

News With Friends



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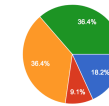
USER NEED

- * Name: Anna
- * Age: 21
- * Occupation: College Student
- * Goal: To be better informed on political current events
- * Current Solutions: Facebook News Feed, Occasional glance on Google News
- * Challenges: Quickly finding news articles, Staying motivated to read by myself, Gets bored reading lengthier and denser articles
- * Quote: "I try to read at least one news article a day but I find it really difficult to pick which one to read and end up getting demotivated after the first couple of days"

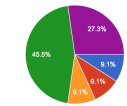
USER STUDY

11 interviewees
17 interview questions

After reading your friends' reactions, do you think you got a good summary of their articles?
11 responses

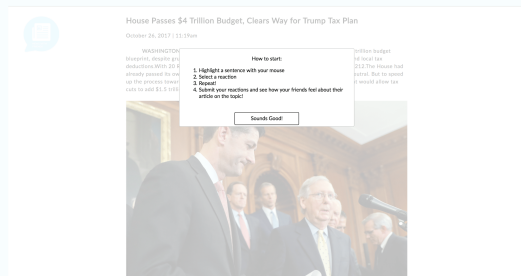


Was seeing your friends' reactions to their given article helpful for you understanding the various political perspectives?
11 responses



"Was especially interested in seeing what people reacted sad and angry to"
- Jocelyn, 18 years old

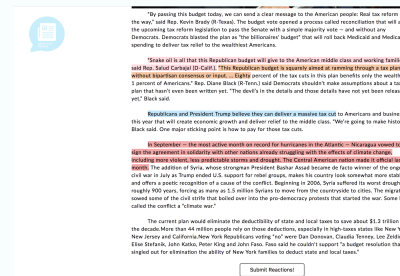
PROTOTYPE



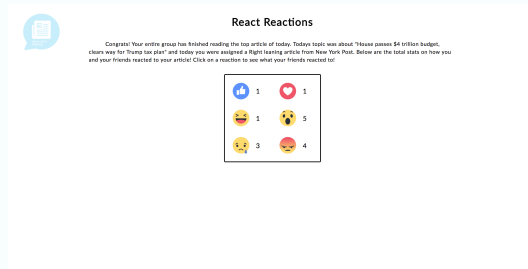
1) Users are presented brief instructions on how to react to the article



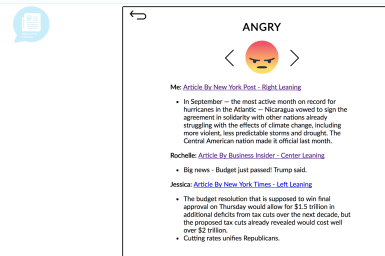
2) They are able to react to the article by highlighting and selecting an emoji reaction



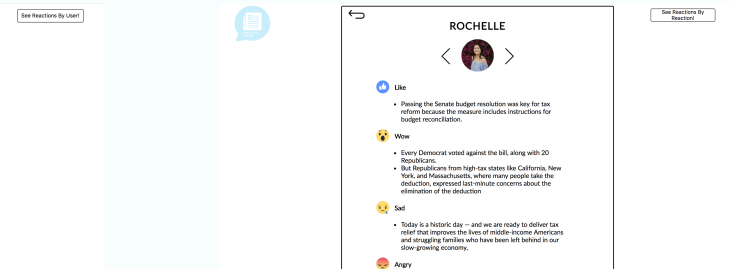
3) Different reactions are highlighted different color for visual emphasis



4) After reacting, users can see the accumulative reactions of all the group members



5) When viewing by reaction, users are able to see the reactions by each friend and their given article.



6) They are even given the option to view all of one specific friends' reactions.

News With Friends Demo Script

Hi! We are News With Friends, a messenger chatbot and web based application. Our names are Mehdi, Rochelle, Jessica and Alex. Over the course of the semester, our team has focused on helping users break out of their political echo chambers from the inside out, which means we wanted to allow them to openly discuss diverse political perspectives within their own friend group.

In particular, we focused on “How might we embolden the way millennials currently share news to make it amusing, yet effective towards understanding differing news opinions?” We did this by focusing on distributing the top news topic of the day to a group of friends and allow them to use 6 familiar reactions to show how the article makes them feel.

News with Friends is an easy three step application. First, is your interaction with the messenger group and chatbot. The messenger group allows friends to quickly and openly discuss about the topic after they read it and the chatbot is a fast and easy way to send out special links and facilitate discussions. The chatbot will send each individual an article on the top topic of the day, but with a catch that each individual will get an article from a different news source, so one might get an article from CNN, BBC, FOX news etc.

Second, the user can read and react to any parts of the article. When the user first comes across the article in our website, it is very minimalistic with no other information besides title, pictures, and content. This is to stop people from forming biases about the article before even reading it. Also, if a user knows the article given to them is from a news source they don't like, they are not very inclined to read it. When a user highlights parts of the article, a popover

with the 6 facebook reacts pops up, offering users to react to specific parts of the article differently.

Lastly, after submitting their reactions, the user can now see detailed stats in chart, by reaction and by user format to get a good and comprehensive summary of their friends reactions. Not only will they get a good summary of their friends reactions, but also they will be able to get a summary of other political perspectives without having to read multiple articles on the same topic. Based off our user research, over 70% of interviewees felt they got a good summary of other political perspectives from our product. Overall, the users are able to have this opportunity to read and engage in articles while being exposed to different perspectives, which make it easy to have discussions with friends afterward. and no longer go through the struggle of finding articles to read everyday.

Next steps for if we wanted to continue this project would be to do three things: alter the facebook reacts, make the chatbot more integrative, and provide more information in differing forms on statistics page.