

Leveraging Structured Trusted-Peer Assessments to Combat Misinformation Supplementary Materials

1 Study 1 Questionnaire

Some questions were displayed only or with certain wording based on participant's responses to prior questions.

1.1 General Reading and Sharing Practices

1. Where do you usually read news online? What do you like about these platforms?
2. Do you ever share news online with people you know? [multiple selection each with textboxes for elaboration]
 - I share news to inform others.
 - I share news to convey how I feel about a news post (e.g., that it makes me upset or happy).
 - I share news to analyze the post and provide my assessment of its legitimacy, accuracy, bias, etc.
 - I share news for other reasons.
 - I don't share news.
3. How often do you debate with your friends about politics, social issues, etc?
 - Always
 - Often
 - Sometimes
 - Occasionally
 - Never
4. Why do or don't you debate with your friends?
5. Do you debate with your friends in public, in private, or both?
 - often in public only
 - often in private only
 - sometimes in public and sometimes in private
6. Please explain why you debate with your friends [often in public only/often in private only/sometimes in public and sometimes in private].

1.2 Status Que of Sources within Social Circles

7. Are there people or organizations whom you follow who share posts online and have informed opinions on them that you find interesting?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

[if response to 7 is Yes or Maybe] 8. Please give some examples and why you find their posts interesting.

[if response to 7 is Yes or Maybe] 9. Do you ever seek their judgement or opinion on posts that you come across? How?

10. Do your friends ever rely on you to verify or refute information they find online?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 10 is Yes] 11. How do they do this? How do you respond?

[if response to 10 is Yes] 12. How do you feel about being asked about your opinion? How do you feel about providing your opinion to others?

13. Do you ever see people or organizations you follow online share content that you know to be false, biased, or of unverified accuracy, or that you later find to be false?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 14. Please give some examples.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 15. Do you ever tweak your feed (Facebook newsfeed or Twitter stream or other newsfeed) so you see fewer posts by these people or organizations?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 15 is yes] 16. How do you tweak your feed and why?

[if response to 15 is no] 17. Please explain why not.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 18. Do you ever mute or unfollow these people or organizations?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 18 is yes] 19. How do you mute or unfollow them and why?

[if response to 18 is no] 20. Please explain why not.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 21. Do you ever debate the credibility of the post posted by these people or organizations in private, for example through direct messages?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 21 is yes] 22. How do you debate such posts in private and why?

[if response to 21 is no] 23. Please explain why not.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 24. Do you ever debate the credibility of the post posted by these people or organizations in public, for example through comments?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 24 is yes] 25. How do you debate such posts in public and why?

[if response to 24 is no] 26. Please explain why not.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 27. Do you ever allow for some unreliable or false information to be in your feed because you want to be aware of what the others are posting or thinking?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 27 is yes] 28. Please explain why.

[if response to 27 is no] 29. Please explain why not.

[if response to 13 is Yes or Maybe] 30. Do you engage with such unreliable or false information in other ways? Please explain.

31. Are there people you follow or are friends with online who habitually share false or unreliable information?

- Yes
- No

32. Please give some examples.

[if response to 31 is yes] 33. Do you wish they would not share unreliable information?

- Yes, I wish they would not.
- No, I don't mind the unreliable information.

[if response to 33 is yes] 34. Why do you continue to follow them?

[if response to 33 is no] 35. Why don't you mind the unreliable information?

1.3 Current Trust Practices

36. How do you decide who to trust to share reliable content?

37. Have you ever changed your mind about trusting a person to share reliable content? Why?

1.4 Aspiration

Suppose you had a filter to block out all the misinformation on your feed (Facebook newsfeed or Twitter stream or other newsfeed). The filter will not block out humor or complaints or any post that is not news.

38. How often would you use the filter?

- Always

- Often
- Sometimes
- Occasionally
- Never

39. Why would or wouldn't you use the filter?

40. What controls would you want to have in such a filter? [multiple selection each with textboxes for elaboration]

- Change its level of skepticism
- Block inaccurate information
- Block information that has not been verified only on certain topics
- Block information that has not been verified only from certain people
- Others

41. Suppose someone you know posts misinformation. Would you want to flag the information as incorrect?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

[if response to 41 is no] 42. Why not?

[if response to 41 is yes or maybe] 43. How would you want to flag the information as incorrect? [multiple selection each with textboxes for elaboration]

- With publicly visible attribution
- Anonymously
- Anonymous to the poster but everyone else sees my attribution
- Other means

44. Would you want to talk to the poster and convince them to remove the post?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

[if response to 44 is yes or maybe] 45. Would you want to talk to the poster in public, in private, or both?

