often because multiple posts refer to Biden receiving the POTUS Twitter account. The average number of comments for posts in this topic is 238.54 in the politics thread and 139.67 in conservative.

The fifth topic is linked to any attempt to change the election results (including lawsuits) or claims that the election was stolen ("e"). In both threads, this is the most popular topic (23.48% in politics thread and 30.23% in conservative thread) with an overall presence of 25.35%. In 90.25% of the cases, these posts only mention Trump. The words that characterize this topic are: ['powell', 'sidney', 'fraud', 'overturn', 'expedited', 'pennsylvania', 'statement', 'election', 'yes', 'voter']. There are quite a few unusual words in this category such as Sidney and Powell, which refer to a lawyer on Trump's team who was helping him "Stop the steal", but got fired for her controversial remarks. Expedited and Pennsylvania are also unexpected, but refer to an expedited review of a lawsuit in Pennsylvania concerning the election. Last but not least "Yes" is an outlier. This word is linked to the syntax of the titles i.e. "Yes x happened". Additionally, on average these posts in the conservative thread have 134.59 comments per post and 189.78 in the politics thread.

The sixth topic refers to Covid, its impact and the response to it. It is not a popular topic since it represents only 5.91% of all the filtered posts (6.09% for politics thread and 5.43% for conservative). These posts usually refer only to Trump in 72.73% of cases and rarely to both parties in conjunction (5.45%). Using TF-IDF, the list of ordered words that characterize this section are ['covid', 'covid-19', 'pandemic', 'vaccine', 'carson', 'ben', 'ravages', 'my', 'saved', 'skips']. Most words are expected, but some are surprising. “ben”, “carson”, “my” and “saved” refer to Ben Carson who claimed that Trump saved his [“my”] life after he got covid. Additionally, “skips” refers to Trump skipping a G20 meeting where the leaders were discussing the pandemic. Moreover, in the conservative thread, there was on average 85.43 comments per post and 111.46 for the politics thread.

The last topic is a grouping of all opinions of Trump/Biden and their supporters that is not based on a specific event (“o”). This category is the second most popular topic, representing 20.09% of all posts. This topic’s engagement in the politics and conservative thread is extremely similar (19.91% and 20.54% respectively) and 81.81% of these posts refer only to Trump. The salient words characterizing this section are ['bernstein', '21', 'expressed', 'contempt', 'names', 'carl', 'condemns', 'rallies', 'morally', 'romney']. Words such as expressed, contempt, rallies and morally are unsurprising since they evoke emotion and opinion. The unexpected words 'bernstein', '21', 'names', 'carl' are all related and due to an unexpected trend. We had multiple posts such as “Carl Bernstein names 21 GOP senators who 'privately expressed their disdain' for Trump”. Moreover, for the conservative thread this topic is not that salient with only 87.55 comments on average per post, but this topic has 173.32 comments per post in the politics thread.

The posts that don’t mention Trump or Biden had the following salient words: ['thanksgiving', 'newsom', 'rittenhouse', 'covid-19', 'aoc', 'covid', 'owners', 'kyle', 'board', 'positive']. It is worth mentioning that covid and covid-19 appear in this section and in the covid topic. This shows that covid might have been a more popular topic if we didn’t filter based on candidates (ie Trump or Biden).

## **Discussion:**

Trump and Biden were discussed in very different ways. Trump has been referred to significantly more than Biden with the former being the only candidate mentioned in 67.99% of posts. In the /r/politics subreddit, 66.72% of the posts refer to Trump whereas in the /r/conservative subreddit, this percentage goes up to 71.32%. Since we are assuming /r/politics is more popular with liberals and /r/conservative is used by conservative, this shows that both parties are very vocal about the president. The topic of stolen election was the most salient topic by number of posts and in 90.25% of cases it only mentioned Trump. This leads us to say that Trump makes people talk more than Biden. This is also seen through the post “Trump Supporters in Georgia Threaten to Destroy GOP, Boycott Runoff Elections” which has the most engagement and comments with 8728.

