

An American Conspiracy

Meryl Duff

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r/Conspiracy

The conspiracy subreddit is a thinking ground. Above all else, we respect everyone's opinions and ALL religious beliefs and creeds. We hope to challenge issues which have captured the public's imagination, from JFK and UFOs to 9/11. This is a forum for free thinking, not hate speech. Respect other views and opinions, and keep an open mind.** **Our intentions are aimed towards a fairer, more transparent world and a better future for everyone.

r/QAnonCasualties

Have a friend or loved one taken in by QAnon? Look here for support, resources and a place to vent. Peruse old posts, settle in and relax. Learn to heal, deal and deprogram. Posts should relate to the direct experience of dealing with Q/adjacent folk. This can include posts with support, info or practical advice. Anyone can comment, but be substantive and in good faith.

S IN STATE G SAUCERS'

Franklin 'Dogfight' Alerts State Troopers

Three "flying saucers" were spotted by hundreds of Hoosiers, including police and military personnel, over South Central Indiana early today.

The objects appeared to have a "dogfight" over Franklin and disappeared as dawn approached.

Troopers from three state police posts—Indianapolis, Selma and Connersville—kept a running check on the saucers for more than 4 hours.

Authorities at Camp Atterbury were alerted. Personnel at the

tion and called attention to the bounding object in the sky.

Franklin police alerted Wolfe. "I went out in the country with the police to a place where we could see clearly," the civil defense director said. "That was



Summary Statistics

r/Conspiracy

1.5M Members

Created Jan 25,
2008

r/QanonCasualties

141K Members

Created Jul 4,
2019

Text Analysis

Pulled 2000 posts
from each
subreddit

Text Analysis

Analyzed the titles
of the posts and
built 2 models to
predict which
subreddit they
came from

DISCLAIMER



PHOTO: AP

QAnon



Many of the militants arrested at the Capitol on January 6th were known Qanon believers

Other Conspiracy Topics

UFO's

Anti-Vaxxers

BigFoot

CIA/US
Government
Cover Ups

JFK
assasination

Introduction



AVERAGE SENTIMENT

The average compound score for the **r/conspiracy** titles is **-0.065946**, indicating negative sentiment.

“

“I’m hoping Q is labeled as a national threat and domestic terrorist by the FBI....”

”

“

“Dad has gotten better, but my respect for him is gone.”

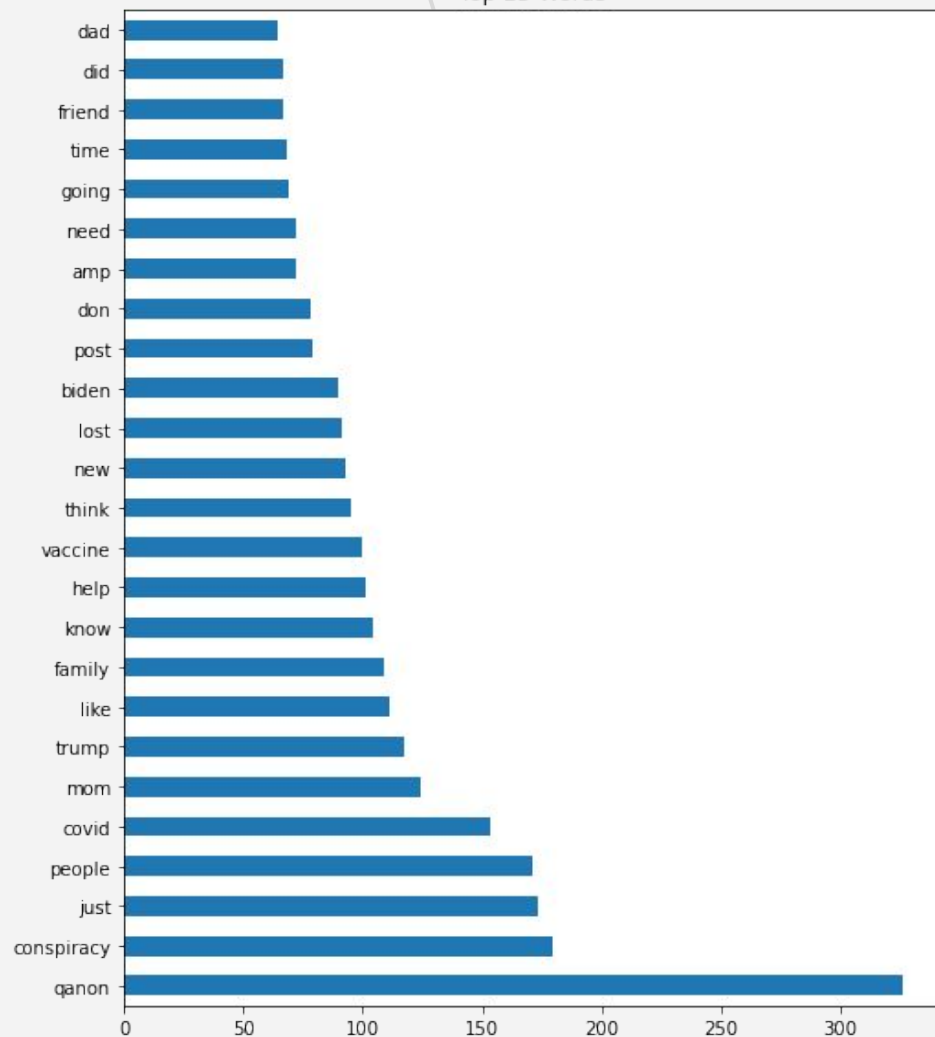
”



