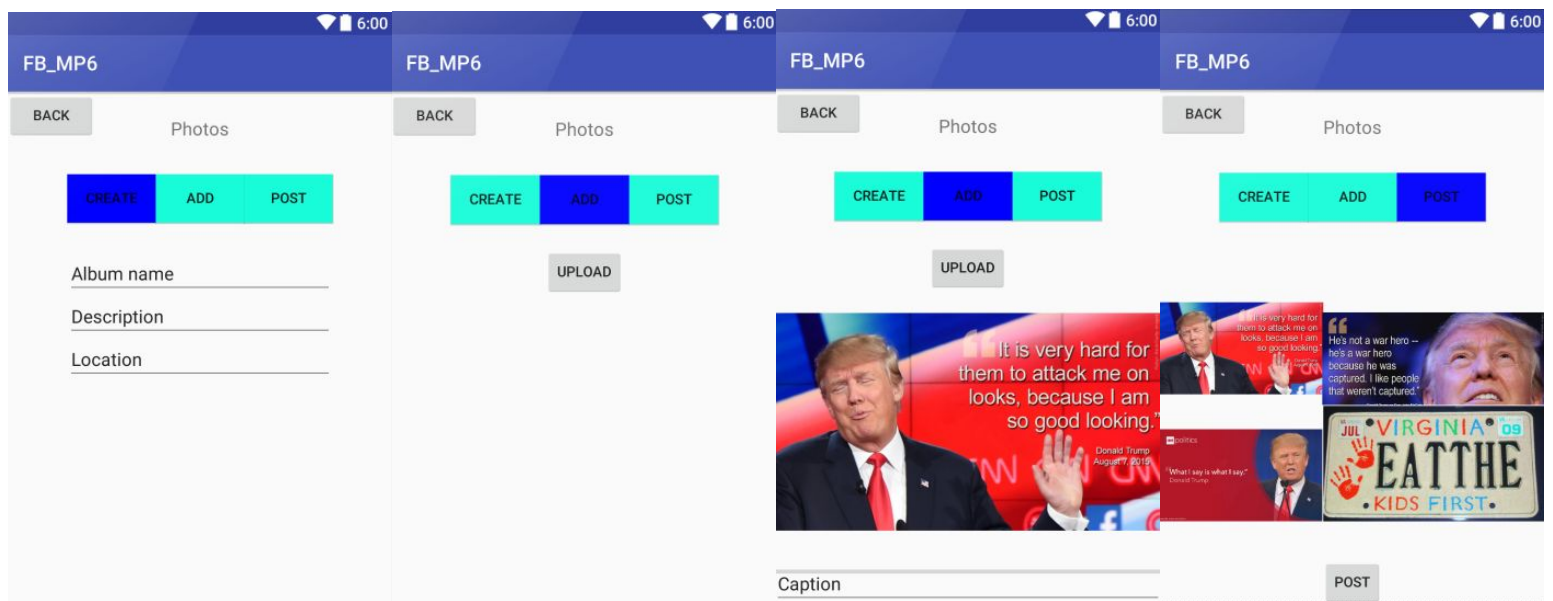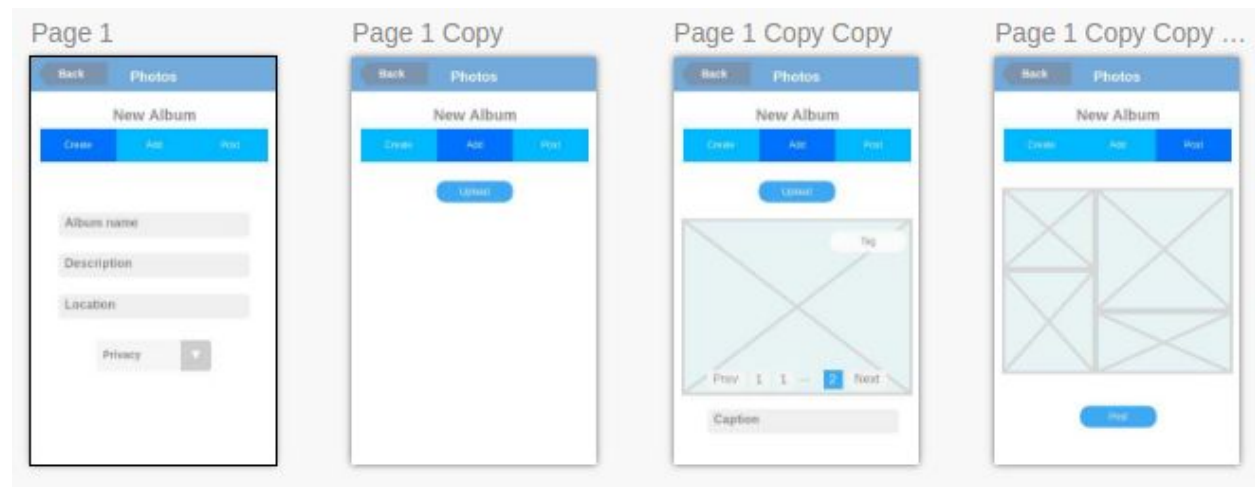Observations about the Android Facebook app

