

poetricks and politics: a literary spike for election results

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Big picture: How can we summarize elex results?



- Provocation: how can we do so... without existing visualization techniques?

Let's explore... with only text!

- How can we say *enough* (and possible more) with less?
- (elex-heliograf: cough cough, **exists...**)

Working def of "text" = 128 ASCII characters
(0-9, A-Z, a-z, !@#)

No color Some images***

No animation Some sounds***



limited... back to
the basics!

Idea: use traditional + new artistic techniques!

repetition

images***

+

new art &

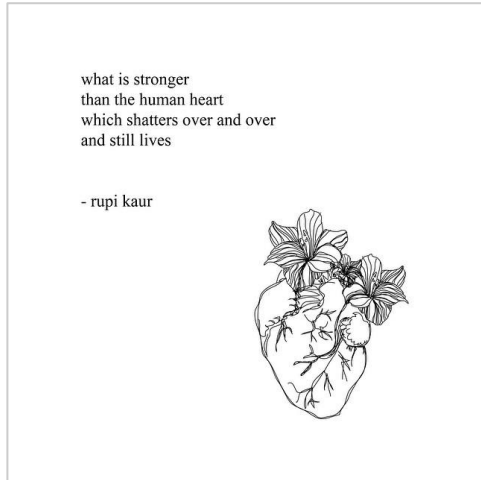
spacing

sounds***

media elements

Demo 1: "Rupi Kaur-esque" Race Calls

Instapoetry: accessible,
easy to read, limited by
platform design (# of char)



Rupi Kaur, *the sun and her flowers*, 2017

Race calls: accessible,
easy to read, and limited
by shareable platforms

```
ap
has called
2018 house
virginia district 9
for
morgan griffith (r)

~ race call bot

*****
###%* **(((
%### ((/
(( & ##
((( ####
```

Demo 1 c'd: "Rupi Kaur-esque" Race Calls

Text alignment & indentation

- Which candidates (and by proxy, their district) are left- or right-leaning
- Neutral for non-GOP or DEM candidates
- (note: unintentional butterfly)

ap	ap
has called	has called
2018 house	2018 house
virginia district 2	virginia district 1
for	for
elaine luria (d)	rob wittman (r)
~ race call bot	~ race call bot

```
*****
###%* *#(((
%### ((/
(( & ##
((( ####
```

```
*****
###%* *#(((
%### ((/
(( & ##
((( ####
```

Demo 2: Black Box Big Board, at a glance

Christopher Wool: black stencil on white, repeated layouts + verbal sounds

Stencil-style, 2016 Pres, sort on DEM (L) and GOP (R)



GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP
AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA
DEM	GOP	GOP	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	DEM	DEM
HI	IA	ID	IL	IN	KS	KY	LA	MA	MD
DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	DEM
ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	MT	NC	ND	NE	NH
DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
NJ	NM	NV	NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC
GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP
SD	TN	TX	UT	VA	VT	WA	WI	WV	WY

Black Box, 1989 (shown: 2004, Chicago Arts Inst.)
... is this slide deck a black box? (hmmm)

DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP
WA	NY	MN	HI	AK	GA	KY	MT	OK	TX
DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP
VT	NV	ME	DE	AL	IA	LA	NC	PA	UT
DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP
VA	NM	MD	CT	AR	ID	MI	ND	SC	WI
DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP
RI	NJ	MA	CO	AZ	IN	MO	NE	SD	WV
DEM	DEM	DEM	DEM	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP	GOP
OR	NH	IL	CA	FL	KS	MS	OH	TN	WY

2016 Presidential Race (sort based on party alignment)

Next steps: loose strings



Nifty threads

- Vote margins with whitespace
 - How “close” %-wise was the race?
 - 78000 votes vs 7 8 0 0 0 votes
- ASCII art state maps
 - Made from candidates key words
- Text-mine election-related articles for traditional forms

applications?

- elex-heliograf text generation fun times :)
- Slackbot race call → poetry add-on
- Shareable race calls (already Instagram-able!)