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A Content Analysis: Examining Facebook Comments on News Media Posts For Echo Chambers

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by

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Under the Direction of Toby Bolsen, PhD

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ABSTRACT

Social media serves as a way for people to connect. People can choose who they connect with, this can cause echo chambers to appear online and can also cause in/out groups to become present. This thesis will examine echo chambers and in/out groups using a content analysis of comments on news media posts on Facebook. The two issues being examined are abortion and immigration. We will be looking at three news media pages: Fox News, MSNBC, and ABC News. What the content analysis will seek out to find is that the partisan news sources Fox News and MSNBC will have echo chambers of information and will attack a person of the out-group if they comment. These echo chambers and in/out-group behaviors could lead to other problems such as polarization.

INDEX WORDS: Content Analysis, Echo Chambers, In/Out Groups, Social Media, Political Homophily

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DEDICATION

To my Dad, my late grandparents Arthur and Stella and Debbie Higgins, thank you for always pushing me to be my very best, supporting me, and always believing in me. To the rest of my family and my friends, thank you for supporting me on this journey none of it could have been possible with your kind words and encouragement.

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1   INTRODUCTION

Social media is an online platform where people can connect with family members and friends; Facebook is one of the social media sites where people connect. On Facebook, people can like news media pages and interact with other individuals on those posts made by a news media outlet. Social media is a place where people can interact with like-minded people and connect. When people can connect with other like-minded individuals it allows for echo chambers to occur, according to Jacobson et al. (2013). Sunstein (2015) defines an echo chamber as a space where people are exposed to the same ideas. I think that this goes beyond just ideas and opinions and expands to opinions. If the echo chamber includes opinions towards an out-group or even a party the people within the echo chamber will show that attitude, this attitude will be a negative one. Mutz (2006) discusses the importance of political discourse among people who have differing political beliefs, these echo chambers allow for "close-knit "communities to exist where they reiterate the same ideas and beliefs; thus meaning that when someone enters an echo chamber with a different opinion, they are unwelcome and rejected by the echo chamber. Brown (2000) discusses Social Identity Theory which is how people interact with groups, Brown discusses ingroup bias and how it relates to Social Identity Theory. Brown states that ingroup bias is a cause of Social Identity Theory.

Social media allows for pockets of ingroups and outgroups to exist, possibly more frequently than in normal social situations. Social media is a breeding ground for echo chambers and in/out groups to exist. Bernstein et al. say that "Belonging to social groups serves an important role in shaping our social identities" (2010). This sense of belonging to a group can be seen in echo chambers on social media that the people posting agree and echo the persons comment and they defend each other when a member of the out-group attacks or comments on

something that the in-group does not support. Through the content analysis, this thesis will tackle

the question of, do echo chambers exist on social media and do these echo chambers create an

ingroup/outgroup dynamic that could lead to other problems.

      After the 2016 election I noticed a shift in how people posted on differently on Facebook.

It seemed like people were more politically involved and they seem they were more radicalized.

According to a Pew article (Auxier, Anderson 2021) found that Facebook is one of the top sites

used by all age groups, but more specifically the older generations. With the large demographic

of people on Facebook it seems like the perfect place to examine echo chambers. This thesis will

examine echo chambers on Facebook to fill the hole in the literature.

      The purpose of this study is to examine echo chambers in the vacuum of social media to

show the presence of echo chambers in these news media posts. While also showing that in/out

groups exist in these echo chambers. My research question is: Do echo chambers exist on social

media, more specifically on partisan news sources such as MSNBC and Fox News? Do these

echo chambers then cause in/out groups to form? There are two research questions that this study

will be answering. The first is partisan news sources such as Fox News and MSNBC in this study

there will be more agreement thus an echo chamber on their Facebook posts than a moderate

news source such as ABC News. My content analysis of social media posts made by news

outlets such as Fox News, MSNBC, and ABC News, it'll examine these echo chambers and the

user agreement, disagreement and other factors that support the theory that people seek out like-

minded people on social media and therefore causes an echo chamber of information, ideas, and

attitudes to occur among the people in that echo chamber. The topics articles will be on Abortion

and Immigration on the list of news outlets above.

2   ECHO CHAMBERS IN POLITICS

Social media can be used as a way for elected officials and news media to connect with voters/citizens. As stated in Jacobson et al. (2016) echo chambers are where people are exposed to the same ideas. In the same article, the authors compare two cable news organizations in MSMBC's Rachel Maddow Show and Fox News' O'Reilly Factor. They looked at the Facebook pages of the two programs. Jacobson (2016) conducted a content analysis on two partisan shows in the MSNBC show Rachel Maddow Show and Fox News show O'Reilly Factor, they found that 41.98% of comments didn't focus on the news topic but instead focused on other issues such as how they felt about the show and the topic talked about. They conclude that audiences prefer certain news sources when discussing political events. This article illuminates that people have preferred news sources and in the setting of social media they can seek out these news sources and follow their page and interact with the posts. Furthermore, the author's findings show that people stick with their preferred news sources, and this ties in with echo chambers on social media. People will levitate to news media and other political content that aligns more with their political beliefs and opinions.

Quattrociocchi et al. (2016) discusses echo chambers on Facebook; their article examines Italy and the United States. The authors looked at trolls' posts in both the case of Italy and in the United States, they looked at posts debunking conspiracy theories. Their analysis found that when interacting on Facebook the users stick with like-minded people and they do not seek out others with different opinions. They conclude that Facebook users are highly polarized, these users are highly polarized because they interact with people with the same ideas and opinions and refute any idea that is different. This article adds to the existing literature that echo chambers do exist and that people seem to cling to their echo chambers.

Colleoni et al. (2014) examine political homophily on Twitter. Political homophily has been used by many in the field of political science; it means that people share the same ideas and views. As stated above they are like-minded individuals. Political homophily can help explain echo chambers that occur on social media. The authors found that when Twitter was examined as a social medium that there were "higher levels of homophily and a more echo chamber-like structure of communication" (2014). They also found that when Twitter was a news medium, it was "public sphere-like". The authors show that under certain circumstances, social media can act in different ways. Their data was from 2009 and that means that society can change, and social media has changed significantly since 2009. Their results show that echo chambers exist on social media; it may be under certain circumstances, but my research will show that echo chambers exist on these news media posts on Facebook.

Halpern and Gibbs (2013) examined online deliberation; they do this by examining social media channels managed by the White House. The two different social media sites they examine are Facebook and YouTube. They found that because people have personal information on their social media accounts that they are held to a higher standard. Although they found that people on social media sites where personal information is held cause social pressure for the user and influence how they act, when people are in echo chambers on social media they interact with how the people of the echo chamber interact.

O'Hara and Stevens (2015) look at echo chambers on the field of computer science. They state that because of these technologies, these groups are not exposed to other ideas thus creating an environment where they are only exposed to a limited number of ideas. A range of scholars across disciplines finds that echo chambers do exist on the internet.

Garimella et al. in their research discuss echo chambers regarding social media and political discourse. They find that Twitter users are exposed significantly to political opinions that they agree with. Not only can echo chambers be found on Facebook but on other social media apps like Twitter, this is invaluable research that these echo chambers are not exclusive to a certain social media site and that they can be found across social media platforms.

Brundidge and Rice (2009) talk about political engagement online, more specifically about information and how it spreads. They talk about selective exposure and how it affects like-minded people because as stated above, people can choose who they can interact with which leads to selective exposure and can form echo chambers on social media: they then discuss social boundaries. It is suggested that weakened social boundaries leads to more exposure and allows for diverse ideologies to converse. Conversely, my study will show the opposite due to selective exposure, people can choose what situations they get into online and can only interact with pages they follow, like or subscribe to. This piece is important to the literature because it shows the potential for the internet and social media. It can be a place where people of all ideologies can interact with each other and have a civil discussion but with selective exposure it might not occur.

Grevet et al. (2014) discuss political differences online, so how people discuss political issues that they don't agree on. They argue that "exposure to diversity can make us more informed as individuals and as a society" (2014, pg. 1400). They found what was expected that when people had differences with friends on Facebook that they didn't engage with them as much as the friends that were like-minded. This once again shows that people surround themselves with like-minded people. When not on the internet and interacting with people who you live with, go to school with and work with, there will be people that have different stances

on issues than you and that is a good thing because it leads to a healthy discussion. When social media becomes involved, you can have selective exposure and only interact with those who share the same political beliefs and therefore solidify an echo chamber. When a news source like MSNBC and Fox News is partisan it strengthens their echo chambers.

