Borderline Cases

Dr P's Vision for Humanities



In this picture, I'm with my mom at a cafe in DC.

The vision in eleven words:

Hanging out at an awesome cafe, and learning to read critically.

What it will be like to visit our exhibition:

Walking into Dr. P's room is like walking into the perfect cafe - you can smell hot tea and coffee, and there are home-baked cakes and cookies artfully arranged on a table to your left. There's just one difference: the walls are covered with articles! A poster (or a flier, depending what we decide) explains that the articles are not to be trusted, and offers you a challenge. Can you read one, and explain why it isn't trustworthy?



You grab a cup of tea and a cookie, pick up an article, and sit down to read. For a little while, nobody talks to you - you're free to read on your own and chat about the article with the person you're sitting with. Then, a sharply-dressed student asks if they can join you, and asks what you've noticed about the article. They listen to your observations, then point out a few more things you didn't notice. When you ask them about "fake news", they explain it to you totally clearly.

You still haven't finished your tea, so you read a couple more articles. This time, you notice "red flags" that you hadn't noticed before. It feels like somebody taught you a secret code, and you leave better prepared than ever before to, in the words of the project's essential question, "find the truth in this crazy world."

What we need to do to achieve this:

We'll need seven squads to achieve this:

- I. Curation Squad to make the exhibition space beautiful, inviting, and functional
- II. **Editing Squad** to get all the articles "publication ready" and print them out in color
- III. **Baloney Detection Squad** to redesign the "red flags" doc so it looks better, and to coach everyone on how to be a "baloney detection expert" during exhibition
- IV. **Documentary/Process Squad** to document the final days of the project, and share the entire process with videos
- V. **Information Stations Squad** to present information about the things visitors are likely to be wondering about when they come to exhibition
- VI. **Catering/Fundraising Squad** to provide hot drinks and tasty treats on exhibition night, and to plan the tee shirt and tostilocos sales for after break
- VII. **Project Management Squad** to make sure exhibition preparation is timely, well-organized, and low-stress for everyone

You can read the details about what each squad does here.