P3: Dark Horse Prototype
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Video Storyboard: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nE6FLtf_NHQ&feature=youtu.be

Brainstorm Ideas and Dark Horse Explanation

1. **/debate/ option in facebook messenger bot to invite chatters to a virtual debate room. Chat-with-me members who have expressed interest in the debate topic will get notifications to be an audience to watch the debate. The audience will then vote on the side they agree on, and the winning team will gain points that will contribute to their profile ranking. (This is the idea we ended up going with)**
Further explanation: This is a dark horse prototype that stems off of our original idea chat-with-me where users could get exposure to more diverse opinions by being placed in a group chat with 3 others, of which half of the people had differing views. In our dark horse idea, we have a /debate option in the facebook messenger bot instead where a user can initiate a debate on a certain topic and people can opt to join in. This debate is then launched using our debating chat-with-me application. The first 20 users can speak during the debate and the remainder will have the option of being audience members and voting which side they think won the debate afterwards. We believe this still addresses our goal of allowing people to explore diverse opinions but it does so in a not so comfortable environment as there are many others viewing and debating. This is particularly a dark horse prototype because it doesn't seek to burst echo chambers by exploring diverse opinions. It rewards participants for doubling down on their position. They only reason why a debater would listen to the other side's perspective and empathize with them is to create a good rebuttal. This idea is a dark horse because people are rewarded for standing firm in their opinions. With this idea, we are trying to see if increasing polarization stretches echo chambers like balloons, causing a pop to the entire thing.

2. Town Hall With Me - Web based app that rewards individuals for going to political town hall meetings. At the town hall meeting, the user must give a speech, but that speech has to be the opposite opinion of what they individually believe. So, for example, if someone is a pro-choice supporter, then they have to craft a speech for pro-life. They must film this and upload to the Town Hall With Me website where other users upvote/downvote. Users will get prizes based on their performance. This is a dark horse idea because public speaking makes people very uncomfortable and this encourages people to pretend like they believe in an opinion they don't believe in. This dark horse idea is interesting because it allows users to explore alternative ideas without needing a partner. The upvoting incentivizes proper performance and good acting instead of full empathy.

3. Shout With Me - Uber esque app that pairs up two individuals to meet up and shout their opinions at each other. They must scream it, but in turns so it's understandable (no screaming at the same time). Interactions are recorded and put on the Shout With Me

website so that others can learn from the confrontations others have. This is a dark horse idea because it turns our comfortable, similarity based HMW/initial design and suggests an extremely antagonistic, combative idea.

4. VR Political Boxing - People usually make political discussions into a competition. They try to win. Break up political discussions into a competitive portion to relieve tension amongst participants. With this VR app, you are paired up with someone with an opposing political opinion. You discuss the issue for 5 minutes, then are launched into a 5 minute VR boxing round that lets you release any tension. You get 5 more minutes to finish your discussion, allowing you to see how the civility in your discussion improves. Our HMW and original idea emphasize a safer space for discussing controversial opinions. This dark horse idea simulates an actual fight, which is orthogonal to our initial vision. This is also just an absurd idea because it encourages people to fight instead of bridging lines.

5. Web-based, buzzfeed esque-game/survey -> "Agreeably" - You're matched up with someone that has completely different political views than you and comes from a completely different background. You have 5 minutes in an anonymous chat with them to list out all of the similarities you share. On the web interface, your listed political opinions are visible to the other participant. After listing, you're scored and see how you compare against other duos.This game is meant to show that even the most extreme liberal and conservative have common ground. This idea is dark horse because instead of focusing on a controversial issues, it focuses on finding similarities between people. This is orthogonal and a completely different take on the issue of bursting echo chambers. In reality, this just shows people that people are similar, instead of getting them to understand the validity and perspectives around other issues.