Product Requirements

# Project Goals

1. **Understand** the nature of the problem we are facing today in the climate created by social media.
2. **Create** technology that combats misinformation and bias to create a more informed population.

# Deliverables at End of Senior Design

First and foremost during the project, your research and prototyping should be done in such a way that they can be continued easily beyond the end of senior design (either by yourselves, your client, or others).

## **Questions to be answered** *with data obtained via research, user testing, psychology research*

**Q1) How is fact checking / bias reporting done today around the world? What are their strengths and weaknesses?**

This can apply to algorithms, research, live fact checking research, on-the-ground journalism, Facebook internals, Youtube internals, and much more.

**Q2) How do people in the US typically consume news/information today? Where should we deploy this project’s functionality?**

Is it on phone apps? Headlines only? Entertainment sources? Podcasts? Friends?

Should we partner with newspapers/websites via APIs? Have an app?

**Q3) What ‘qualities’ of news articles are prudent to determine via technology? What are the strengths and weaknesses of any approach we are taking?**

Should an algorithm be making calls on what statements are ‘true’ or not? Can an algorithm actually sort through news and determine truth vs fiction vs misleading? Should qualities like ‘extreme language’ take context into account, and is this possible without a human in the loop?

Each decision made in this project when determining ‘news’ ‘qualities’ should be analyzed to uncover the potential bias / values that it introduces into the prototype.

## **Prototype to be completed** *software only*

**R1) A prototype that analyzes ‘news’ and displays certain qualities to a user.**

This needs to have clear definitions of what ‘news’ is (NYT article? Reddit comment? FB post? Headline only?) and what these ‘qualities’ are (next requirement).

**R2) The prototype will calculate and show the decided upon qualities of ‘news’ to a user.**

The qualities will be determined when answering **Q3** above. The level of accuracy in determining these qualities should be comparable or better to human interpretations of these qualities.

**R3) The prototype will be as easy to understand and transparent as possible.**

Users should be able to, intuitively and at a glance, understand core qualities (defined in **Q3**) about some ‘news’. They should then be able to view the details about how the prototype made this judgement in as much detail as possible, while making it understandable to the average layperson.