Garrett (2009) examines echo chambers as well and discusses selective exposure; their study found that people are more likely to seek out information that "reinforces their opinion". The author also found that people didn't like information that challenged their beliefs or opinions the author used samples from both conservative and liberal sites in this study examining the interactions on the internet sites. The author also stated that with internet use, users have more control over the consumption of their political exposure. These findings show that in the future and in the case of my study people not only seek out information that supports their ideas and opinions, they also do not like when there is information that challenges their opinions. If Garrett's study is true, that means that there will be less interaction of disagreement on Fox News and MSNBC posts than on ABC News.

Levendusky (2013) discusses partisan media. Specifically, how partisan media acts and if it polarizes viewers. Levendusky found that when viewers consume media shares their beliefs and opinions they become more extreme. Levendusky's work relates to these echo chambers that exist on partisan news media Facebook posts because it shows that people subscribe to these news sources that support their beliefs. Although Levendusky's article focuses on partisan media and polarization it adds to the literature of echo chambers because of their findings and how people act when exposed to partisan media. As stated above they become more extreme and this plays into my second research question that when people of the outgroup comment in opposition of the article or comment then the people of the ingroup will come to the defense of

that comment or article. When people are more extreme, they become less open to other ideas and opinions. Levendusy states that partisan media causes users to become more extreme, so partisan news media outlets are perpetuating the existence of echo chambers.

Stroud (2010) demonstrates that people choose which news media they expose themselves to. Stroud used NAES data for their research. Her research can be connected to the research about political homophily and how people can have these "homogeneous social networks" and "can be extended to homogeneous media exposure" (2010, pg 570). When people expose themselves to media that perpetuates their ideas then they will experience political homophily and echo chambers on partisan news media Facebook posts. Stroud's research furthers the importance to study echo chambers that do exist on social media.

In her book Hearing the Other Side, Diana Mutz (2006) discusses communication between people with differing political beliefs and how they communicate. She states that instead of having a "close-knit" community that have dense networks that there should be more weak networks of people with weaker ties. This makes sense and is important to understand my research. If you look at echo chambers, they are considered close-knit communities, therefore, these communities can be bad for democracy. It makes logical sense when Mutz discusses this because when you have people who are like-minded only interacting with other like-minded people then it could possibly result in polarization. These close-knit communities exist online, and according to Mutz, there should be networks where people have weaker ties for the flow of information. In the case of these pockets of partisan echo chambers, the best method of communication would be to interact on a non-partisan news post or a news media that is considered middle ground. So, in my content analysis, as stated there should be less of the existence of echo chambers on ABC News posts compared to the other two. Mutz is right

regarding exposing people to others and discussing politics in a setting where there are weaker

ties, it is hard to find in the world of social media. Although people on these news media posts

are interacting with people, they don't know they are sharing one important aspect, they have the

same beliefs and ideas. Mutz would agree that social media and how it is used does not help the

United States as a democracy. Social media, in theory, is a good way to keep in contact with

friends and family, but with the advancement of it comes different ways it can be used. Some

people may have the mindset that their opinion or beliefs are right so why go and discuss with

someone who disagrees when you can discuss it with other people who agree. Mutz states:

"Face-to-face discussions that cross lines of political difference are central to most conceptions

of deliberative democracy" (2006, pg. 4). Mutz believes that this face-to-face interaction is

important, and I must agree. People online can hide behind a screen and show a different

persona. When people are hiding behind a screen, they are unafraid of sharing their true feelings

and they can interact with like-minded people. Mutz knows the importance of people interacting

with other people with different political beliefs. She was discussing a story with her father and

his barber and how they have different beliefs but still talked about politics. Her father saw him

as a good man. The importance of this story is that you can have connections with people you

disagree with politically and still respect them. When the internet and social media came around

people could access news, blogs, groups, and pages that are catered to their specific beliefs and

interact with people with similar beliefs. This political homophily can be harmful to democracy

and echo chambers online can form and have detrimental effects on democracies. Without that

face-to-face contact, people become set in their ways because of the echo chambers reinforcing

their beliefs and they have a distaste towards the outgroup or political opposition and then could

become uncivil towards different views on a certain topic.

Guess et al. (2018) tackle this notion that echo chambers and selective exposure are less prevalent. States that there are 325 million people in the United States and states that the audience for Fox News and MSNBC is between 1-2 million viewers and that shows such as the Rachel Maddow Show and Hannity only see an uptick of 2-3 million viewers (2018, pg 8). They also discuss social media and stated that 67% of Americans get their news from social media. They also say that about 20% do get their news regularly from social media. Although the scholars bring up these points echo chambers still are prevalent to politics in America.

The literature regarding echo chambers is vast and it expands to different disciplines such as Political Science and Communication. Scholars have asked and answered many questions, but when examining the literature my research is looking at Facebook users, and news media pages and how these users interact to discover if echo chambers exist in these pockets of partisan news outlets. The next section will demonstrate how I collected, tested and examined the data to answer my research question. Echo chambers can be dangerous to our democracy and could lead to bigger problems. Mutz (2006) highlighted the problem of having discussions with the other side but did these echo chambers cause people to be set in their beliefs that they are resentful towards the other side?

3   METHODS AND DESIGN

Do echo chambers exist on social media? If so, do they exist on partisan news media posts? To answer these questions, I developed a content analysis instrument to identify and evaluate aspects of comments made on social media posts. I chose the following news outlets. MSNBC, Fox News and ABC News. The content analysis instrument was designed to capture factors such as whether the comment agrees with the post or disagrees with it, then examining

the replies to the original comment under that post; the code is capturing agreeableness if the

reply on the comment supports the original comment, and if they attack a person in the comment.

To ensure that the results are accurate I created a coding method for the comments on

these news media posts that examine the comments to ensure they matched the coding book

created. I chose two well-known partisan news outlets MSNBC and Fox News, ABC News was

the other news outlet used as a control for the non-partisan news outlet. There were two topics

and news that were used in the articles chosen, which were Abortion and Immigration. This was

intentional because both are hot button issues. Abortion and Immigration are partisan issues so to

get the maximum effect and to be able to examine the echo chambers it is paramount to use these

issues because of how different the left and right feel about the issues. The abortion news follows

an Alabama abortion ban signed into law by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and then the

Immigration articles were on former President Trump and his proposal to make a path to

citizenship for DACA recipients, and for clarification, DACA is a program for people who were

children when they migrated to the United States "illegally" with their parents. The content

analysis examines 298 comments across the three different news sources.

There are other codes in the design such as the tone of the post which means how the

original news media post comes off, such as neutral, in favor of the policy, or against the policy.

Other factors include if the commenter agrees with the post and if there were blatantly racist or

sexist remarks the reason for coding for racist and sexist remarks is because abortion is a

women's issue and DACA and immigration are mostly tied to central and south American people

coming across the southern US border. In the Social Media comments section, people can

directly reply to the comments as a reply, the coding instrument determined if it was an original

comment or if it was a reply to the original comment. The code and content analysis allow the

research question to be answered. The coding instrument used can be found in the appendix.

The coding for the content analysis was done by a single coder. This part will discuss the

codes used and how they were coded with examples from the data and coding instrument. There

are a total of nineteen codes.

The first code is coding the issue area, as stated above the two topics that the news media

outlets posted were Abortion and Immigration. The second code is for the source, meaning who

made the post between the three news media outlets of Fox News, MSNBC, and ABC News.

The third code is tone of the post, meaning based on the words used if the tone was positive

negative or neutral. The fourth code determines if it is the original comment or if it is a reply and

then the fifth code determines the deliberation it belongs to, meaning the original comment and

the replies to that original comment. The sixth code is if the comment supports the post. An

example would be found in deliberation 3. The original comment states "Great respect for this

lady… lots of guts to take on Roe v. Wade and we just might win this time…. Praying that we

could have one more Judge on the Supreme Court by then" as stated above the commenter is

referencing the Abortion ban in Alabama that was signed into law by the Alabama Governor. In

that same deliberation, there is a comment stating that Kay Ivey is the devil, and thus disagrees

with the post. I will be referencing the examples just stated for a few more codes. The seventh

code is the tone of the statement, the original commentator was coded as having a positive tone,

and conversely, the person that called the Alabama Governor the devil was coded as negative.

