

Salvation Through Education : The Gerrymandering Website

Chapman University



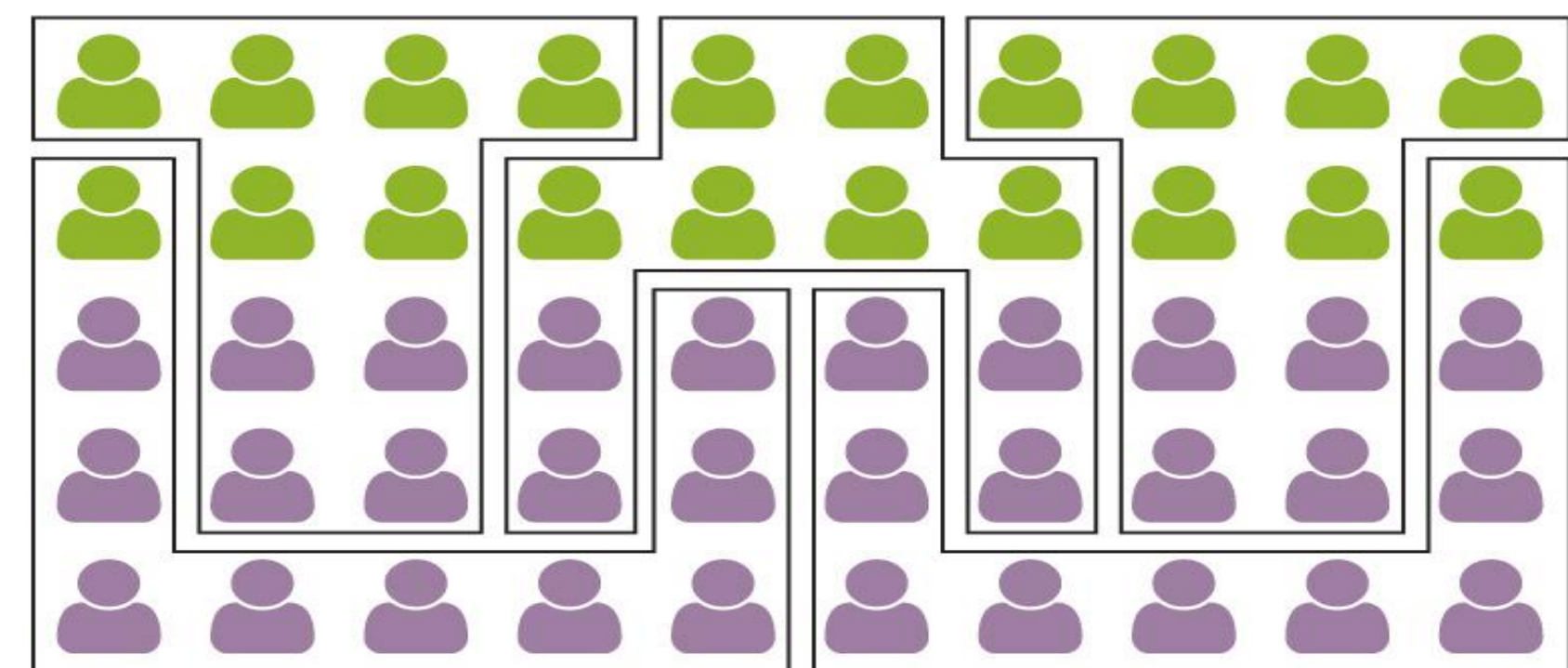
GROUP MEMBERS : ZAKARI CLARK, JASON BOHLINGER, AIDAN WALL, RONAN WALSH

INTRODUCTION

Gerrymandering is the intentional manipulation of vote district boundaries to favor one political group/party over another. We see this in the United States from both government parties, who look to either maintain their control through controlling who votes for them or by trying to minimize the value of their opponents' votes and power.