- only in public
- only in private
- both in public and in private

46. Please explain.

47. If you could specifically hunt for misinformation shared by your friends and respond to it or correct it, would you want to? Please explain.

48. If your friends asked you to help them filter out false or unreliable information from their feeds (Facebook newsfeed or Twitter stream or other newsfeed), would you want to help? Please explain. [multiple selection each with textboxes for elaboration]

- I would want to be notified when friends ask if something is true.
- I would want to proactively assess posts before my friends see them.
- I would want to assess posts after my friends share them.

- I would want to help via other means.
- I would not want to help.

49. Are there people who you would trust to filter out false or unreliable information from your news feed (Facebook newsfeed or Twitter stream or other newsfeed)? Would you want them to do so? [multiple selection each with textboxes for elaboration]

- I would want them to be notified when I ask if something is true.
- I would want them to proactively assess posts before I see them.
- I would want them to assess posts after I share them.
- I would want to give them the ability to remove false posts from my feed.
- I would want them to mark false posts in my feed as false but keep them in my feed.
- I would want them to help via other means.
- I would not want them to help.

50. Are there people you would trust to curate a feed of reliable information for you (e.g., by sharing reliable posts to you that you might find interesting)? Would you want them to do so?

1.5 Followup

51. Would you be ok with us emailing you with followup questions?

- Yes
- No

52. Soon, we will be conducting a user study on a news sharing and reading tool that we have built that provides some features the current tools do not. Would you be interested in being a participant in that user study?

- Yes, email me about the study.
- No, I'm not interested

53. What is your email? (This is asked because you either stated that you would like to be placed in the raffle for compensation or that you permitted us to send a followup email.)

1.6 Demographics

What is your age?

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree
- High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)
- Some college but no degree
- Associate degree in college (2-year)
- Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)
- Master's degree

- Doctoral degree
- Professional degree (JD, MD)

Information about income is very important to understand. Would you please give your best guess?
Please indicate the answer that includes your entire household income in (previous year) before taxes.

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$69,999
- \$70,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$89,999
- \$90,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Are you fluent in English?

- Yes
- No

Please choose whichever ethnicity that you identify with (you may choose more than one option):

- White/Caucasian
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other

Which of the following best describes your political position?

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent
- Other (specify)

Which of the following best describes your political preference?

- Strongly Democratic
- Democratic
- Lean Democratic
- Lean Republican
- Republican
- Strongly Republican

We are also interested in your *past* political preferences.

Please select any of the following preferences that have *ever* applied to you in the past. (You may select as many as you like)

- Strongly Democratic
- Democratic
- Lean Democratic
- Lean Republican
- Republican
- Strongly Republican

On social issues I am:

- Strongly Liberal
- Somewhat Liberal
- Moderate
- Somewhat Conservative
- Strongly Conservative

On economic issues I am:

- Strongly Liberal
- Somewhat Liberal
- Moderate
- Somewhat Conservative
- Strongly Conservative

How have your politics changed since you were young (if at all)?

- I am more strongly liberal
- I am somewhat more strongly liberal
- No change
- I am somewhat more strongly conservative
- I am more strongly conservative

Who did you vote for in the 2016 Presidential Election (if anyone)?

Reminder: This survey is anonymous.

- Hillary Clinton
- Donald Trump
- Other candidate (such as Jill Stein or Gary Johnson)
- I did not vote for reasons outside of my control
- I did not vote, but I could have
- I did not vote out of protest

Who did you vote for in the 2018 Congressional Election (if anyone)?

Reminder: This survey is anonymous.

- The Democratic Party candidate in my district
- The Republican Party candidate in my district
- Other candidate
- I did not vote for reasons outside of my control

- I did not vote, but I could have
- I did not vote out of protest

What percentage of your social circle (friends and family) do you think votes like yourself?

(For example: If you vote Democratic, what percentage also votes Democratic? / If you vote Republican, what percentage also votes Republican?)

“My political attitudes and beliefs are an important reflection of who I am”

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

“In general, my political attitudes and beliefs are an important part of my self-image”

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and public affairs?

- Not at all
- Not very
- Somewhat
- Extremely

Generally speaking, how often do you pay attention to information about politics and public affairs?

- Not at all
- Sometimes
- About half of the time
- Most of the time
- All of the time

Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

- Criticism from news organizations keeps political leaders from doing their job.
- Criticism from news organizations keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done.

In presenting the news dealing with political and social issues, do you think that news organizations deal fairly with all sides, or do they tend to favor one side?

- News organizations tend to deal fairly with all sides.

- News organizations tend to favor one side.

To what extent do you trust the information that comes from the following?

- National news organizations
- Local news organizations
- Friends and family
- Social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)

[The responses for each of the above items in the previous question are: None at all, A little, A moderate amount, A lot, A great deal.]