The eighth code is if the commentor included a link. The ninth code examines if the comment or

reply supports a particular party. An example can be found in deliberation 9 where the original

comment states "Remember to #voteblue2020 all the way" that same comment was then coded

for the tenth code which is party ID. The eleventh code is if a comment or reply attacks a party.

An example of the eleventh code can be found in deliberation 7 where someone states "We all

need to get together to vote out evil Trump and Republican Party!" the twelfth code is

determining the party that was attacked in the eleventh code. Code thirteen examines if the

comment or reply echoes the post and the first example states "Great respect for this lady… lots

of guts to take on Roe v. Wade and we just might win this time…. Praying that we could have

one more Judge on the Supreme Court by then". The remaining codes were not used but the

explanation for the coding can be found in the Appendix.

4   RESULTS

In this section, I will examine the results of the data I collected. These results will

demonstrate that echo chambers exist more so on partisan news posts like Fox News and

MSNBC than on the other news media like ABC News. The results section will discuss three

frequency tables with data from the content analysis.

The issue areas for these news media posts are on Abortion and Immigration. To be more

specific, the heartbeat bill in Alabama banned abortions after six weeks. The immigration posts

report the policy that Trump proposed that allowed for DACA and undocumented immigrants a

pathway to citizenship. Table 1 reports the percentage of comments that agreed, disagreed or

undetermined regarding supporting the original post made by the News Media pages. The table

shows that 62 of the 111 commenters of the Fox News posts on abortion and immigration agreed

with the original post. Conversely, the two articles caused the opposite effect on MSNBC who

saw 57 of the 82 commenters did not agree with the posts. This ties back into my research

question that these partisan news sources will have more agreement on their posts, although

MSNBC commenters didn't agree with the post it was not because of the wording of the post but

because of the policies of the abortion ban in Alabama and the new pathway to citizenship with

then President, Trump. Both these policies go against the echo chamber. Even though there were

57 commenters on MSNBC that disagreed with the post, the posts were neutral the viewers of

MSNBC disagree with what was reported on the abortion ban in Alabama and the pathway to

citizenship under Trump's proposal.

Table 1 it shows the percentage of comments or replies that agree with said post. When

looking at the percentages, there was 56% of commenters supported the Fox News post across

two issue areas. As stated above the two issues are on an abortion ban and President Trump's

immigration policy and so the number of commenters that supported the post was only 11

commenters at 13%. ABC news posts only saw 35% of commenters who supported their post.

Table 1 shows that 70% of MSNBC commentors disagreed with the abortion and

immigration posts but that is to be expected because both articles were right winged in the

abortion ban and Trump's immigration policy. Policies that typical left leaning people disagree

with. Although the commentors did not support the post the echo chamber still exists in their

collective disagreement with the posts.

Table 1

News Media

Support of Post	*ABC News*	*Fox News*	*MSNBC*	*Total*
Yes	37	62	11	110
	35%	56%	13%	37%
No	57	36	57	150
	54%	32%	70%	50%
N/A	11	13	14	38

	11%	12%	17%	13%
Total	105	111	82	298
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

NOTE: *This table shows the percentages of comments and replies that support a post by ABC New, Fox News and MSNBC on Facebook. The N/A category was put in place for comments that was neutral or didn't interact with the post.*

Table 1. is a frequency table that was run to see the percentage of people who support the post as discussed in the results section. The results section also touched on the fact that people on MSNBC posts were not supporting their posts. This can be due to most of the people commenting belonging to an echo chamber that does not support the policies posted by the news media outlet. To prove this to be the reasoning here is a deliberation that occurred on MSNBC's post on the Alabama governor Kay Ivey signing the abortion ban after 6 weeks. In the 8th deliberation, the original commenter stated: "That's not a woman, that's a republican" referring to Kay Ivey whom signed the bill, there were also comments that stated that Kay Ivey "had her female rights but takes them away for everyone else" there is some push back from people who agree with the bill saying the governor cares about babies. One person in the comments replied to a deleted comment that can be assumed used the word "trashy" in this comment the person states that "forcing little girls to birth a baby from a rapist, it's a risk to their life and super traumatic" the person called the person who deleted the comment a "Dirt ball hick". Most people in this deliberation agree that the bill is bad and infringes on the rights for women to choose. MSNBC captioned the post "Alabama Gov. Ivey signs near-total abortion ban bill designed to challenge Roe v. Wade into law." The caption shows the highlights negative points using "near-total ban" and to challenge the well-known court case Roe v. Wade. Because MSNBC is considered a partisan news source that leans left, the people who expose themselves to the news outlet will more than likely have more liberal positions and this deliberation shows

that. The 21st deliberation that had comments from the Trump immigration proposal on

MSNBC's post. The original comment asked Trump supporters if they were upset because "he

lied to their faces for saying for a year and a half "Mexico is going to pay for it" Others followed

suit to agree to state that they do not care what he does, and one commenter referred to the

infamous quote by President Trump stated that he could stand out on 5th Ave. and shoot

someone and not lose a single vote. This commenter said that President Trump was right.

On the other side of the political spectrum is Fox News, another partisan news outlet. As

seen in Table 1, Fox News commenters supported the post 56% of the time. Unlike MSNBC

commenters, the commenters on Fox News mostly supported the post because each article was

about a policy that republicans support in limiting abortions and immigration reform. In

deliberation 3 the first comment praises Kay Ivey for taking on Roe v. Wade. Other commenters

thanked Kay Ivey for signing the bill and said that God was watching and praised the original

commenter for their well-stated words. The 16th deliberation which is on President Trump's

immigration proposal is a prime example of commenters supporting the post. The original

comment in this deliberation supports the post and supports Trump and the proposal, most of the

comments in the deliberation also agreed with the post and the original commenter.

In the ABC News post there was crossover it saw less political homophily than the two

partisan news outlets Fox News and MSNBC. This ties back to the hypothesis that these echo

chambers are more prevalent on partisan news posts than on ABC News. An example of this is

the 13th deliberation in the data. The original commenter stated that they hope they (meaning the

government of Alabama) plan on taking care of the children. The next commenter referred to

people who are pro-life are Pro-Birth. A person replied and said that the responsibility is on the

two people who created the life, not the government. Another commenter asked if the

responsibility is on the parents who "chose to lay down together are responsible". Deliberation

27 shows differing perspectives on the ABC News post. The post had a link to an article and had

a video with a woman who is a DACA recipient. The original comment states that instead of

waiting for everything to be handed to her (DACA Recipient in the video) that she should've

gotten her citizenship. A commenter posted a link about how Dreamers couldn't just apply for

citizenship. Others agreed with the original commenter and others said that they do not know

how becoming a citizen in America works.

Table 1 shows that there are normative implications that these commenters on these news

media posts act strongly towards a certain issue area. These people still agree with each other on

these news media posts even if they are not in agreement with the original post. This shows that

echo chambers do exist more so on the partisan news sources' posts than on ABC News. The

deliberations strengthen the case of the research question as well as the validity of the first table.

Table 2

News Media

Echos Post or Comment	ABC News	Fox News	MSNBC	Total
Yes	51	57	40	148
	49%	51%	49%	50%
No	46	48	33	127
	44%	43%	40%	43%
N/A	8	6	9	23
	7%	6%	11%	7%
Total	105	111	82	298

100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

NOTE: This table shows the percentage of comments and replies that echos the post, original comment or a reply on the three news media posts on Facebook (ABC News, Fox News and MSNBC). The N/A category was put in place for comments that was neutral or didn't interact with the post

As stated, the issue areas for the data are abortion and immigration. Table 2 is the number of comments that echo the post or a comment. As shown in the table each news media post has at least 49% of comments and replies echo the post or original comment. This can have different implications such as when a Facebook user sees a news media post, they either seek out the people who agree with them or the user goes to the opposition to debate.