AVERAGE SENTIMENT

The average compound score for the **r/QanonCasualties** titles is **-0.030851**, indicating neutral sentiment.

Top 25 Words



WORD COUNTS

The 2 most common words throughout all posts are “Qanon” and “Conspiracy”.

‘Vaccine”, “Biden”, “Covid”, and “family/ friend” are also quite common.

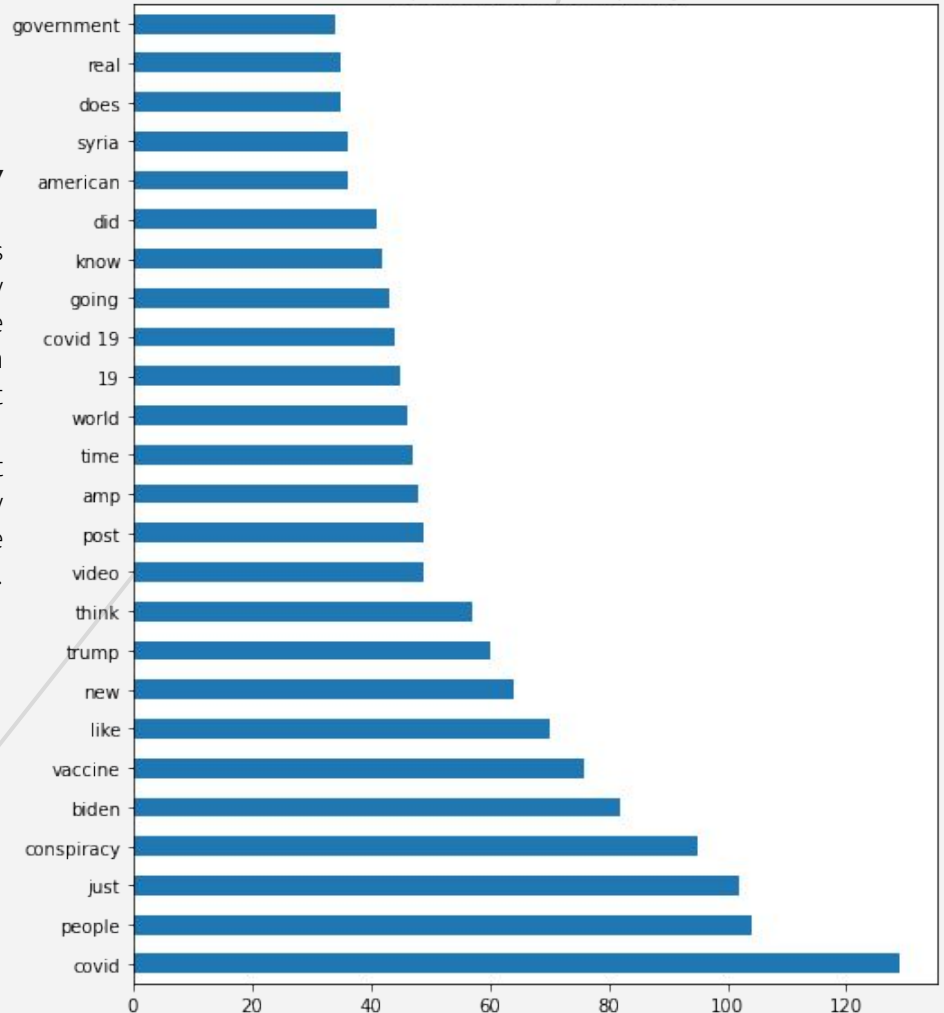
The more positive words (family, friend, mom, dad) are most common in the QanonCasualties board, as they tend to discuss the effect of Qanon on their family and friends.

r/Conspiracy

The top word for the Conspiracy subreddit is Covid, indicating that general conspiracy discussion leans toward Covid-19 and the vaccine rollout, with vaccine also high on the list

“Government” is also in the top 25 most common words, showing the target of many conspiracy theories is, in fact, the government..

