

Title: We Have Good News.

Research question: Is our perception of the news as negative based in reality, or is it a cognitive bias

[START RECORDING]

[SLIDE 1] - Intro

Hello Class!!, we're Team BEAR, comprised of myself, Andre, Evelyn, and Baituan and we have good news for yall, literally.

[SLIDE 2]

Specifically, we have about 6% good news.

We set out to answer whether our perception of the news as negative is based in reality, or if it is a cognitive bias. We found through using Google's advanced sentiment analysis model on a massive dataset of world news articles that [that is composed of these stuff(reference slide show)]

that the majority of news is actually neutral. Which is good news in its own right – it means avoiding bias, loaded words, and misinformation might be easier than we think it is.

However, that 8% of negative news still matters.

[SLIDE 3]

Psychological research shows that our brains are wired to react more strongly to negative stimuli. When we encounter negative news, our amygdala, a little almond shaped structure in our brains, activates and intensifies our emotional response.

[Example over here]

This phenomenon, known as negativity bias, means we pay more attention to negative news, remember it more vividly, and give it greater weight in our decision-making processes. Negative news is scientifically more memorable and impactful.

[Refer back to example]

Media companies are aware of this, and in order to attract more attention, push pieces that will create strong emotions.

[SLIDE 4]

These factors can sometimes make it feel like the world is falling apart. To counteract this bias,

it's important to try to find a balanced news diet, seeking out sources that also highlight positive and neutral stories.

If you can't find the good news, try looking at any of these sources. This approach can provide a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of world events.

[SLIDE 5]

A trend in good news is that much of it is related to the post-pandemic economic recovery. If you were holding your breath for a dramatic recession, it looks that that danger has passed.

We have to note that a good economy doesn't mean equality. But it is an important factor and means that we have the technology and the resources to help where we can.

[SLIDE 6]

Our data visualized on a world map shows the global distribution of positive news. Good news is everywhere – it's just a matter of getting through the bad news to find it.

[Conclusion]

While challenges remain, we hope we've brought you the good news about good news. Take a breath and don't let negativity bias knock you off balance.

Thank you for listening!