The second table tells a different story. In the second table, variables were run to see how often comments echoed the post or the original comment. Although the table shows that each news post saw a high percentage across the board of people echoing the news media posts and comments that there was also a high percentage that didn't echo the post or comments. This leads to a discovery that was not expected that ties into the theory of political homophily but may also bring in the work of Mutz and that is that the data in the table shows is that there may be two types of people on social media that seek out people who have the same views and others who seek out the opposition to debate. Each news media outlet shows this type of behavior in their comment sections on their posts. This next part of the discussion will examine Table 2 and its implications.

To show that there are two types of people on these news media posts the deliberations will be used to strengthen that idea. The first news media post to be examined is Fox News. In the second deliberation in the data had an original commenter stated that "When god is part of your argument, you've already lost" this commenter clearly didn't support the post and went further to indicate that people use God as part of the abortion argument. The original commenter

is one of those people that seek out to debate/fight with the opposition and their comment was

not well received. Commenters stated that "when you stop a beating heart it's always murder"

and others argued that if babies can have a different blood type than the mother then it's not their

body. As stated, the other type seeks out people with the same views. Deliberation 16 is a prime

example of people seeking out like-minded people. There was a comment in that deliberation

that they didn't agree with Trump's proposal but said they could get behind it with provisions.

Because mostly everyone in that deliberation supporting the proposal had their stance changed to

align with others who were like-minded.

Next is examining MSNBC's posts to find the two types of people that exist on these

news media posts. In deliberation nine on the MSNBC post about the Alabama abortion ban the

original commenter stated "remember to #voteblue2020 all the way" the first reply on that

comment was "No thanks, my guns rights are more important to me than this". This deliberation

is a prime example of people on these posts seeking out to debate. The context of the original

comment suggests that if you "vote blue" the Democrats will fight for pro-choice. The first reply

did not even acknowledge the article and stated that their gun right is more important, thus

suggesting that democrats will restrict somebody's right to own a firearm. The person who

replied immediately brought up another hot button issue to try and strike up a debate with people

that have opposing views. This interaction and the Fox News interaction talked about above

show that people who venture outside of their echo chamber only do so to debate with the

opposition. This is an interesting observation because this shows that the echo chambers are

effective in spreading the same information and ideas. These ideas and information are then

regurgitated onto the debate stage of another echo chamber. Strickland et al (2011) state that

there are three factors that contribute to a person's decision making, they are prior beliefs,

confirmation bias, and disconfirmation bias. The research done by Strickland et al. is important

in explaining these echo chambers that exist on these news media posts on Facebook. Applying

their research, it will tell you that when a person on social media sees a post, they already have a

prior beliefs and they will use those beliefs to form their opinion, once they head to the

comments section, they will look for confirmation bias to validate their beliefs and then debate

with others with differing views. Because of people's prior beliefs, they will seek out people who

agree with them.

Table 3

News Media

Tone of Comment or Reply	ABC News	Fox News	MSNBC	Total
Negative	55	56	41	152
	52%	50%	50%	51%
Positive	1	7	1	9
	1%	7%	1%	3%
Neutral	42	46	36	124
	40%	41%	44%	42%
N/A	7	2	4	13

7%	2%	5%	4%
Total 105	111	82	298
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

NOTE: *This table shows the percentage of comments and replies that had a specific tone such as negative, positive and neutral. Some replies were undetermined and are in the N/A section.*

Table 3 shows the tone of comments and replies. When looking at the tone of the comments I looked at the language used by the commenter to determine if the commenter had a negative, positive, or neutral tone when commenting. This means how the comment comes off based on the language that was used by the commenter. As the table above shows, there are significantly more comments that are negative than positive.

5   DISCUSSION

In this section, other research done on echo chambers will be illuminated to further the understanding and how my research relates to past research. In their discussions of echo chambers, Boutyline and Willer (2016) highlight what they call "Ideological Homophily". They state that "people with different political beliefs will exhibit systematically different levels of political homophily" (pg. 3). They think that more politically extreme individuals seek out others who share their beliefs. They found that more extreme and more conservative people experience homophily more than liberal and moderate people. Their results if applied to my study would state that the echo chambers on Fox News posts would be stronger than the echo chambers on the MSNBC posts. Their study was done in 2015 and the political landscape has changed since. Luzsa and Mayr (2021) a more recent article states that people tend to believe that most of the public believe their ideas when entrenched in echo chambers. Boutyline and Willer's research

suggests that it only affects extreme partisan people and more so people who lean right but what Luzsa and Mayr find is contrary to that and that people in these echo chambers believe that most of the public opinion agrees with them. My results show that partisan news outlets have an impact on echo chambers on social media and these echo chambers have become more rooted in their opinions and their consumption of partisan news sources that go against their opinions. My results also show that both MSNBC and Fox News posts saw a high agreement in the comment discourse highlighting that political ideology does not factor into whether someone is in an echo chamber.

Bail et al. (2018) did a study that examined how people acted when exposed to opposing views. They collected data by having people follow "Twitter bots" and these bots were tweeting and retweeting opposing views of the person in the study. They found after the study that liberal and conservative people ended up being more entrenched in their views. They saw more significance in Conservatives than liberals, but it affected both ideologies. This article shows how impactful echo chambers can be and how people when given information that goes against their ideologies refute it and become more entrenched in their beliefs. In my research, when there was dialog when it appeared to be with someone with differing views it seemed that there was no real dialog, rather an argument in who was right or often name-calling. Cinelli et al. (2021) discussed personalized algorithms on social media and how users choose what they interact with. When users interact with content that reiterates their beliefs then they become more set in those beliefs and ideas. Dubois and Blank (2018) seem to believe that echo chambers are overstated and that users choose their interactions. They state that when users have a diverse media diet that it does not lead to the participation of an echo chamber. They do highlight a part in their paper when discussing how people choose what they consume on social media and that has been

reiterated throughout this paper is that the people in these echo chambers actively participate in

the echo chamber and can cognitively choose what they interact with. Cinelli et al. (2020)

examined users media diet on Facebook and how selective exposure plays a role in the

consumption of their media diet. They found that users' exposure is limited to what they

consume. This suggests that even if users choose their interactions like Dubois and Blank (2018)

state that it is still a limited amount of material that the user is consuming. Del Vicario et al.

(2016) found that when people are more active in their echo chamber, the faster the echo

chamber and the active members have a negative approach. When examining the comments in

the results section I highlighted discourse amongst people with different beliefs and when

applying the knowledge gained from Del Vicario et al. this means that the more active people are

in their political echo chamber the more they see the opposing view in a negative light and the

more active these users are the more negative they become.

6   CONCLUSION

Echo chambers do in fact exist on social media. These echo chambers cause political

homophily where the same ideas and thoughts are regurgitated repeatedly leaving no room for

differing opinions. Echo chambers are not partisan as the research in this paper concludes, and

effects both MSNBC and Fox News users are almost identical when it comes to echo chambers

existing on their social media posts. Social media has many benefits when it comes to interacting

with loved ones and connecting with old friends but poses a real threat to American Democracy.

People can do a plethora of things to avoid and not interact with people with differing beliefs and

stick to their echo chamber and never be challenged by people of differing beliefs making them

more steadfast in their beliefs. The importance of the research done is that it adds to the existing

literature on echo chambers, but more specifically, it fills a hole in the literature in the lack of

research on Facebook and echo chambers. It is important to American Democracy that people have constructive debates and exchange ideas and beliefs, so we do not become even more polarized. There is so much more work to be done on Echo Chambers and how they affect political ideologies and beliefs. Social media needs to be researched more in depth and how it affects people. The main takeaway from this research is that these Echo Chambers do exist, and they are severely hampering actual dialog. Another key takeaway is the novelty of the coding instrument that was used and created to examine the comments. Some improvements can be made such as expanding upon the coding instrument to code for desired topics or tones. Future research should examine how echo chambers could possibly proliferate polarization in American Democracy and the impact social media has on that. Garimella et al. (2017) suggest that people levitate to more controversial issues when debating online. To combat this, future studies should examine issues that are not controversial. We need to understand if it is just the controversial issues that cause these echo chambers to exist and then see if unpolarized topics are affected as well. With the technology that the social media sites created i.e., algorithms, which make the users see posts that are like what they already have seen and agreed with. Should Social Media sites be held accountable for the proliferation of polarization and the existence of echo chambers that are widely documented and found on their sites? These questions when answered will add to the literature on echo chambers that exist on social media.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Coding Book for Thesis- Jacob Parsons
*NOTE: There will be a code for each comment and reply
*NOTE: This will look at the comments on similar post by MSNBC, Fox News, or ABC News on Facebook.
**Note that the coding was done by a single coder.
1. IA: There will be two different topic areas of reported news by MSNBC, Fox News, and ABC News.
0: Immigration
1: Abortion