Top 25 Words: r/Conspiracy



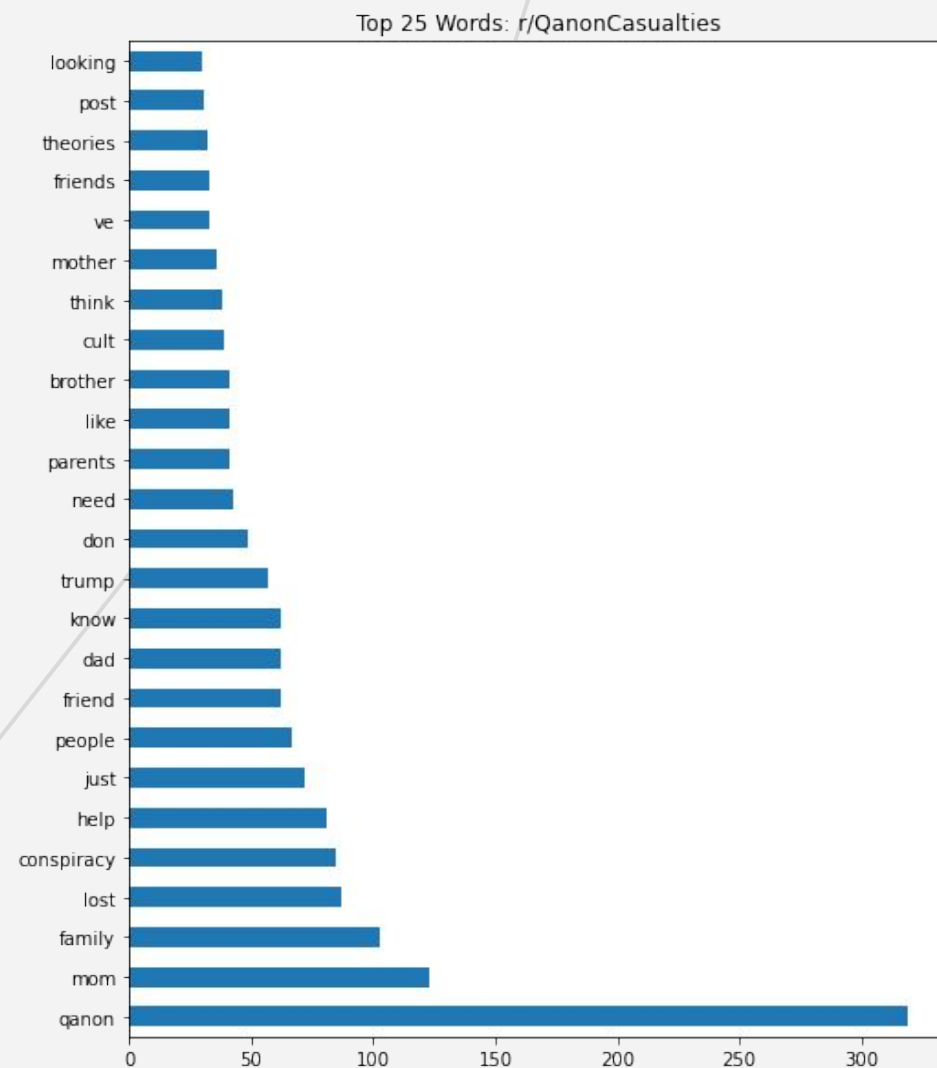
r/QanonCasualties

The top word for the QanonCasualties subreddit is obviously Qanon.

“Help”, “lost”, “family” are common words that people use in their titles for this subreddit.

Family members and friends are also very common, and it seems that people tend to talk about their parents most.

Cult is also within the top 25, indicating that people are starting to view it as more than just a belief, but rather a system of beliefs with psychological impact.



METHODOLOGY & INTERPRETATION

Logistic Regression

.80

over fit, with a training score of .99 and a testing score of .80.

Random Forest

also overfit, with a training score of .97 and a testing score of .76.

Interpretability

Logistic regression helps identify important features

Top 5

Government: 5%

Mask: 4.9%

Texas: 4.3%

11: 4.1%

Interesting: 4%

How does this help you?

There are many words and phrases that may seem innocuous, but there are consequences for perpetuating conspiracy theories.

If you have a friend or family member that uses key phrases or topics identified in my analysis, you may be able to intervene and stop them from spreading dangerous misinformation.

Resources:

<https://www.reddit.com/r/QAnonCasualties/wiki/resources>





**I WANT TO
BELIEVE**

THANKS

Does anyone have any questions?

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CREDITS

This is where you give credit to the ones who are part of this project.

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