Biden is mostly discussed in terms of his policies and nominations. In topic “p”, he is mentioned alone in 50% of posts (59.26% in politics and 35.85% in conservative), his highest presence in any topic. This shows that liberals and some conservatives are mostly discussing his policies and nominees over any other topic. This is seen by the fact that cabinet and picks were some of the most salient words in this topic referring to Biden’s nominating process for his cabinet. He is mostly discussed in terms of his actions as president elect such as picking a cabinet and being petitioned by Ilhan Omar to reverse the Middle East Peace Agreement ( ‘east’, ‘peace’, ‘omar’ were salient words in this category).

The perceptions of both candidates are vastly different with Trump attracting negative opinions with very few positive ones while Biden experienced a more neutral perception.

In the opinion topic “o”, Trump is the most discussed candidate with 81.81% of posts whereas this percentage is only 11% for Biden. Recurring words in this topic are “contempt” and “condemns” which suggest that most of the opinion posts are either blatantly negative or have a negative connotation. After closer examination, we can see that all three of these words tend to come up in the same posts. For example, there are numerous posts with variations of “senators expressing contempt for Trump” whereas “condemns” is either used for Trump’s “golf outing” or the “Trump rallies”. This repetition of posts show that people with a negative perception of Trump communicate their contempt in a similar fashion.



The conceding topic “w” is mostly discussed in the politics thread than the conservative thread (16.20% vs 5.81%). This might show that the liberals believe more strongly that Trump should concede while the conservatives still don’t acknowledge that Biden is the president-elect. Furthermore, the fact that the topic contains “golfing” as one of the most common words is particular. This topic alone contains 8 posts containing variations of the headline “Stop golfing and concede”. These posts have a very negative connotation and refer to Trump going golfing during a G20 meeting. They are among the most recurring posts in the whole dataset.

The covid categories portrays a mixed perception of Trump. Two of the most common words under this topic are “Ben” and “Carson”, which make up the full name of the current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, who had been infected with the Covid-19 virus. His name is mentioned in numerous posts such as himself emphasizing that Trump saved his life (which also explains the words “my” and “saved”). This set of posts are the rare few with a positive connotation about Trump. In this same covid category, Trump also experiences backlash such as salient posts that refer to him skipping the G20 summit regarding the pandemic as Covid ravages the US.

The topics that mention Biden the most are, in order, policies “p”, results “r” and win/concede “w”, with opinion “o” in the fourth place. This line-up and the fact that the keywords are not negative (which they are with Trump) show us that people tend to take a more neutral stance with Biden than with Trump.

After examining the posts mentioning Biden, we can see that even though there are a few posts with negative connotations such as: “Joe Biden loses it at reporter who asked about kids going back to classrooms - then tells press to leave”, they are outnumbered by posts that just state his actions and policies objectively such as: “Biden’s Treasury Secretary: Janet Yellen” or blatantly support him such as: and “Young voters set turnout record, aiding Biden” showing a neutral perception of the candidate.

Additionally, we can argue that it is logical that people have less opinions about Biden since he is not yet the president thus he didn’t have much time to make any

controversial decisions. Since he can only change the covid policies after he is president, Biden is only mentioned in 22% of the posts about covid, thus keeping him from being perceived negatively or positively. Whereas Trump with his policies regarding covid-19 has gotten a lot of backlash. Moreover, the fact that only ~6% of the coronavirus posts refer to both candidates in conjunction, might illustrate that people mostly talk about a specific candidate's approach to the virus and don't compare them. This also explains why Biden falls behind on this topic and therefore has less and rather neutral posts that tend to state policies or future action.

## **Conclusion**

Through this analysis, we can conclude that the US election has led to major suspicion of election legitimacy for both liberal and conservative communities, with a mostly negative perception for Trump regarding election fraud and neutral commentaries for Biden concerning government policies.

## **Group Member Contribution:**

Kayra: Kayra pulled the posts, annotated  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the leftover data, wrote data and discussion.

Theresa: Theresa did tf-idf, annotated  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the leftover data, wrote methods and overview.