2. SOU: The source is going to come from either Fox News, MSNBC, and CNN.
0: Fox News
1: MSNBC
2: ABC News
3. TP: Tone of post, does the post support the article?
0: Negative
1: Positive
2: Neutral
4. CoR: Comment or Reply
0: Comment
1: Reply
5. Deliberation
This code will group comments and replies together.
6. S_SoP: Support of post
0: Yes
1: No
7. T: Tone of statement
0: Negative
1: Positive
2: Neutral
8. S_PL: statement or reply posts link
0: Yes
1: No
9. S_SP: If the comment or reply supports a particular party
0: Yes
1: No

10. Party ID:
0: Republican
1: Democrat

11. S_AP: If the comment or reply attacks a particular party

0: Yes
1: No

   12. Party ID:
0: Republican
1: Democrat

   13. S_EC: statement echoes what the post states
0: Yes
1: No
   14. S_R: If there are explicitly racist remarks in the statement
0: Yes
1: No

   15. S_S: If there are explicitly sexist remarks in the statement
0: Yes
1: No

   16. S_AO: This is varying between the different names that people call each other. Statement
       Attacks Outgroup. Implicit means there are remarks made that can be interpreted as racist
       or sexist but, does not use racist or sexist remarks.
0: anti-LGBTQ remark
1: anti-Semitic remark
2: anti-immigrant remark
3: Implicitly racist
4: Implicitly sexist
5: Other
6: No

   17. S_PI: Statement is a Political Insult
0: Yes
1: No

   18. Party ID:
0: Republican
1: Democrat

   19. MISC: Add comment or notes that are not covered by other codes

Appendix B

Comments and Replies From Facebook Posts

Fox News Post Link on abortion:
https://www.facebook.com/15704546335/posts/10158090240906336/?d=n

Comments and replies deliberation 1
"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born."

— Ronald Reagan

Colton Sutton - I have noticed that most people AGAINST abortion are men

Jeanne Olson not true. There are a LOT of women against abortion. I think it's horrific.

Jeanne Most people wanting to take responsibility for their unborn children are men as well.
😉

I've noticed a lot of men sticking their nose in our reproductive rights.

Anne Sam not a right! A gift! If you don't like your reproductive organs have them removed!!

Anne Not literally, though. Those things smell like pennies! 🤢

Jeanne Olson Where did you get that information??

Anne Sam - well since they helped make the baby , maybe they should get a say. Women are quick to want child support, if they know who the baby daddy is.

Shelley Smith - Then don't have one

Jeanne Olson you'd be WRONG AGAIN JEANNE

Comments and replies deliberation 2
When "god" is part of your argument, you've already lost.

No when with god you never lose

Tracy Campbell When you stop a beating heart, it's Always murder....

Tracy Campbell no, when you are totally ok with killing unborn babies...it doesn't just make your argument invalid. It makes you evil.

Tracy Campbell I'm pretty sure they just won by passing the bill. But hey, you tried.

when the baby can have a different blood type then their mother has then you have lost, its not your body its their body

Bradley Sechler Unfortunately, you have no basis for your position. There's is no need to invoke your invisible totalitarian dictator in the abortion debate.

When murdering your baby is part of your argument youve not only lost but lost your humanity and your soul. Evil
He isn't a dictator he is a just an holy God an I hope you get to know him before it's to late

Edward Sinson I love the stupidity in these responses. Somehow, if I don't bow to your imaginary supreme dictator, I must advocate the killing of babies. I don't need ancient superstitions to value human life.

Yeaaaa but what can you do about it now?

Comments and replies deliberation 3

GREAT RESPECT FOR THIS LADY.....LOTS OF GUTS TO TAKE ON ROE vs WADE and we just might win this time....Praying that we could have one more Judge on the Supreme Court by then....

She is the devil

Revella Hice Excellent

Linda Cassell no you are

No to murder.

Shut up

AL 48th in poverty, keep voting these religious nuts they get what they deserve.

In your leftist wet dreams, Racheal Thomas.

hush up and go sit down

Revella Hice   Pray your uncle/dad doesn't get you pregnant coz you'll have to keep your nephson

Revella Hice God's watching and this Lady used her God given appointment to help this nation repent of its evil stand. Your words were/are also well stated.

Comments and replies deliberation 4
Thank you Alabama. God bless Alabama States and Governor Kay Ivey. ❤️ ❤️ 🙏 🙏USUS

Analulu Lokeni Castor please she then politicianed her out by saying that she signed it but it can't be enforced anyways because roe v wade.... Then why even sign it.... Political theater!!

Analulu Lokeni Castor will you pay for a rape victims
medical bills?

Why are you against women's rights?

Paul Anderson less than half of a percent of abortions are due to rape. As a tax payer, yes we probably will/are paying her medical Bill's. 👍
Rob Clewley WHy are you against babies rights??? The constitution does not say anything about giving women the right to kill the unborn..

Donald Ambrose it will go to the Supreme Court moron

Fetuses don't have rights. You have to be born to get rights.

Analulu Lokeni Castor yet.."Capital punishment is a legal penalty in the U.S. state of Alabama. Alabama has the highest per capita death penalty rate in the country. In some years, its courts impose more death sentences than Texas, a state that has a population five times as large. However, Texas has more executions per capita."

Rob Clewley please explain how being for a child's right to life..(a child that feels pain and has a heartbeat) is against women's rights?

Rob Clewley Why are you against a babys human right to live?

Comments and replies deliberation 5

Banning access to safe and legal abortion. How antiquated and regressive. Hope all involved lose their seats.

Cheryl Estridge agreed. Let's hand over our rights now as women. BS. It's MY body not the states/governments! We'll see more unsafe back alley again guaranteed.

Cheryl Estridge you will have to step up the pull out game or use rubbers

Cheryl Estridge here's an idea , if your not responsible enough to practice safe sex knowing the consequences, you should abstain from it. Real simple.

Cheryl Estridge MAGA ususus

Cheryl Estridge looks like no more birth control abortions for you!

In this day and age if you dont want to get pregnant get on birth control or use protection

Cheryl Estridge 🙏that you will come to Christ.

Foster Hardman better yet! Men use your hands and keep it in your pants. PLUS STEP UP YOUR game of being more financially responsible! What's wrong with men getting a birth control pill/shot? Oh right, duh men are forgetful and won't do it that's why it falls on women. Then the government should be handing out FREE birth control pills to every woman and FREE CONDOMS . Plus any teenage boy that gets a teenage girl pregnant automatically has to immediately start being financially responsible and his parents have to help with the financial expenses while both teenagers still have to go to school.

Cheryl Estridge I agree not to mention the psychopaths they are breeding, cause ya know a ten year old being raped and being prego and HAVING to have that child is such a great learning tool..... leads to such great mental health, and we are doing such a bang up job caring for that area of life.....

Karen Valentine if brains were gasoline you wouldn't have enough to power a piss ants moped for a lap around the inside of a Cheerio....
You and Cheryl Estridge should get together and binge watch reruns of the View.

MSNBC Post Link on abortion:
https://www.facebook.com/273864989376427/posts/2732223283540573/?d=n

Comment and replies deliberation 6

I guess this proves why you are 36th in education, 47th in health care and 50th in everything else. It's a shame.

Kip Malone they are 50th in education!!

Linda Lange I gave them credit, I'm sorry.

Kip Malone Ranked number 2 in football!!!

Scott Rash yeah, that's true!

Kip Malone indeed

Kip Malone What very telling data regarding mothers and their children! I'm sure Gov Ivey didn't think about these statistics before signing - but hey, don't worry about how your citizens

will be affected! Is she prepared to litigate this bill, does her state even have the money to pursue it???

Alabama is 50 in education

I suspect the emphasis on football and not education is why people vote against themselves so often in Alabama.

Kip Malone ...shameful and ignorant...as there reputation has always been. Want no abortion in 'Bama? NO SEX MEANS NO PREGNANCY!