- Are all the features easily discoverable?
  - For the most part, yes. All the information you can see about your friends is organized nicely at the top of each person's page and the toolbar on the side makes it easy to navigate between the News Feed, Messenger, and some other less crucial functions. There aren't many buttons that don't have text associated with them, so the layout off the app and its features is pretty clear.
- Is there a good balance between text and pictures?
  - The Faceboook app balances text and pictures well. In the Notifications section, it shows the picture of the person the notification pertains to next to the notifications, which are very concise. This lets you very quickly scan your notifications and get the gist of them without having to spend a lot of time scrolling through them (like emails).
  - In general, the FB app uses very little text. It uses a minimal amount of text to give context to pictures (unless the user chooses otherwise), and there's almost always an icon or picture next to any other text on the screen (i.e. side toolbar, mini About section -- the one that pops up right below your profile picture).
- Is there a low-learning curve? Does the app walk users through its features or does it expect users to figure stuff out on their own?
  - When you click on a picture, it expands the picture to fill up the screen and there are a handful of buttons (like, comment, and tag) at the bottom. There isn't a clear way to get off of this screen and I had to press the back button on my Android phone (true for when you're trying to post as well). I kept trying to swipe the picture away -- hitting the back button felt like it interrupted the flow when all the rest of the interactions are performed using the touch screen and as such it wasn't intuitive to press it.
  - Creating a new album is confusing -- the first screen is naming your album and setting the privacy settings and then you're supposed to hit 'Done'. It's unclear whether or not that will create an empty album or if it's just the first step in creating an album. It would be nice if it told you what step you're on in the album-creating process. I'm afraid that if I click the Done button, I'll have to scramble to delete an empty album from my news feed so I didn't actually check to see if that's what would happen.
    - Also, just a random side note: I don't like having the toolbar at the top on every screen. When I'm making an album, all I really need is a back button, not the option to see other things (i.e. notifications) because I'm doing a short task and if I get distracted and accidentally leave that page, I'll lose everything I had.

Prototype of new 'Create Album' layout

The top row of screenshots shows the improved layouts I thought of for the adding album path of the FB app. The screenshots below that correspond to the xml files I made for each page. The xml files are very rough, as you can clearly see, and there's some discrepancy between them and the layouts I thought of. The third picture (add part 2) doesn't have the "select page" option that the Fluid sketch does, but the Trump picture is actually contained in a Horizontal scroll view, so the user could just swipe from picture to picture instead of picking the picture using the buttons. I had a lot of trouble getting the pictures for the last layout (far right) to line up -- this was the best I could get. Overall...it's a lot easier to make this stuff in on paper or using Fluid.