# The Balanced Perspective

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# **Background**

Extracting the "truth" from the news can be a challenging endeavor. There are numerous outlets and news information that we can read but finding the time to cross reference the information yourself can be difficult.

Our goal was to use classification and transformers to generate summaries of articles that will hopefully not be biased.

Several challenges we faced include: limited websites to obtain our data, finding ways to evaluate summaries, changing our classification model

# **Gathering Our Data**

For our data, we webscraped articles from various news websites that span the political spectrum.

```
# Sample data with political party information
    data = [
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/louisianas-in-qod-we-trust-law-tests-limits-of-religion-in-public-schools/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/trump/shiver-down-the-spine-reporter-explains-which-witness-keeps-trump-up-at-night-2666088526/
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/comer-admits-he-doesnt-want-more-biden-hearings/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/trump-lawyers-grifters-shysters/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/wisconsin-supreme-court-2666086431/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/send/tapper-mtg/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/msn-uk/jenna-ellis-chesebro/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/taking-the-5th-won-t-save-trump-family-members-in-judge-engoron-s-courtroom-2666094129/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/the-right-wing/trump-christie/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/jenna-ellis-is-poised-to-become-trump-s-worst-nightmare-legal-experts-2666093680/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/mike-pence-2666093417/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": https://www.alternet.org/political-consequences-watergate-prosecutor-explains-why-trump-isn-t-in-jail-yet-2666093558/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.alternet.org/the-right-wing/mike-johnson-2666086402/'},
        {"political party": "Left", "url": 'https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2023/10/dean-phillips-joe-biden-2024-primary/675784/'}.
     {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.factcheck.org/2023/06/trumps-dubious-promise-to-end-birthright-citizenship/'}.
     {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67453674'},
    {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67455962'},
     {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67446313'},
     {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-67456078'},
    {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-67438517'}.
    {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/wo Follow link (cmd + click) 3'}.
     {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-67459287'},
    {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-65381555'}.
    {"political party": "Center", "url": 'https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67433961'}.
     {"political party": "Right". "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/brad-wenstrup-announces-he-will-not-seek-re-election-in-2024/'}.
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/republicans-work-to-ban-biden-admins-use-of-term-latinx-backed-by-several-hispanic-dems/
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/jill-stein-announces-2024-presidential-bid-as-green-party-candidate/'},
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/white-house-israel-will-hold-4-hour-daily-humanitarian-pauses-in-gaza-conflict/'},
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/house-gop-proposes-to-slash-buttigieg-salary-to-1-via-spending-bill/'}.
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/sen-joe-manchin-not-running-for-re-election/'},
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/manchin-says-he-would-absolutely-consider-presidential-run/'},
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/michigan-judges-rejects-efforts-to-keep-trump-off-election-ballot/'},
     {"political party": "Right", "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/biden-and-xi-discuss-pressing-issues-at-apec-conference/'}.
     {"political party": "Right". "url": 'https://www.oann.com/newsroom/trump-seeks-mistrial-in-n-v-business-fraud-case/'}.
```

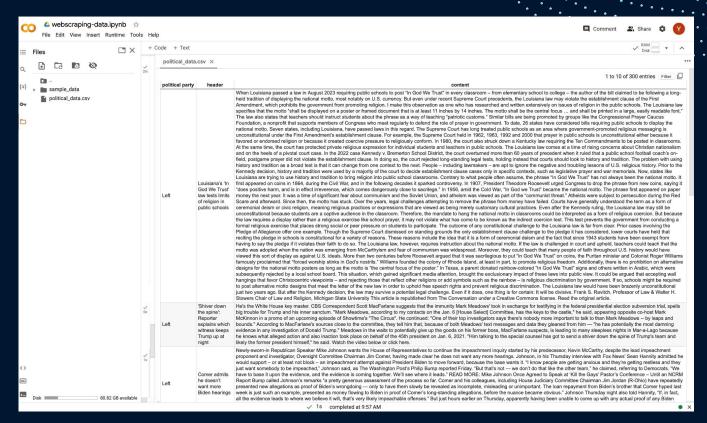
# **Gathering Our Data**

We, then, created a CSV file to save the data, used requests and beautiful soup to extract headline and content, and finally, wrote our data to a CSV file.

```
# Create a CSV file to save the data
csv_file = 'political_data.csv'
# Write data to the CSV file
with open(csv_file, mode='w', newline='', encoding='utf-8') as file:
    fieldnames = ["political party", "header", "content"]
    writer = csv.DictWriter(file, fieldnames=fieldnames)
    writer.writeheader()
    for item in data:
        url = item['url']
        response = requests.get(url)
        html = response.text
        soup = BeautifulSoup(html, 'html.parser')
        # Extract the headline and content
        headline = soup.find('h1').text.strip() if soup.find('h1') else ''
        article = soup.find('article')
        if article:
            # Extract the content of the article
            paragraphs = article.find all('p')
            content = "\n".join(paragraph.text.strip() for paragraph in paragraphs)
        else:
            content = ''
        # Write the data to the CSV file
        writer.writerow({"political party": item["political party"], "header": headline, "content": content})
print(f'Data has been saved to {csv file}')
Data has been saved to political_data.csv
```

# **Gathering Our Data**

We gathered 300 articles in total. 100 for Left, 100 for Center, and 100 for Right biased political news



# **Methods**

**CNN for classification:** We built a cnn model that helps us determine the political lean of the articles that we want to summarise and help us determine if the generated summaries are more balanced

**Transformer Pegasus**: Transformer-based model for abstractive summarization that we used to generate a summary that hopefully will generate a less biased summary.