How strongly do you believe in the existence of a God or Gods?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 - Very much

Which of the following best describes your current stance toward God (or gods)?

- I believe in God
- I don't really take a stance on God
- I don't know whether or not God exists
- I don't believe in God

We are interested in what people *used to* believe about God (or gods).

Thinking about your past, which of the following categories would you have fit into (however loosely) at some point in your life (excluding childhood, of course)?

(please choose all that applied to you at any point in your past)

- I believed in God
- I didn't really take a stance on God
- I didn't know whether or not God exists
- I didn't believe in God

How have your religious beliefs changed since you were young (if at all)?

- I am more strongly non-religious
- I am somewhat more strongly non-religious
- No change
- I am somewhat more strongly religious
- I am more strongly religious

Please enter the ZIP code for your primary residence.

Reminder: This survey is anonymous.

Do you have any comments about our survey?

2 Platform's User Study (Study 2) Questionnaire

2.1 Filters

1. How often did you use the filters on your homepage to filter your articles?

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

[if response to 1 is rarely or never] 2. Why didn't you use the filters?

[if response to 1 is always, often, or sometimes] 3. What filters did you use and did you find them useful?

2.2 Following

The following are the sources you followed in the study. [An inserted picture of the sources the participant followed]

4. Were there sources you did not know in the system but you did follow? Why did you follow them?

5. Were there users you knew in the system that you did not follow? Why did you not follow them?

2.3 Sources

6. Did you mark any source (person or a news publishing entity) as trustworthy?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 6 is yes] 7. How did you decide who to trust?

8. Were there sources you followed who you didn't mark as trustworthy?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 8 is yes] 9. Why did you follow them but not trust them?

10. During the study, did you change your mind about trusting a source to share reliable content? (either trusting a source you did not trust before or untrusting a source you trusted before)

- Yes
- No

[if response to 10 is yes] 11. What made you change your mind?

12. Did you generally keep the articles that were not confirmed by your trusted sources out of your newsfeed (the articles shown to you on your homepage) through the filters or did you leave them in? Why?

13. Did you ever see sources you follow share content that you knew to be false, biased, or of unverified accuracy, or that you later found to be false?

- Yes

- Maybe
- No

[if response to 13 is yes or maybe] 14. Did you tweak your newsfeed or relationships with those sources so that you see fewer posts by those sources?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 14 is yes] 15. How did you tweak your newsfeed and why?

[if response to 14 is no] 16. Why not?

2.4 Assessments

[if response to 14 is no] 17. Do you believe the assessments you posted would help those who follow or trust you? How?

18. Did anyone ask for your assessment on a post?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 18 is yes] 19. How did you help?

[if response to 18 is yes] 20. How did you feel about providing your assessment?

21. Did you ever ask about the validity of a post?

- Yes
- No

[if response to 21 is yes] 22. How did you decide who to ask about the validity of the posts you inquired about?

[if response to 21 is yes] 23. How did you decide who to ask about the validity of the posts you inquired about?

[if response to 21 is yes] 24. Did they respond to your inquiry?

[if response to 21 is yes] 25. Did you find their assessment useful?

[if response to 21 is yes] 26. Did you pose the question anonymously? Why or why not?

2.5 Sharing

27. What kind of posts did you share?

28. Why did you share them?

29. How do you believe they helped the audience you shared them with?

2.6 Current Trust Practices on Social Media

30. Is there someone in your social circle whose judgement you trust but with whom you disagree on certain topics (e.g., you have different political affiliations)? Please explain.
31. Would you want to be able to see their assessments of news stories?
- Yes
 - Maybe
 - No
32. How would their assessment influence your thinking about those stories?
33. Conversely, do you think that your assessments influence their thinking?
34. Have you ever changed their mind or have they ever changed yours about certain aspects of the topic you disagree on? Please explain.

2.7 Strengths, Weaknesses, and Ideas for Improvement

35. How often did you use the system?
36. How does the system compare to the other news reading and sharing apps that you use?
37. What are the strengths of the system? Were there features that you especially liked?
38. What other features would you like to be added to the system?
39. What are the system's shortcomings?
40. On a scale of 1-5, how much would you like to use a tool similar to this?
- 5 (Very much)
 - 4
 - 3
 - 2
 - 1 (Not at all)
41. On a scale of 1-5, how much would you recommend using such a tool to your social circle?
- 5 (Very much)
 - 4
 - 3
 - 2
 - 1 (Not at all)
42. Are there people you know who you would particularly like to use a platform like this? Why? Please explain.
43. What do you think would encourage them to use the tool?
44. Is there any other comment or feedback you would like to give us?