Kip Malone I agree but don't generalize.

Comments and replies deliberation 7

VOTE OUT ALL REPUBLICANS IN 2020!

Theresa Brown pleeeeeaaaase! Holy crap the insanity that has happened. I can't take it anymore!

Theresa Brown, we all need to get together to vote out evil Trump and Republican Party! Comments and replies deliberation 8

That's not a woman ,that's a republican

Donna Keener too bad she had her female rights but takes them away for everyone else

Donna Keener has to be,because she cares about BABY'S

Scott White babies

Scott White BABY'S what?

Scott White nope, she cares about a fetus, not a baby

Donna Keener well said Donna.

Alicia Ferrell Rosenbaum yes

Donna Keener a republican man.

Mark Spinelli you know what's trashy? Forcing little girls to birth a baby from a rapist, its a risk to their life and super traumatic. You're a dirt ball hick.

Comments and replies deliberation 9

Remember to #voteblue2020 all the way

No thanks, my guns rights are more important to me than this.

Angela Gene dems never tried to come for your guns-you just believed fuxentertainment

Mary, my state didn't always have CHLs. When it was voted on, every democrat voted against it. They also voted against the castle law. So yes, they actually did try to take my rights.

Mary Ostrowski Do yourself a favor and block her.   She will say anything she can to get you riled up, then will report you for bullying her.

Ana Hazelton Amen!!!

Angela Gene show one bill that has taken a gun away in your state.

I will gladly vote blue!

You've been a loyal supporter, friend. I want YOU to become a Trump Executive Member. DONATE NOW & receive your OFFICIAL card: bit.ly/2Hqb45

Goody, I already posted a comment about how Democrats tried to infringe on gun rights in my state. Fortunately they were in the minority.
Ana Hazelton you think they can tell you about abortion oh just wait till you get socialism (blue) in power. You WILL be told everything to do! Government plantation will be it for you/all.

Comments and replies deliberation 10

Alabama: Where rape, incest and paedophilia is celebrated when it results in pregnancy, no matter how young the victim is!

Hell, with Roy Moore almost winning, even if it doesn't result in a pregnancy.

Sarah Parry Leo don't forget spousal abuse. Alabama is close to the worst state, 37,000 cases of beatings and killings last year.

Sarah Parry Leo Goes back to saying that a woman is property

Sarah Parry Leo That is just HORRIBLE. Line up some lawyers to sue the fathers of these victims and make them pay!

Sarah Parry Leo they are sick!

Judy Arenas How can a man who commits rape, incest or paedophilia pay when in jail? Or is that next? Lighter sentences and visitation for the perpetrators? Disgusting on so many levels!

Sarah Parry Leo exactly!! Shows you really who they are!!

Ken Slanker those are just the reported stats too.

Age of consent is only 16 as well.

Bede Marshall While I completely agree that this bill is disgusting, un-American, and downright horrendous, let's make sure before we make this about women vs. men we take a look at all of the facts. The bill was sponsored by Terri Collins, a female Republican Congresswoman, and signed into law by Kay Ivey who is the female Republican Governor of Alabama.

ABC News post link on Abortion:
https://www.facebook.com/86680728811/posts/10158410180463812/?d=n

Comments and replies deliberation 11

Sad to see a woman sign away "women's rights".

Sherry Medrano exactly. Makes me sick.

Sherry sadly there's a lot of them out there. How many of those women have unwanted children in their homes? I'm sure it's close to zero.

Sherry Medrano what about unborn little girls and boys rights

Exactly!!

It's too bad her bill didn't include health care provisions/guarantees, or funding for shelters for women/children or childcare provisions women so that those children can be cared for.....

Thank goodness a woman is saving lives of women. Late term abortions are highly risky to the mother... science. Plus that unborn girl is saved now too.

Sherry Medrano she cant have a baby anymore she dont care

This governor has borne no children herself. She has been married twice, both marriages ending in divorce. She has no idea what it is to go through a pregnancy, labor and delivery.

Sherry Medrano Sad to see people upset because killing babies is forbiden by law. Thanks Alabama.

Sherry Medrano couldnt agree more. I feel like she slapped all of us in our faces 😡 😢 🤬

Comments and replies deliberation 12

Welcome to Alabama. Please set your clocks back one hundred years.

Martin Kendal-Reed interesting how all the conversations about abortion do not include the male participant in any position of responsibility.....this is still seen as a woman's problem. Well we all know that it takes two.

Deborah Marlow Kennedy so a rape victim takes two? I'm pretty sure that 11 year old did not willingly participate.

No , I would say Human Rights advance us a hundred years. Babies have a right to life too. How about birth control with BOTH parties so that abortion should never be an issue???? I would say that would propel us in future progression as well.

Yes, two. She didn't rape herself.

Mary Lou Redmond birth control for both parties?? Pretty sure rapists dont give a f**k about birth control n a victim should NEVER be forced to give birth from a horrific incident she didnt ask for.

Martin Kendal-Reed but your ok with paying for taking care of illegal children...as long as it's not American children...

Mary Lou Redmond the same people who try to prohibit a woman's right to choose try to eliminate contraception. It's about subjugating women not sticking g up for babies. Conservatives have clearly shown that they don't care about human life outside of the womb.

Mary Lou Redmond please make sure to educate the rapist that they should always use birth control

Mary Lou Redmond so an 11 year old child should be on birth control just in case she is raped?

Martin Kendal-Reed yeah right welcome to being responsible fools

Comments and replies deliberation 13

I hope you plan on taking care of these children. That Will show how much you believe in the sanctity of life. Make sure they get good educations, sufficient food and roofs over their

heads. Not one of them should be homeless or abused. Do this and then you can say you believe in the sanctity life.

Judy that's right,Pro Birthers.

Judy Clarke that responsibility is for the two who created the life.

Thank you Judy Clarke. My sentiments exactly.

Judy Clarke:Try "Birth Control"!

Exactly. There are currently many forgotten kids in the foster care system that are just floundering and forgotten. Their lives matter.

Audrey Walund hey idiot did you know there also trying to go after birth control. And if they actually succeed with that. Then what are you gonna say

Audrey Walund You realize birth control is not 100% effective, right?

Mark Daviau Amen to that!

Aren't parents that chose to lay down together responsible for THEIR Children?!!

Birth control means cut all the men off.

Meanwhile, they don't want to fund assistance programs at the federal or state level, only dismantle what has been in place.You are only pro birth, NOT pro choice. Just a bunch of so called Christian HYPOCRITES......http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/article/war-poverty-and-todays-safety-net-0

Comments and replies deliberation 14

So much for separation of church and government.

Exactly what I was about to write

Only when it fits the Republicans narrative.

the moral majority has tried to push the psychosis of Roman myths for so long.

Sorry, but killing is still killing!

So much for science. And it is church and state sweetie. The gov't telling the church what to do, and vice versa. Not belief LOL

Melodee Buresh if you don't support it, don't get one and mind your own business.

Sorry-but being pro rape, is pro rape.

But YOU don't have the right to tell ME what to do with MY body!

Melodee Buresh Yeah, except it's not, there is that! Hope you're not on any form of contraception ... I mean, you are intentionally keeping life from forming at it's own free will! I guarantee it is what this weirdo of a "governor" thinks.

Franziska Best exactly

Comments and replies deliberation 15

"Life is precious and every life is a sacred gift from God". Unless you're poor, of color, an immigrant, are LGBTQA, or a refugee.

Or LGBTQ

Or get shot

This!!!

"Republicans care about babies from conception to birth, and then you're on your own until MILITARY AGE"

George Carlin.

Or female. Then you don't matter so much and don't have equal rights.

Or a rape victim

Deborah Stefanatos Avelis the gov is a female genius

say it loud and proud please

Beth Kamphaus Knotts oh please

Exactamente

Fox News Post on Immigration:
https://www.facebook.com/15704546335/posts/10156568584676336/?d=n

Comments and replies deliberation 16:

Listen president Trump thinks this is a good move we need to back his play because everything he has done up to this point has made America greater

Totally agree!! 😊

I agree. But I don't think he has to give this much. He BETTER be getting EVERYTHING he wanted for immigration reform in October

He has to give a little to her what he wants to pass. It's the art of politics (no pun intended)

I agree but I think this is another noose for Democrats left dangling by Trump. He's been extremely effective at trapping them so far. Democrats better be leery...