THE CHALLENGE

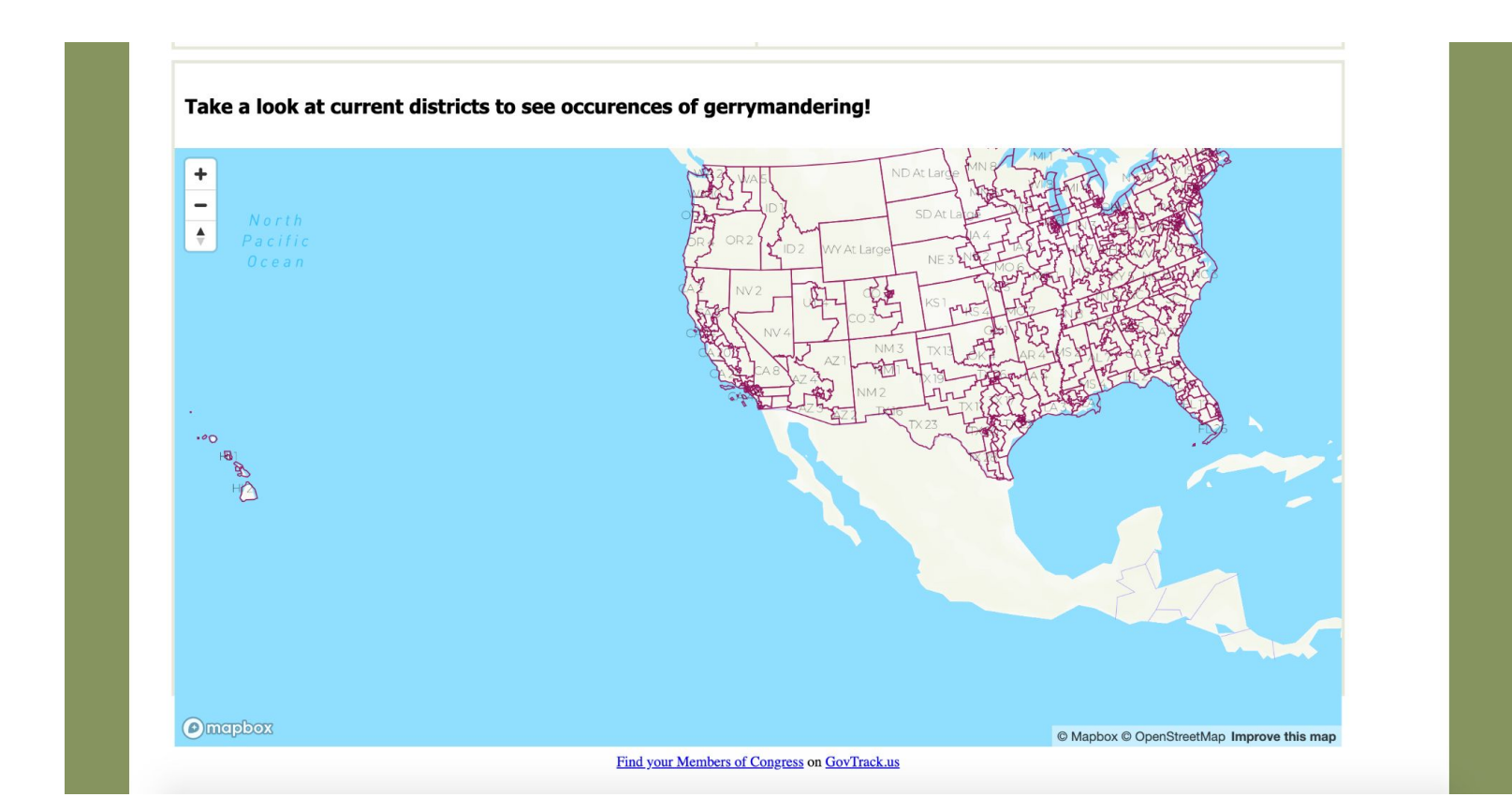
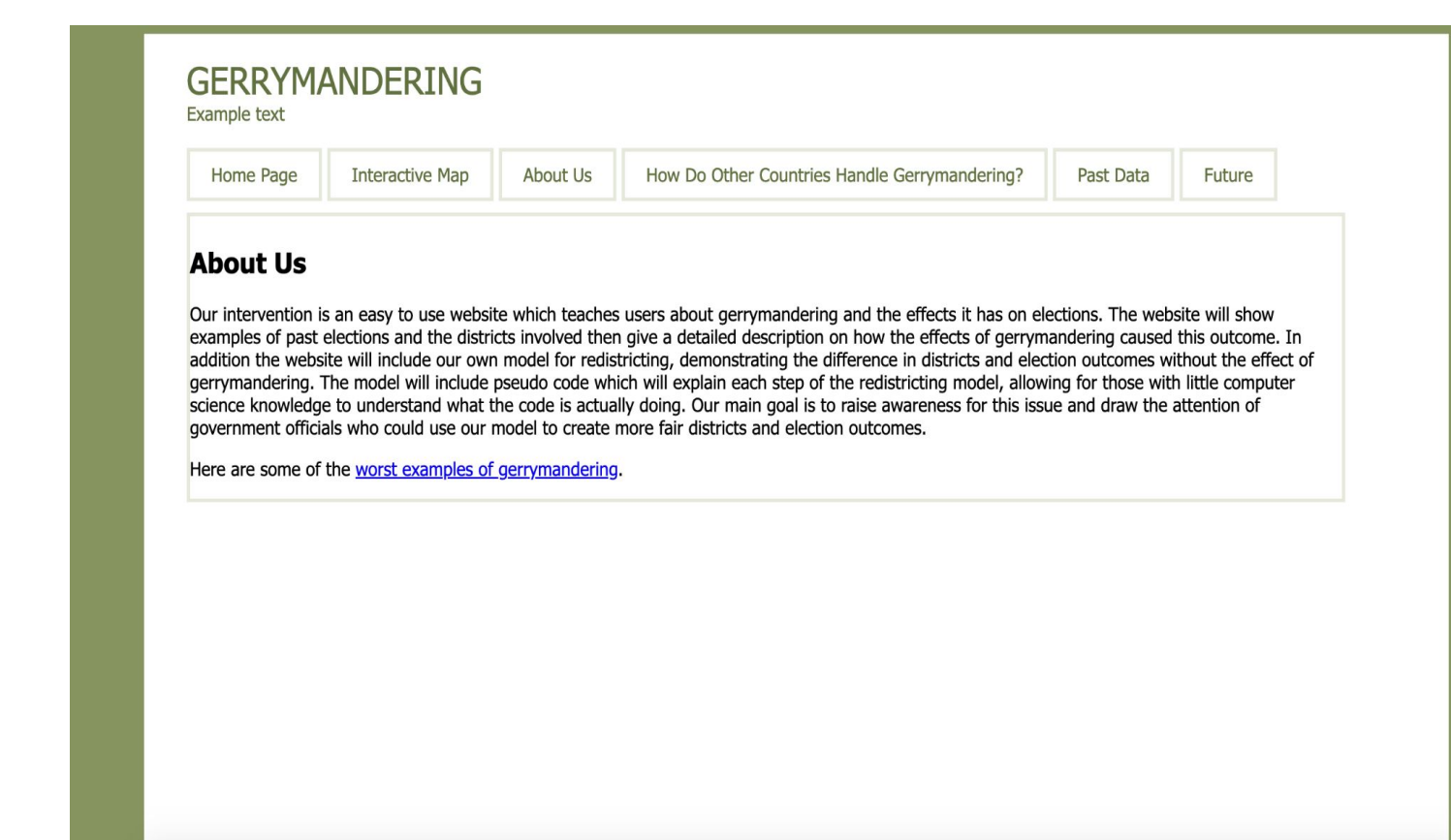
