

**Team 2 Interim Report**  
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**Definition of the problem:** The Mandela effect is when mass amounts of people have a clear memory of something that never happen in reality, this is because people are given false information, or connecting similar situations to the present one. An example of this comparison would be that Berenstein Bears many people have heard of the last name stein, when in fact In the shows actual spelling is Berenstein Bears not Berenstein Bears. Another example would be that many people believed that Nelson Mandela died in the 1980s in prison, and have a clear memory of it happening. He died in 2013. This is along the lines of what we are investigating, these next couple of months we will attempt to answer the question, what makes news, or random information, believable. Possible variables can include vocabulary used, where and how the information is presented, there is even the possibility of when the information is presented. One example of the importance of when things are posted is reddit, when you want to make something popular on reddit, you have to post when people are most active.

**Our plan for solving the problem computationally:** What we plan to do is make a mathematical model to take the information we input about people's reaction to information from news sources whether that be from a news channel, a website article, or word of mouth. This will help us to show what areas the mandela effect is most likely to originate from.

**The progress we have made up to this time:**

For programming, we still need to create a mathematical model to take the information we input about people's reactions to receiving information from different sources. This will start to take form as we see what sort of information we are receiving from our research. Research wise, we have been looking up different demonstrations of the mandela effect as well as giving a survey to our peers and hoping to spread to as many people through social media and giving written surveys. Overall, we are making good progress in what we need to have done, but we still have a lot to do, as we have changed project topics recently.

**The results we expect to get:** We expect to learn what forms of news (social media, word of mouth, etc.) are most accurate. This could be used to show things like how during an election, one phrase can spread to everyone through these sources. This would also be useful in advertisements to have the most people see a product.

**Citations :**

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