

Logically.



CASE STUDY

FAKE NEWS

How Logically Live Fact Checked the 2020 US Presidential Debates

Live Fact Checking the US Presidential & Vice-Presidential Debates

Overview

Given the speed of today's news cycle, it has become increasingly difficult to fact check politicians' claims and distribute the results quickly enough to effectively challenge misleading statements at speed and at scale. By the time the fact has been verified, and a claim deemed false, the statement has often already embedded itself as fact into people's consciousness, at which point it is very hard to correct. Now more than ever it is imperative for people to have access to immediate fact checks to mitigate the rapid spread of misinformation before it has the chance to influence public opinion, and in turn, votes at elections.

Given the intense scrutiny surrounding the US election campaign, Logically purpose built a capability to detect

claims made during the 2020 US Presidential and Vice Presidential debates and verify them for viewers in real time. To achieve this, we needed to develop a first-of-its-kind automation tool that would replace the traditional, human method of fact checking that can be laborious and time-consuming.

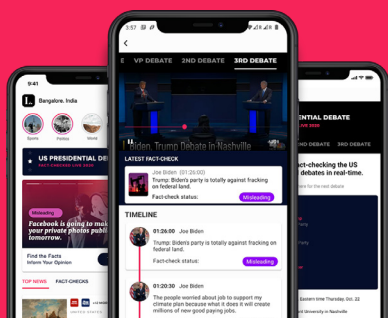
By leveraging our advanced multi-model AI, along with one of the largest dedicated fact checking teams in the world, we were able to provide voters in the US with near-instant access to the truth of claims made by the candidates, arming them with reliable information as they made their decision how to vote.

How we did it

In the months leading up to the debates, our data scientists made huge advances in natural language processing (NLP), information retrieval, and speech-to-text and speech recognition. This meant that when any of the candidates or moderators spoke, their speech was automatically transcribed into text, and from this transcription, our AI extracted claims and compared them with our existing fact check library, a process we call Automated Fact Checking (AFC). If our vast library didn't have the answer, our human fact checkers would start the research process.

The AI technology outputs were supervised and moderated by a team of Logically fact checkers and analysts who further verified the output of the AI on claims made by the debate participants. This extended intelligence enabled us to publish the highest number of live fact checks for the presidential debates compared to any other outlet, direct to viewers in the app.

With the automation in place, the Logically app could then stream the debates, while featuring a live and scrolling timeline of fact checked claims which were classified as true, false or misleading. In addition, viewers in the app were able to submit their own claims to fact check.



During the debates, there were three types of claims raised:

From our AI

Claims detected by the speech to text pipeline that was monitoring the live broadcast.

During the events, our AI detected the speech, turned it into text and then thresholds of quality were set based on factors including grammar, cohesiveness etc. All of the detected claims went through the speech to text pipeline that matched them to our existing fact check database. Low-quality speech was de-prioritised and checked by human fact-checkers after the event, whereas high-quality claims were prioritised and moderated during the event. In combination, this method led to a high success rate of fact check publication before the debate was even wrapped up.

From our team

Those raised by Logically's fact check team when it was felt a claim hadn't been picked up.

These were all moderated by the human fact check team, however, by the last debate the Automated Fact Match functionality was used more and more as the library of fact checks had grown exponentially during the debates.

From our users

Those raised by Logically consumers via the app or browser extension.

Users of our app and browser extension were able to submit claims which we were then assessed by our Automated Fact Match functionality. If there was no match, users then had the option to raise the claim to the team of human fact checkers.

Results

Logically successfully live-fact checked all three debates, two Presidential and one Vice-Presidential. For each debate, the team only published a fact check after it was verified, had credible sources linked to it, and imagery where necessary. To be able to achieve that at pace perfectly demonstrates how the combination of machine learning and human moderation not only reduced the turnaround time but also improved quality, giving us the ability to react to important live events like these.

Thanks to our world leading AI and first of its kind technology, claims that would normally have taken hours to review took only 15 minutes.

Out of 120 claims extracted by our AI pipeline during the three debates, we were able to respond to 62 claims, live. With the help of AI, our turnaround time for fact checks decreased by 70%, from an average of two hours per claim to almost fifteen to twenty minutes.

What's next

We are now in the process of formalising the live fact checking technology so it is available for other large-scale elections events in future.

What the media said



[How to Fact Check the Biden Vs Trump Presidential Debate Live Tonight](#)



[How to stream the first Presidential debate](#)



[Why AI live fact checked the 2020 US Presidential debates](#)