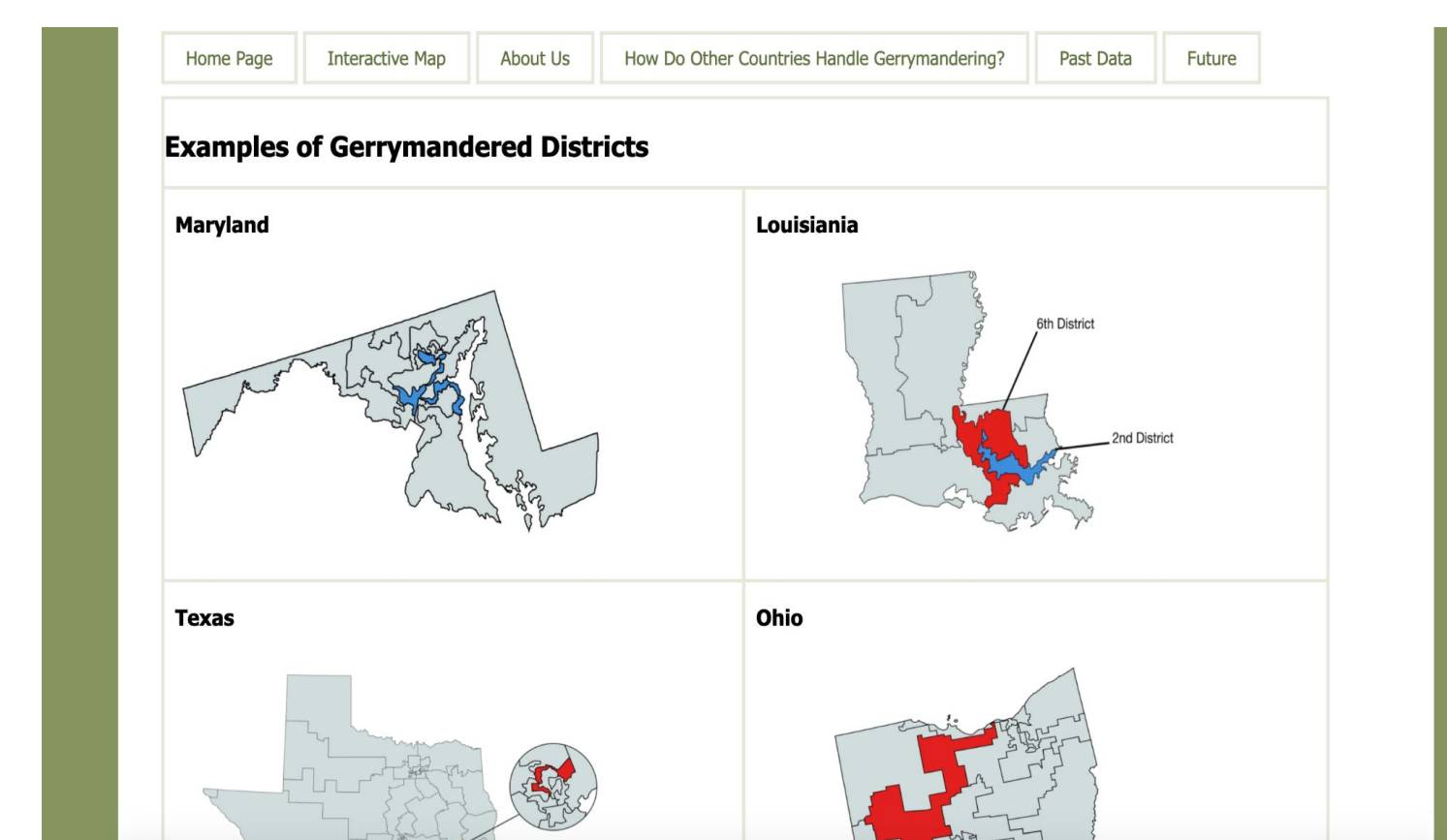
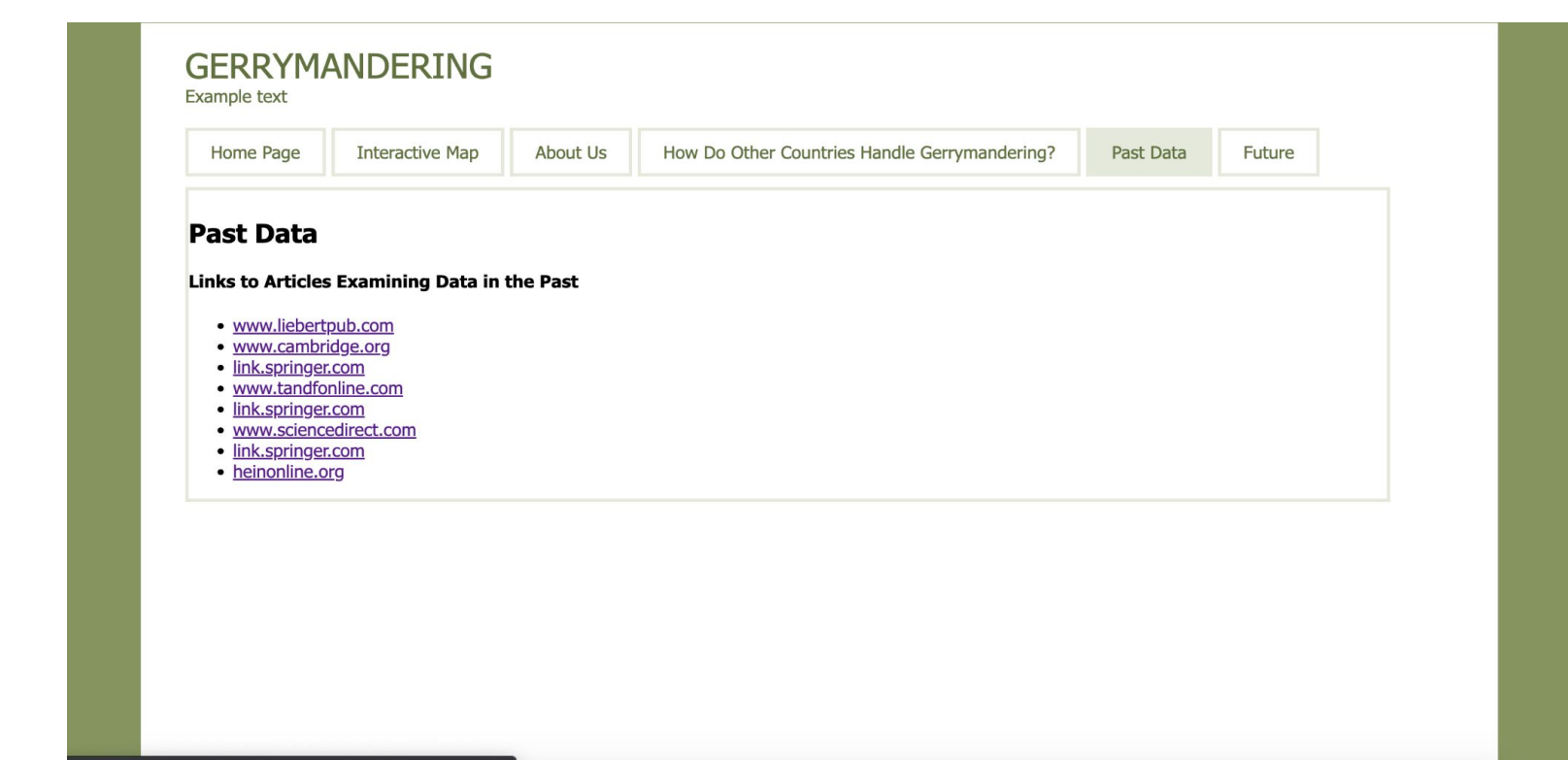
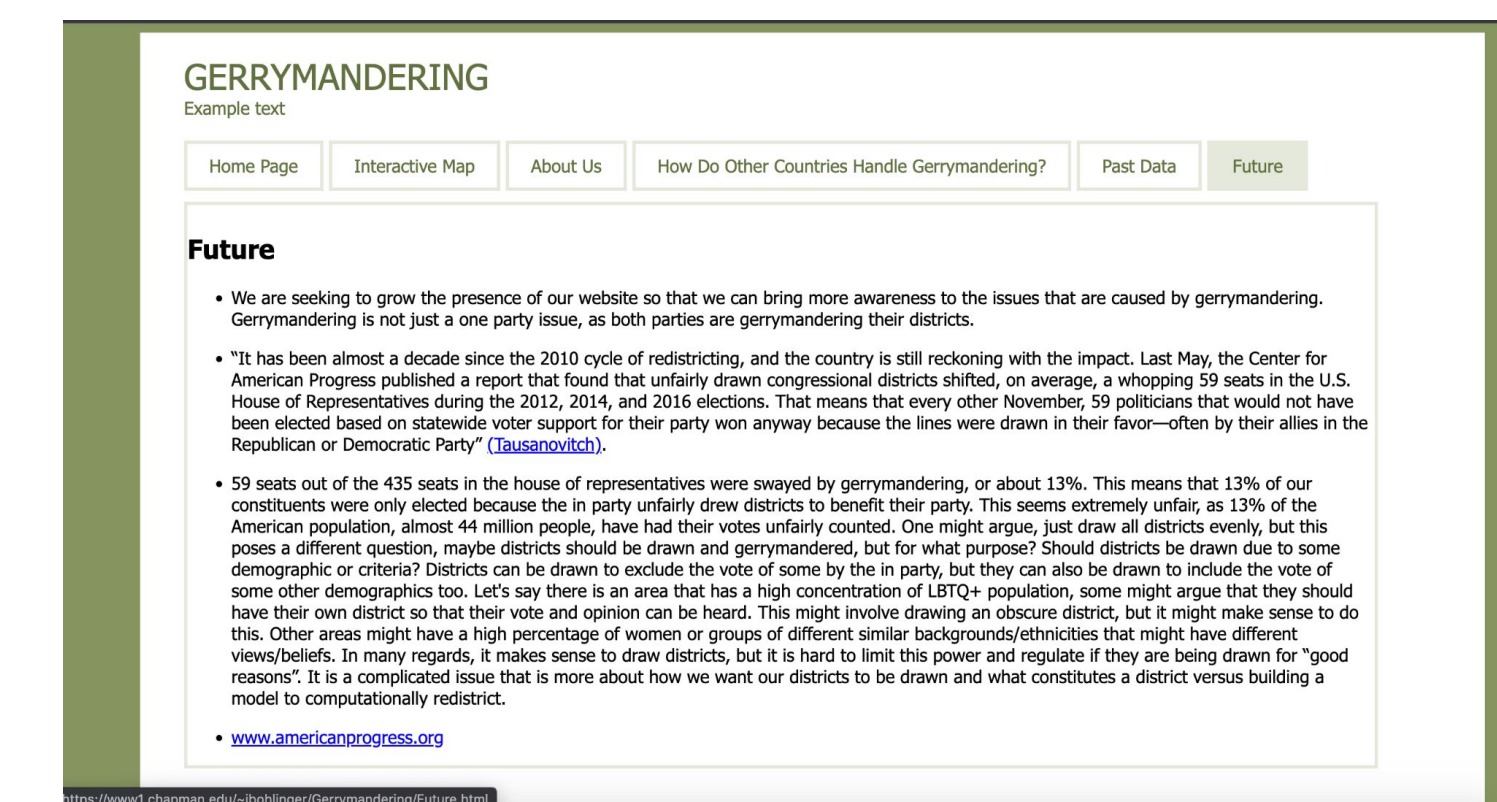