Maxine: Maxine did the code book, annotated  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the leftover data, wrote results and edited the report.

## **Reference**

[1] crash\_bandicoot42. "r/NoStupidQuestions - What's the Difference between Hot, Best,

Top

and Controversial." *Reddit*, [www.reddit.com/r/NoStupidQuestions/comments/7wp4pk/whats\\_the\\_difference\\_between\\_hot\\_best\\_top\\_and/](https://www.reddit.com/r/NoStupidQuestions/comments/7wp4pk/whats_the_difference_between_hot_best_top_and/).

## **Annex 1: Guide book**

### **1. Biden or Trump's policies and nominees for different positions in the government**

**(p):** This refers to posts that talk about potential policies Biden will put in place when in office and the different people he wants to nominate for different government positions. This section also includes any reference to Trump nominees and the policies he put in place that doesn't have anything to do with the election. This will also include any policies people want to put in place because of any candidate.

#### Good examples

- Biden to Work to End Executions as Government Sets 3 More
- For Netanyahu and Israel, Trump Gifts Kept on Coming. Allowing the convicted spy Jonathan Pollard the ability to emigrate to Israel was just the latest in a long list of prizes for America's closest ally in the Middle East.
- Biden faces a race against the clock for U.S. to rejoin Iran nuclear deal
- Trump slams global climate agreement Biden intends to rejoin
- Devout Catholic Joe Biden, our most pro-abortion president
- Biden Backs Democrats Pursuit Of Bigger COVID-19 Relief Deal

#### Edge Case

- Joel Kotkin: The Green End Game Runs Through Biden
  - Refers to Biden's environmentally friendly policy
- Bypassing McConnell: Democrats push Biden to aggressively use executive power
  - An action Biden can do while in power
- Joe Biden loses it at reporter who asked about kids going back to classrooms - then tells press to leave
  - It was on a policy and Biden's reaction to it

- Harvard Students Demand That Trump Officials Be Preemptively Barred From Campus/China Issues Instructions for Incoming Biden Administration
  - Outside group creating a policy related to a candidate
- BLM Co-Founder Calls on Biden to Back a Crazy Progressive 'Civil Rights' Bill
  - Someone is asking a candidate to back a policy so even if it's not the candidate's suggested bill it still fits here
- 40% of Top Pentagon Positions Empty After Donald Trump's Firing of Mark Esper
  - This leaves an opportunity to nominate candidates for either party
- To Prevent 'Active Sabotage' of His Agenda, Biden Urged to Clean House of Trump Loyalists on Day One
  - Policy Biden will set in place once in the White House
- New report details Trump effort to seize thousands of acres of private land for border wall
  - Trump's wall promise

**2. Transition (t):** This refers to posts that talk about the transition process. This also includes posts mentioning the 2016 transition since this is used as an example to the 2020 transition. This can also include posts that mention a handing off of the country

Good examples

- Trump Administration Begins Transition Process
- Biden team solicits donations to fund presidential transition as Trump administration blocks federal money
- "Kayleigh McEnany Obliterates Both Dems, Media for Hypocrisy Over Election Results, Completely Levels CNN Reporter: ""Where were the calls for unity and a peaceful transition when President Trump was elected in 2016?""
- Claim that Trump 'was never given an orderly transition of power' is false

Bad examples

- Trump failure to work with Biden is becoming more urgent as Covid spreads

- This is more about covid response and work with doesn't necessarily mean help with transition

#### Edge Case

- Joy Reid: It looks like Republicans 'want to hand Biden mega crises' and a country that's broken
  - This touches the transition category because of the wording "want to hand Biden". This post illustrates a rocky transition
- Transition warning: Trump's mental illness is a growing danger
  - A potential issue in regard to the transition

**3. Recount, election Certification and the electoral process/results (r):** This includes the mention of any state that has just certified the result of the election. This also includes any post about the number of votes a state received or the recount process. Any mention of the senate runoffs is also included in here. This also includes lawsuits filed to change the vote count/certification/recount. Anything talking about the demographics of the voters of region X is also accepted here.