Agree! I now have a little more money in every paycheck because of the tax plan!

You dummies will follow him off a cliff lol 😂

I don't like it, but I can support it IF he gets what he wants out of the deal. I expected a "path to citizenship".

Are you still going to feel that way the next time one of these Dreamers kills an American?

Exactly! Well said°°^

That's probably the dumbest logic I've ever heard, but what do you expect at this point from Trump followers? 😂

Comments and replies deliberation 17

Did anyone hear what trump said? If they are an asset to America and hold a good job it could take 10 to 12 years to become a citizen! That isn't jumping to the head of the line! It's showing responsibility! Drug dealers thieves law breakers not included! Break the law at your own risk!

Plus no welfare, no SS, no free housing, no free health insurance or no cash. Let them take care of themselves. They are not citizens and do not deserve any of our services. We have homeless vets and hungry to take care of first.

Wow gee golly so basically it's staying the same right??? Idiot

To be fair, that's what DACA was going to do if he allowed it mature. They don't get benefits now and they pay taxes like of us already

Use the wall money to take care of the homeless vets and hungry
N then go to jail

Jacob , no deportation.   Be a law abiding citizen and you will become a legal cutuzen. Seems fair

They are still ahead of Russians, Brazilians, Chinese, and every OTHER nationality in getting here legally and benefiting from it. THAT PUTS THEM AT THE HEAD OF THE LINE!!!! They need to leave here and follow the constitutional law, not some made up dem voting scheme

If DACA so-called "dreamers" don't press on democrats there will be "NO CHAIRS LEFT WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS!"
the clock is ticking and the DEAL IS VERY SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND:
DEMS give us a vote to APPROPIATE THE MONEY TO FUND THE WALL AND THE OTHER COMPONENTS IN THE IMMIGRATION REFORM STATED BY TRUMP SINCE HIS FIRST CAMPAIN RALLIES... or... DACA EXPIRES AND ICE HAS A GREEN LIGHT TO START DEPORTATIONS!
NO WALL NO DEAL, Mr SCHUMER!ususus

I have no problem with this plan. I think it's fair! Trouble makers will be deported and the good people will stay as long as they stay good in that time period.

There go your tax cuts, bonuses and raises to pay for a wall he promised Mexico would pay for. Tell him to start a Go Fund Me Page and let's see how generously you donate for the wall!

Comments and replies deliberation 18

At the end of the day, democrats only want dreamers for their votes eventually.
TRUMP is still gonna win the next election. With or without the dreamers! Lol

He won't make it to 2020

Loretta Brown he will be president the next 7 years. OBAMA was a long 8 years of zero accomplishments and nothing but apology tours.

Mueller will get him or death will first.

Loretta Brown well according to Kerry and Soros that's the plan anyway

Loretta Brown is that a threat?

Dreamers won't be able to vote in 2020 based on what's outline here.
And what makes you assume they'd vote democrat?

Loretta Brown you're delusional lady, just sit back and watch Hildabeast and obama go to jail. Wait for it.

Loretta Brown Loretta Brown keep dreaming. TRUMP's Yo' daddy 7 more years 😂✊🏽

Loretta Brown your surname should be Clown.

At the end of the day you're still an idiot.

Comments and replies deliberation 19

For illegal immigrant and descendents:
• No citizenship
• No Birthright citizenship, eliminate chain migration
• Can never obtain public assistance
• No right to vote...ever! Violations result in deportation
• No Federally funded college tuition
• Eliminate VISA Lottery
• Felony = Deportation
• Must pay State/Federal Tax
• Build the wall whether by brick or virtually as necessary
• Steep fines (100k per head) for any employer hiring an illegal alian
• Steep fines (100k per head) for any city harboring an illegal alian along with with criminal charge against city officials.

See if Democrats want them then !!

If you are born in this country regardless of your parents citizenship status you are a citizen. So take the descendants out of your post or you make us other trump supporters look retarded

You and your parents won't be in America if the native Americans had applied your immigration policy.

My favorite...can see how that's gonna appeal to a lot of people👍

Correct, the American people deserve corrections to our corrupt government and permanent elimination of this corruption.

If Trump delivers the wall and a path for 1.8 million ppl. That will net him millions of votes next round. Winning.

Self hating Hispanic eh?

Adua Sam the native Americans didn't have immigration laws. And you're basically saying that a nation needs to protect its borders or it will be overrun and conquered.

Descendents too eh? So when are you going to start packing?

Not everyone migrates here illegally savadol

13th, 14th and 15th Amendment makes your entire checklist invalid lol

Comments and replies deliberation 20

A pathway to citizenship is better than amnesty! President Trump is still keeping his campaign promises including the wall. #MAGA
A pathway to citizenship IS amnesty. #MuellerAintGoingAway

Dan Haynes Better look that up! Hahaha😂

In my opinion, only the less than 26% of Americans who voted for that racist child rapist Trump and believed him when he lied and said Mexico would pay for the Wall, should have their tax dollars spent on that Wall of Racism

In my opinion John Frank you're ignorant.

Dan Haynes He sure isn't with all the crap he's finding on Hillary and Obama.

The wall that you will be paying for

How about giving them a pathway back to shithole Mexico

You mean exactly what Obama promised them? 😅

The mental gymnastics that you retards have to do, in order to keep supporting Trump, is impressive.

Really because he promised Mexico would pay for the wall.

MSNBC Post link on immigration:
https://www.facebook.com/273864989376427/posts/1921566717939571/?d=n

Comments and replies deliberation 21

Aren't the Trumpsters upset that he lied to their faces for a year and a half saying "Mexico is gonna pay for it"?

They truly don't care what he does.

No, we're more upset that Democrats don't care about 'Dreamers' today. Checkmate. You Democrats lit yet another exploding cigar. You got outmanuevered AGAIN by Trump. He'll really humiliate Democrats over this issue on Tuesday. SOTU.

Nope. Because when we stop the inflow it will start to pay for itself - so Mexico pays for it indirectly, and we can still show some compassion to deserving DACA participants who know no other home. As a Trump supporter, I would be more than satisfied.

They forgive him anything. It's insane

Bruce Porter lol. Nonsense. We save 1.8 billion? The wall is usele6

He was right. He could shoot somebody on 5th avenue and not lose a single vote.
Steve Carter really? How do you figure that. This is the problem with your hero and his supporters. You think and act like this is a game. This is people's lives. This is why Hillary called you deplorable. You people are sickening

Steve Carter you all use humans like they are pawns

And the reason why Chris Maiuri is because the Democratic Party is no longer formidable enough to compete with the right wing hate machine. Trump steals the DACA/Dreamer issue and it's the end of the line for Democrats.

Trump cares about dreamers. HAHAHAHA. That's awesome.
He JUST asked in a meeting "why do we need more people from those shithole countries?"

Comments and replies deliberation 22

Trump 2016 - 'Mexico will pay for the wall.'
Trump 2017 - 'you will pay for the wall and Mexico will pay you back.'
Trump 2018 - ' you will pay for the wall or no DACA'.
So much winning.
And no, this is not negotiating. Negotiating with Mexico for the wall is negotiating. Forcing us to pay for the wall is not negotiating. That is failure.

Yeah it is negotiating. It's negotiating with the democrats if you haven't heard. Wall for DACA. It's called compromising.

No. That's a failure.

Leigh Gabel Might want to go read the definition of "failure"

You apparently misunderstand the word

Then you evidently can't read.
Mexico isn't paying for the wall like they are supposed to because chicken Trump took their 'no' and never looked back. Could not negotiate his way out of a wet paper bag and now he's bankrupting us to pay for the useless wall.
Go back to Mexico. Get them to pay for the wall like he promised.
If this had been Obama reneging on a campaign promise, you'd be screaming.

Leigh Gabel Trump is going to Bankrupt the country after building a wall that costs 50 billion dollars? We're 20 trillion dollars in debt today. You're late to the party.
"Could not negotiate his way out of a wet paper back"
After you just admitted that the wall is getting built....
After he negotiating with the democrats to get it built.
Wanna try again?