## **CNN Model**

```
class PoliticalAffiliationCNN(nn.Module):
    def init (self, vocab size, embedding dim, num classes, filter sizes, num filters, dropout prob):
        super(PoliticalAffiliationCNN, self). init ()
       # Embedding layer
        self.embedding = nn.Embedding(vocab size, embedding dim)
       # Convolutional layers
        self.conv layers = nn.ModuleList([
           nn.Conv2d(1, num filters, (fs, embedding dim)) for fs in filter sizes
        1)
       # Fully connected layer
        self.fc = nn.Linear(num filters * len(filter sizes), num classes)
       # Dropout layer
        self.dropout = nn.Dropout(dropout prob)
```

# **CNN Model**

```
def forward(self, x):
24
           # Embedding layer
25
          embedded = self.embedding(x)
26
27
           embedded = embedded.unsqueeze(1)
                                             # Add channel dimension
28
          # Convolutional layers with ReLU activation and max pooling
29
30
          conved = [F.relu(conv(embedded)).squeeze(3) for conv in self.conv layers]
31
          # Max pooling over time
          pooled = [F.max pool1d(conv, conv.size(2)).squeeze(2) for conv in conved]
           # Concatenate the pooled features
36
          cat = torch.cat(pooled, dim=1)
37
38
          # Dropout
          cat = self.dropout(cat)
39
40
           # Fully connected layer
41
42
          logits = self.fc(cat)
43
          return F.softmax(logits, dim=1)
44
45
```

# **Accuracy of our Trained CNN**

```
1 label_to_index = {"Left": 0, "Right": 1, "Center": 2}
```

```
[5.8592e-01, 2.5696e-01, 1.5711e-01],
        [1.0783e-03, 9.9881e-01, 1.1467e-04],
        [1.6149e-02, 9.8319e-01, 6.6487e-04],
        [9.9999e-01, 9.3658e-06, 1.6234e-06]])

Predicted Classes: tensor([0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 1, 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 2, 0,
        2, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2,
        2, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0])

Actual Classes: tensor([0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0,
        2, 2, 2, 1, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1,
        2, 0, 1, 1, 2, 0, 2, 1, 1, 1, 0])

Test Accuracy: 0.7
```

# **Pegasus**

In PEGASUS, important sentences are removed/masked from an input document and are generated together as one output sequence from the remaining sentences.

- Extractive summarization involves identifying important sections from text and generating them verbatim which produces a subset of sentences from the original text.
- Abstractive summarization uses natural language techniques to interpret and understand the important aspects of a text and generate a more "human" friendly summary.

Pegasus is abstractive.

```
# Define a function to summarize an article

def summarize_article(article, model_transformers):
    inputs = pegasus_tokenizer.encode(article, return_tensors='pt', truncation=True, max_length=max_length)
    summary_ids = model_transformers.generate(inputs, max_length=max_length, num_beams=5, early_stopping=True)
    summary = pegasus_tokenizer.decode(summary_ids[0], skip_special_tokens=True)
    return summary
```

#### Articles fed to the pegasus transformer

articles.csv	×		•
political party	header	1 to 3 of 3 entries Filter Content	ַ
Left	Judge Issues Gag Order Against Trump After Personal Attacks On Law Clerk	A New York judge overseeing Donald Trump's civil fraud case has issued a limited gag order on the indicted ex-president, after the defendant publicly disparaged one of the judge's law clerks and posted her photo. 'This morning one of the defendants posted to his social media account a disparaging, untrue and personally identifying post about a member of my start," Judge Arthur Engroom said on Trusd Social earlier that day disparaging Engroom's principal law clerk. Allison Greenfield. The post included a photo of Greenfield with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NLY) at an event for the clerk's campaign for a judgeship in Manhattan civil court. Schumer's griffiend, Alison R. Greenfield, is many finding this case against me, 'Trump said in the post.' How disgraceful! This case should be dismissed immediately!! Engoron said that he had warned Trump a day earlier about making such comments, but that the defendant ignored him. Trump's post was later deleted after Engoron ordered it so on Tuesday, according to the judge.' Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, inappropriate and lwon title deleted after Engoron ordered it so on Tuesday. According to the judge.' Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, inappropriate and with the start of the state of the property of the state o	k  B  to  n  ur  /
Center	Judge Imposes Gag Order On Trump In Fraud Case	The judge overseeing a civil trial accusing former President Donald Trump and his company of fraud imposed a gag order Tuesday, after the former president posted a disparaging social media post about nee of the judge's clerks. Former President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he arrives at New York State Supreme court for[+] the second day of the civil fraud trial against him on October 3 in New York City. The gag order prohibits parties in the case—including but not limited to Trump—from 'posting, mealing or speaking publicly' about members of the New York City, Out's staff, Politico reports. Judge Arthur Engone profession of the Second day of Trump's trial, in which New York Attorney General Letitia James accuses the former president and his company of fraudulently inflating the value of their assets to obtain more divorable business deals and boost Trump's net worth. The gag order came after Trump posted on or Truth Social about Trump's net of Chuck Schumer's gliffrierd' and sharing a picture of her with the Senate majority leader along with a link to the clerk's Instagram account. The post was later removed, which the Associated Press notes came after Trump, his attention and a closed-door meeting during the trials hunch bereat Reproor said the ordered the post to be deleted by the viewed by 'millions of people' first, LawSdo reports. "Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, inappropriate and I will not loterate them in any circumstances," Engoron said to say quoted by Politico. The trial is set to continue through December—with Trump expected to testify—and could result in Trump and his business associates facing such penalties as a \$250 million fine and prohibitions on commercial real estate acquisitions or running a New York business for the next five years. Engoron has also threatened "serious sanctions" should any parties in the case violate the gag order. The gag order in New York comes as Trumps attentions and the Justice Country and the surface of the partition of the	S
Right	Judge issues gag order in Trump fraud trial after ex- president posts about court clerk	to hurt him politically since he is the early front-runner for the Republican 2024 presidential nomination. Trump told reporters Tuesday that the judge, who he called a "Trump-	
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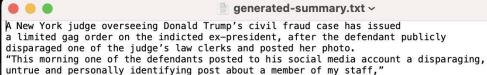
# **Evaluation of Articles**