#### Good examples

- Biden's margin of victory over Trump surpasses 6 million votes
- Will Trump Screw Up Republican Efforts to Hang Onto the Senate?
- Analysis: How Georgia proves Trump has no chance of winning
- Georgia governor certifies presidential electors for Biden
- 'Unacceptable': Wisconsin Election Officials Say Trump Observers Hindering Recount With Constant Interruptions, Questions
- Trump campaign requests recount of hand-recounted results in Georgia, which is unlikely to change outcome

## Bad examples

- Lisa Murkowski calls on Trump to end court fights
  - The court fight here is not specific to certification or recounts, but englobes the bigger picture of changing the results so it goes into category 5.
- Federal judge dismisses Trump campaign, Pennsylvania case
  - Doesn't strictly involve vote count, recount, etc so it belongs in group 5.
- Dominion responds to Trump team claims
  - Dominion is linked to claims of voter fraud and not the counting process

## Edge Case:

- 'Certify the Results!': GOP Michigan Lawmakers Blasted for 'Legitimizing a Fascist Coup Attempt' by Meeting With Trump
  - To avoid any illegitimate issues, there's a push for certification hence category 3
- Young voters set turnout record, aiding Biden win
  - This will go in this category since it touches on the election process/result
- Wisconsin Trump Campaign Lawyer Trying to Throw Out His Own Vote
  - This is a lawsuit that has to do with recounts so it goes in this section.
- A Republican judge just tore into Trump election lawyers for their incompetence. Trump lawyers asked a judge to disenfranchise nearly 7 million voters. It ended badly for Trump.
  - Because this lawsuit affected the number of votes in a district
- How to explain Latino support for Trump? ABC News reports misleading memes went viral in Latino communities
  - In this category since it gives demographic information about the voters

**4. Concede /Biden won (w)** : This includes any posts concerning people asking Trump to concede or not to concede. Moreover, it includes what might happen to Trump if he concedes (ie his next steps (election 2020, moving, etc)) and people's opinion of him not conceding. This grouping also includes any mention that people/Twitter declare Biden the president-elect or Trump the losing party. This includes Trump's opinion on Biden's victory, denying that fact and people's response to Trump denying the win (i.e. calls for him to end his lawsuits).

Good examples

- Obama jokes that Navy SEALs could remove Trump from the White House
- U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Trump ally, refers to Biden as 'president-elect'
- Twitter says it will give @POTUS account to Biden on Inauguration Day
- A vindictive Trump seeks to undermine Biden's presidency
- Trump privately plots his next act - including a potential 2024 rematch
- GOP senator congratulates Biden, says Trump should accept results
- Fearing turmoil, Wall Street ups pressure on Trump to quit

Bad examples:

- Yes, Trump Is (Still) Engaged in an Attempted Coup; and Yes, It Might Lead to a Constitutional Crisis and a Breaking Point
  - Trump's actions to counter the election result is not included here
- Most Republicans greet Trump push to overturn the election with a customary response: Silence
  - It's not a response to denying Biden as president but to the attempt to change election result
- GOP lawmaker patience runs thin with Trump tactics
  - This refers to trump tactics to change the election result so goes into category

#### Edge Case:

- Split-screen: Biden preps to be president, Trump fights for the job he is ignoring
  - This refers to Biden's victory even if trump denies it so it fits in this category
- Chris Christie Calls Trump Legal Team National Embarrassment,' Tells President to End Election Suits
  - Ending election lawsuits is indirectly conceding so it goes here
- Joe Biden: Why Are Reporters Asking Me Questions? On Friday, Biden appeared dumbfounded as to why a reporter was asking the projected Democratic presidential-elect a question as the press pool was being scurried away by staff.
  - Since he is declared as president elect and being interviewed
- Let Buy Trump Off So He Shutsnom the F--k Up,Äù: Will Rupert Murdoch Spring for a Post-Presidential Fox Gig?
  - Post presidency next step for trump

**5. Attempt to change Election Result (Stolen Election)(e):** This refers to any mention of election fraud and an ambiguous lawsuit that any of the administrations filed (unlike category 3 which refers to recount/certification lawsuit). This section also includes any mention of overriding a result and any mention of methods used to attempt to override a result. This also refers to Trump/Biden and their supporters' claim that the election was stolen and that their respective party should win. Anyone attempting a coup and methods to attempt a coup is an election fraud and included here. Opinions on his tactics are also included here.

