1. What world problem are you concerned about?

   I am concerned with accuracy in politics and campaigns. It is increasingly difficult to take politicians and political groups seriously. Things they say can be understood any number of ways, and this is an intentional rhetoric tool for obscuring the message while garnering as much support as possible. Every speech, sentence, and word is chosen for its connotative and denotative meanings. Given the nature of political speak, one of the better ways to get a feel for a particular candidate or official is to look at their funding. Campaign finance laws have been reduce to a mockery of their intended purpose, and we now have corporations bankrolling campaigns.

2. Why is this problem important?

   This is an important issue because when the intentions or passions of a leader are muddled, it is difficult for the population to discern whether or not a given person would best represent their interests. Democracy is a political system that relies heavily on the assumption that the population is somewhat educated on the matters at hand. Democracy is only as strong as the population it represents, and in this instance knowledge truly is power. Only through accurate information are people able to vote who they feel would represent them best.

3. What aspect of this problem seems particularly important to you?

   An important aspect of this problem is that massive amounts of information are available to the public, but it takes quite an undertaking to parse the web for all available information. There is no single source where one can compare and contrast potential elected officials. You can use public records to look at a persons legislative history, political fact checking website to verify the accuracy of statements, and campaign finance records to see where a person is getting their funding, and even further digging to research who is behind what PAC or what "Jobs for Iowa PAC" really stands for.\

4. How could a new software system help to solve this aspect of the problem?

   A software system that could parse all of these sources, organize them, and make them easily searchable and accessible could greatly effect the way people view their politicians. A database that holds a backlog of legislative and finance records could be used to compare and contrast things said in interviews or speeches. If it is known that said candidate often misrepresents or fudges information, that information would be made prominent. Political bias is most certainly present in everything. The system would strive to reduce the impact of any bias present in the creators, administrators, maintainers, users, and sources for the system. The goal is to provide a single stop service for accurately representing political figures.

5. Why do you think that this idea will make a big impact on the world?

   This would have the potential for major change through the worlds political structure. There is nothing more powerful than the quick dissemination of information, and there is nothing better for democracy than the ability of the people to see clearly how the political system works, and who their leaders really are. Like any democratic system, it's effectiveness is dependent on the participation by the people. If no one takes advantage of the system I have in mind, it won't do anything. But if it is implemented and integrated into existing media outlets, it may have a drastic impact on the way people see their government.

6. What sources did you use in writing this Vision Statement?

In writing this vision statement I used no outside sources aside from my past experiences paying attention to current and political events.