After getting the three articles that we want to summarize we feed them through our classification model.

```
1 label_to_index = {"Left": 0, "Right": 1, "Center": 2}
```

```
[(tensor([[1.0000e+00, 2.8829e-07, 5.6316e-07]]), 0), (tensor([[0.2200, 0.2685, 0.5115]]), 2), (tensor([[0.3777, 0.4262, 0.1961]]), 1)]
```

### Generated summary



Judge Arthur Engoron said on Tuesday, the second day of Trump's trial. The judge's comments are referring to a post Trump made on Truth Social earlier that day disparaging Engoron's principal law clerk, Allison Greenfield.

# **Evaluation of Summary**

```
1 label_to_index = {"Left": 0, "Right": 1, "Center": 2}
```

```
[ ] 1 print(classify_article(summary))
(tensor([[0.5033, 0.1737, 0.3229]]), 0)
```

# **Further Evaluation**

```
1 def calculate_coverage(generated_summary, input_articles):
       # Tokenize input articles and summary
       input_tokens = set(word_tokenize(" ".join(input_articles)))
       summary_tokens = set(word_tokenize(generated_summary))
       # Calculate coverage
       entity_coverage = len(summary_tokens.intersection(input_tokens)) / len(input_tokens)
       return entity coverage
 9
10 entity_coverage = calculate_coverage(summary, articles)
11 print("Entity and Keyword Coverage:", entity_coverage)
12
Entity and Keyword Coverage: 0.11143695014662756
```

# **Further Evaluation**

```
1 from textblob import TextBlob
3 def analyze sentiment(text):
      blob = TextBlob(text)
      sentiment score = blob.sentiment.polarity
 6
      return sentiment score
8 input sentiment scores = [analyze sentiment(article) for article in articles]
9 summary sentiment score = analyze sentiment(summary)
10
11 # Print sentiment scores
12 print("Sentiment Scores for Input Articles:", input sentiment scores)
13 print("Sentiment Score for Generated Summary:", summary sentiment score)
14
```

Sentiment Scores for Input Articles: [0.03284215784215785, 0.0780619477987899, -0.0011415172129457826]
Sentiment Score for Generated Summary: 0.016450216450216448

# **Further Evaluation**

```
1 from bert score import score
 2 1st = [summary]
 3 lang = "en"
 5 _, _, bert_score_input = score(lst, [" ".join(articles)], lang=lang)
 7 # Print BERTScore for comparison
 8 print("BERTScore for Generated Summary vs. Input Articles:", bert score input.mean().item())
config.json: 100%
                                                         482/482 [00:00<00:00, 7.05kB/s]
vocab.json: 100%
                                                         899k/899k [00:00<00:00, 4.57MB/s]
merges.txt: 100%
                                                        456k/456k [00:00<00:00, 3.54MB/s]
tokenizer.json: 100%
                                                           1.36M/1.36M [00:00<00:00, 6.82MB/s]
model.safetensors: 100%
                                                              1.42G/1.42G [00:26<00:00, 65.5MB/s]
Some weights of RobertaModel were not initialized from the model checkpoint at roberta-large and are newly initialized: ['roberta.pooler.dense.bias', 'roberta.pooler.dense.weight']
You should probably TRAIN this model on a down-stream task to be able to use it for predictions and inference.
BERTScore for Generated Summary vs. Input Articles: 0.9130830764770508
```

# **Conclusion**

We created a classifier that generalized well and generated a summary that was seemed to gather the most important details from the articles.

For further work we would want to improve our classification models to include more inbetween affiliation

# References

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# **Any Questions?**