#### Good examples

- Yes, Trump Is (Still) Engaged in an Attempted Coup; and Yes, It Might Lead to a Constitutional Crisis and a Breaking Point
- Let's count the ways Donald Trump has tried to subvert this election, shall we?
- Detroit voters sue Donald Trump over unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud



- Michigan Democrats are taking a stand against Trump's campaign to steal the state's vote
- Business and World Leaders Move On as Trump Fights to Reverse Election
- Most Republicans greet Trump push to overturn the election with a customary response: Silence
- GOP lawmaker patience runs thin with Trump tactics
- Hispanic Voters In Florida Who Fled Dictatorships Think The Election Was Stolen From Trump
- Trump ally, former NJ governor Chris Christie: president election fraud claims are a national embarrassment,Äô
- Biden adviser: Trump seeking to 'subvert the democratic system' with legal challenges
- Trump Warns 'Massive Fraud' to Be Uncovered in Michigan Vote
- Trump campaign says Sidney Powell isn't a member of its legal team

#### Bad examples

- Duty or Party? For Republicans, a Test of Whether to Enable Trump
  - Enable is very ambiguous, this is a democratic mindset to disagree with any/all actions so this will go into perception of trump for ambiguous reasons.
- Megathread: Judge Dismisses Trump Lawsuit Seeking to Delay Certification in Pennsylvania
  - It affects the certification process which is category 3

#### Edge Case

- Trump campaign statement on Pennsylvania ruling
  - Involves a lawsuit but we are unsure what was the initial case
- Whoopi Goldberg blasts Republicans not speaking against Trump: 'This is an attempted coup'
  - Denouncing election wrongdoings

- Trump Pennsylvania Suit is Incoherent Conspiracy Voters Say
  - Non legitimate lawsuit
- Dominion responds to Trump team claims
  - Dominion is the company that issues the voting machine which trump claimed to be problematic causing election fraud
- Michigan GOP legislators appear at Trump Hotel after White House meeting
  - This meeting was linked to the idea that Trump could change the michigan results with a sort of coup
- Senator Shirkey and Speaker Chatifeld names projected on Trump International Hotel
  - Also related to the michigan legislators being invited
- Rudy and Sidney Krakentastic Spectacle, and What It Could Mean -- A dismissive legacy media might have panned Team Trump press conference Thursday, but it was a significant moment with significant portents.
  - Sidney is part of Trump's law team who played a role in the lawsuits to try to change a result
- Giuliani distances Trump campaign from attorney Sidney Powell
  - Tied to the lawsuits to change the results.
- No, Venezuelan communists did not interfere in the election. Yes, Trump legal team claimed that.
  - This is an argument used to claim the election was stolen
- Trump Lawyer Says New Lawsuits Will Be Filed in Georgia Soon: 'Quite a Shock'
  - Next steps to try to change the result
- Michigan AG Suggests Criminally Charging Republican Legislators for Meeting With Trump
  - Related to the michigan vote change controversy
- Vladimir Putin wasted no time in weaponizing Trump's election conspiracies to spread Russian propaganda

- Use of the election controversy
- Reality Forecloses on the Trump Presidency | A fading campaign collapses under the weight of finally having to back up big talk with actual substance.
  - Lack of substance behind election claims
- GOP asks Michigan not to certify election results, citing irregularities | The move follows speculation that Trump is seeking to persuade Michigan Republicans to override election results
  - Even if mentions certification, the main desire is to override the election result

6. **Coronavirus response/impact (c):** This refers to the impact of the Coronavirus on the election. This can include Biden or Trump's approach to it and their actions.