"Had this been Obama" what does Obama have to do with anything?!? What are you talking about? Lol

Leigh Gabel it's clear that your hatred for Trump has blurred your sense of reason. If Trump doesn't get Mexico to pay for the wall, that doesn't mean he's a "failure"
No one expects any politician to be successful with every campaign promise. If he gets more than 50% of his goals accomplished, that's a subjective win to most people

Cameron Ater Yeah ,let's compromise people's lives with building a wall, that Mexico will never pay for, so why whould we?

The wall will pay for it's self. Billions of dollars leaves the us from drug, gun and human trafficking. Less illegal immigrants means less tax dollars going for entitlements and other costs. Less criminals like gang members of ms-13 will mean less people in our prisons, less costs. Right now we have a trading deficit when dealing with Mexico, we have help build up their economy at the expensive of our own. Now it's time to equalized NFTA . Yes indirectly Mexico will pay for it. #releasethememo

Richard Derrick We should pay for that wall because ultimately it will save us trillions of dollars. Less illegal immigrants helps our economy. Curtailing drug, gun and human trafficking will save us trillions. #releasethememo

Comments and replies deliberation 23

Funny I wonder how many billions of dollars Donald Trump plans to embezzle while building the obsolete wall, I bet Halliburton gets the contract so he makes money from his stock in the company also.

I think he will build or get crooked pals to build and get a cut of more then 50 percent or better, the price, of the wall, a cut,pay for play ,all saw in ny ,that's why he lost his home state a big clue,

Every time he mentions the wall the price tag goes up last week it was 18 billion, now he is asking for 25 billion. Plus it is no good for environment or wild animals. Will only stop weak refugees while cartel will have their tunnels and aircraft and corrupt police doing business as usual.

Embezzle that would be what the clintons did to Haiti 🙄

Comments and replies deliberation 24

Durbin and Schumer better not spend 1 effing dime of my $$ on that stupid wall! I say give the govt $$ for agents ON the border in exchange for granting immediate citizenship for DREAMers. The rest of the issues should be debated after the new blue congress takes over after Nov.

What are you going to do if Schumer and Durbin build the wall? Go ahead, say it! Your not even from their state!😂

You couldn't pay me enough to put myself through that kind of bs.

James Whitsell I lived and worked on the border from Falcon Dam to S Padre Is for 5+ yrs while they started their stupid fence that trump wants to turn into a wall. It created way more problems than it solved. Taking private property from American citizens to build a 1/2 mi segment here then 10 miles then 1/2 mi there. Ridiculous waste of $. I now live in Durbin's state.

Comments and replies deliberation 25

Mr. President.....you have stated time and time again that Mexico will pay for YOUR WALL, so..........don't hold DACA recipients hostage   because you've LIED again to you gullible constituents. BTW, Happy belated Anniversary to you and your 'Porn Star Acquaintance' Stormy Daniels. That will always be easy for us to remember ....because it's the birth year (2006) of your son Baron with his mother, your wife..... Melania.

Obama stated over & over our insurance premiums would go down too. I'm still waiting.

Elisa Bohon Yount Wilson and Trump said over and over and over that Mexico will pay for the wall. Are u waiting for that? I am.

Comments and replies deliberation 26

We have a brainless comander 🍊 thief trying to negotiate kids future

None of them are kids now. Look at you drinking the liberal Kool Aid. President Trump is playing chess. We just have to sit back and watch his moves. He is so far ahead of them he's making them dizzy. So I like where this is going. Where is the popcorn and coke? This is going to be fun.

Well Trump should stop playing chess because he's not mentally capable to make nobody dizzy and get ready for Mueller because he will need whole lots of toilet paper

ABC News Post link on immigration:

Comments and replies deliberation 27

why didn't she get her citizenship instead of waiting for everything to be handed to her

https://www.google.com/amp/minnesota.cbslocal.com/2017/09/05/gq-dreamers-citizenship/amp/

She was hoping hillary would made office

You're stupid as hell Wanda.

There is nothing in America that is Free ?

How are you even Americans and don't know the logic of becoming a US Citizen?

Jeez! I am tired of reading ridiculous comments of uninformed people like Wanda.

Why are trump supporters this stupid?

How many times do we have to say this. They had no path to citizenship.

Why do all Americans think you can just apply for citizenship and it will be handed over to you? If that was the case do you think there would be undocumented people? Do you think people want to be in a country undocumented? Why not get educated on how immigration work and then come back to comment!

I gues the truth hurts

Comments and replies deliberation 28

Should have been working on your citizenship while you was doing nothing but complaining time is a wasting!

Exactly well said!!

I'm sure she has. Many do not have a path to citizenship.

Kenny Heath you think that was well said?!?! That's was barely English. Jesus Christ

@john foster your statement is the typical ignorant rebuttal that plays out over and over. Either you people don't read, too lazy to read, or just too biased to understand that there was no pathway. They couldn't apply for anything end of story damn I wish you people wouldn't be so ignorant if you're going to speak out against it.

Thank you Eric Carrillo!

Why is it that the ones that lack the knowledge of an issue are the first to comment?

Another one. There was no path to citizenship. Boy we really need to work on our poor education in this country.

It is really sad we have to deal with this ignorance on this grand of scale. Millions of voters can't even get one single issue correct.

Looking for a sugar daddy or a sugar mama

Seems to me they were expecting Hillary to become president and they wouldn't have to worry about citizenship!

Comments and replies deliberation 29

Take it up with your parents who placed you in harms way. Citizenship isn't granted just because you want it. It is a privilege, not a right.   We all live with the consequences of the decisions and choices our parents made for us - good and bad.   So do you.

Posted a gif that says "what happened your balls drop off?"

Don't hold back, go full douche on us.

Brandon Thrasher Brilliant demonstration of intellect and a cogent argument. You look to be the oldest in your third grade class. You might want to lay off the cheetos a bit at recess. . . just sayin' .

Posted gif of trump mocking a reporter with disability
oh look a stupid comment who things that kids should be held accountable to their parents crimes. by this logic if your parents were murders you as the child should serve the time.

Well, Gary Adams, she's not a kid NOW, is she.

Gary Adams Learn how to spell

Gary Adams These are not kids they are adults

Comments and replies deliberation 30

And so ABC picks a Lady that just so happens is going to get deported if she don't get her citizenship ... So what has she been doing ... Oh she wasn't worried about it until now .. Until we finally have a President standing his ground doing what he said he would do .., I Think we have a Great President ,, Yes he is blunt and straight to the point. With no filter and I Respect him even more for that ...

What she has done is follow the rules of DACA.

It's always abc, cnn, msnbc etc... fault just admitted already you voted for a racist now you trump supporters are blaming everyone but Jesus Christ

Shame on you. You should be ashamed of yourself. We should not be treating fellow Americans like this. You are part of this problem.

There is currently no pathway to citizenship for DACA people. Otherwise they would take it and thats what they are fighting for.

But lets blame Trump for attempting to solve the problem, what did Obama do ?

"Blunt and straight to the point"--keywords for bigoted. And you accept the fact that he is bigoted. And that is sad.

Cornelius Rodgers all that he could

Lisa Donaho That is not our law. If you go to her other country, the one she carries the flag for, do you think they would give you food shelter and money. We have been giving them handouts for years, tax free. Your money at work.

blame Mcconnell, he stood in the way of every good thing Obama presented. This is his mess.

Patrick Lavergne They pay to be in America. They pay taxes. They do not commit crimes. They contribute 500 billion to the economy. What have they done to you?

Comments and replies deliberation 31

i have neighbors who got their citizen ship quick!!! they didnt live here 20 plus years without.. it can be done if you want to do it

Took my hubby 10 years to get his green card but he got it as soon as he got here. Now he is a citizen and in the military.
just seems.everyone whos so upset has been sitting and doing nothing.to get it

DACA recipients cannot apply for citizenship. That is the entire problem.

Erin Bode. Not true!! They can!

Bulshit Terry they cannot. You don't even know what the hell you're talking about

It is true Terrie - read up on it.

So apply for your green card. No everyone in my family is a citizen but they have their green card

Terrie Reitz do you have a source? I've been hearing they can and can't i'm really confused

But just so you know my hubby came when he was 6 illegally and is now a citizen

i just read they cannot. because they entered either.overstaying their visa.or.illegally. well that sums that up