Good examples

- Trump was pictured on his Virginia golf course during a coronavirus meeting for G20 leaders
- My Frustration Turned Into Anger. Some Americans Who Lost Family Members to COVID-19 Have Turned Against Donald Trump
- Donald Trump says 'I won, by the way' and lashes out at Pfizer claiming it delayed news of the COVID-19 vaccine until after the election
- Trump's monumental sulk: president retreats from public eye as Covid ravages US
- Biden Backs Democrats Pursuit Of Bigger COVID-19 Relief Deal
- Trump failure to work with Biden is becoming more urgent as Covid spreads

Bad examples

Edge Case

- A major Trump donor company got a 3 percent government-backed pandemic loan. It sells title loans at a 350 percent annual rate.
  - Loan created in covid time being abused

**7. Opinion of Trump/Biden or Trump\Biden supporters (o):** Anyone criticizing or complimenting the Trump/Biden administration or his supporter for an ambiguous reason. This also includes people's opinion on people 'enabling' Trump/Biden. Also includes people's opinion on Trump/Biden with no specific event to back it up. Also includes details of pro Trump/Biden or anti Trump/Biden event/action done by supporters

Good examples

- Dear Trump supporters: Those who egg on the president now, given the damage he does to America, are truly reprehensible
- I met monster reality TV star Donald Trump 16 years ago. The reality of him has been monstrous . . .
- Duty or Party? For Republicans, a Test of Whether to Enable Trump
- Bolton calls on GOP leadership to label Trump's behavior 'inexcusable'
- Hogan: Trump making US look like a 'banana republic'
- Trump, the Saboteur. First a Tantrum, Then Taking Every Opportunity to Trash Our Government
- Team Trump offering 'fire hose' of conspiracy Kool-Aid for supporters
- States and Local Republicans standing up to Trump are putting National GOP leaders to shame
- Trump or No Trump, Religious Authoritarianism Is Here to Stay
- Trump Derangement Syndrome in Democrats won't go away with Trump
- National Embarrassment Donald Trump Worried Lawyers Are Sullyng His Pristine Reputation
- Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich Says GOP Is 'Afraid' Of Trump

Bad examples

- Hogan ramps up criticism of Trump: 'Stop golfing and concede'
  - Criticism of Trump, but it's a demand of concession which fits in category 4

Edge Case

- Chris Evans and Zach Braff Encourage Keeping Track of Trump ,Enablers,

- Two celebrities are criticizing Trump supporters for ambiguous reasons so it fits into this category
- Bernie Sanders says GOP has ceased to be a political party and is now a cult in fiery rebuke of Trump fraud claims
  - This fits into this category since it's someone insulting Trump and his party even if it's rebuke to another claim.
- No, You Do Not Have to Feel the Trump Voter's Pain | There is no reason, after five and half years of untruths, dog-whistles, slurs and conspiracies, and weeks of Trump trying to undermine Biden, win, to hug the people who want to disenfranchise you
  - This is a criticism against Trump without the backing of any precise event
- America is being subjected to a stress test and Republicans are failing | Most elected Republicans are refusing to stand up to Trump. Their cowardice is one of the worst betrayals of public trust in the history of our republic
  - Criticizing Trump supporters for not a clear reason
- LIVE: March for Trump in Atlanta, Georgia
  - Pro trump event
- It's Time To Consider Sanctions for Trump's Legal Team
  - Someone's opinion to put in place consequences
- Reporter Carl Bernstein names 21 GOP senators who 'repeatedly expressed extreme contempt for Trump'/Republicans as a multicultural working class party? That's Trump-level delusional thinking.
  - People angry at trump
- In Apparent Glitch, Voting Machines Hunt Down And Murder Trump Supporters
  - Sarcastic post that showcase perception
- Trump obsession: Democrats tweet about him 12,569 times to 486 about Biden
  - People's opinion through tweet numbers

8. **Unmentioned Posts (u):** posts that do not mention any candidates