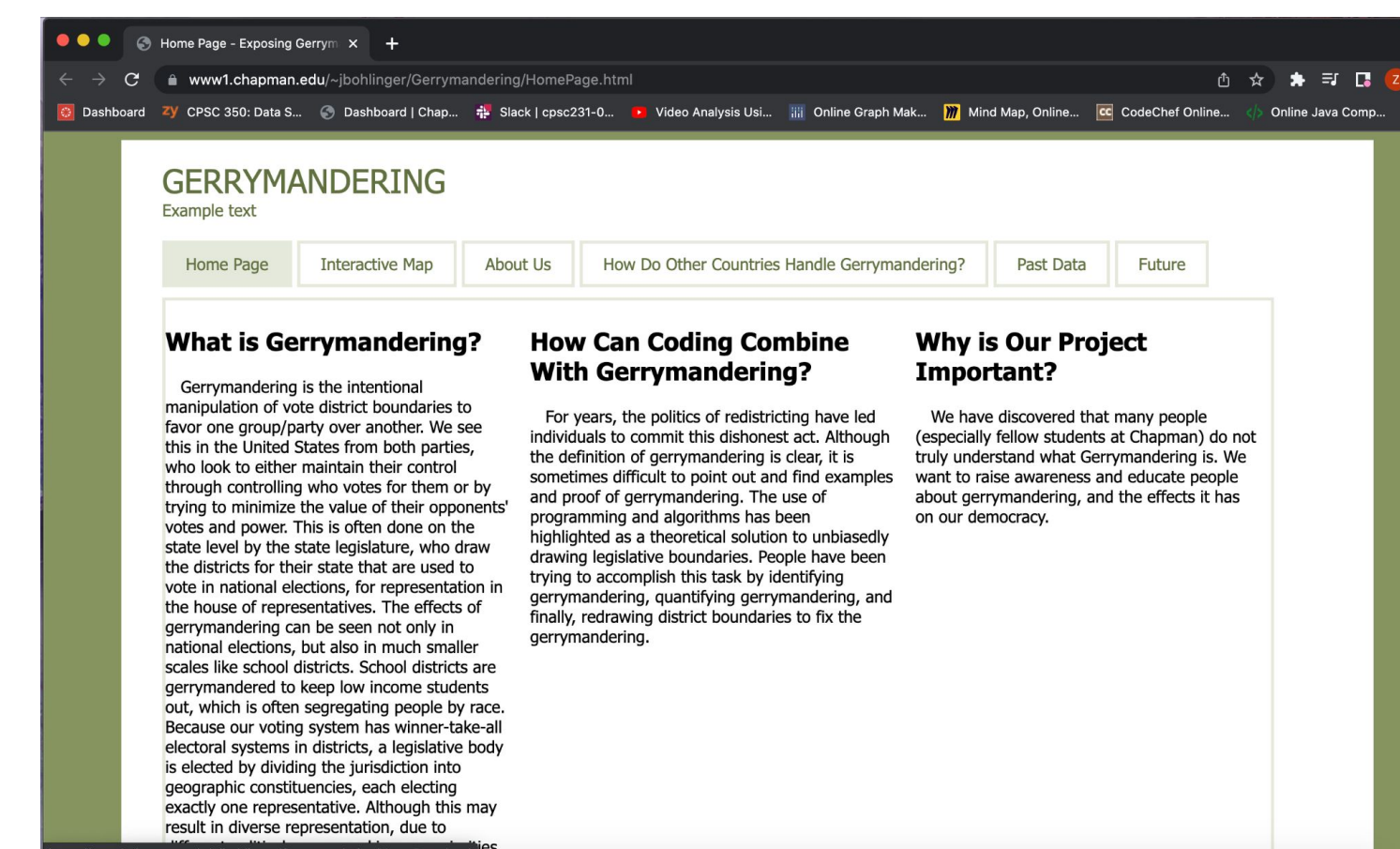
Numerous articles and experts, including Dr. Rob Reich, emphasized the complexity of the gerrymandering. He stated that, if gerrymandering were more well-known to the public, more progress could be made in solving it. The challenge we sought to address, as described by Robert Reich, is the need to assist the general public with understanding the complexity of gerrymandering.



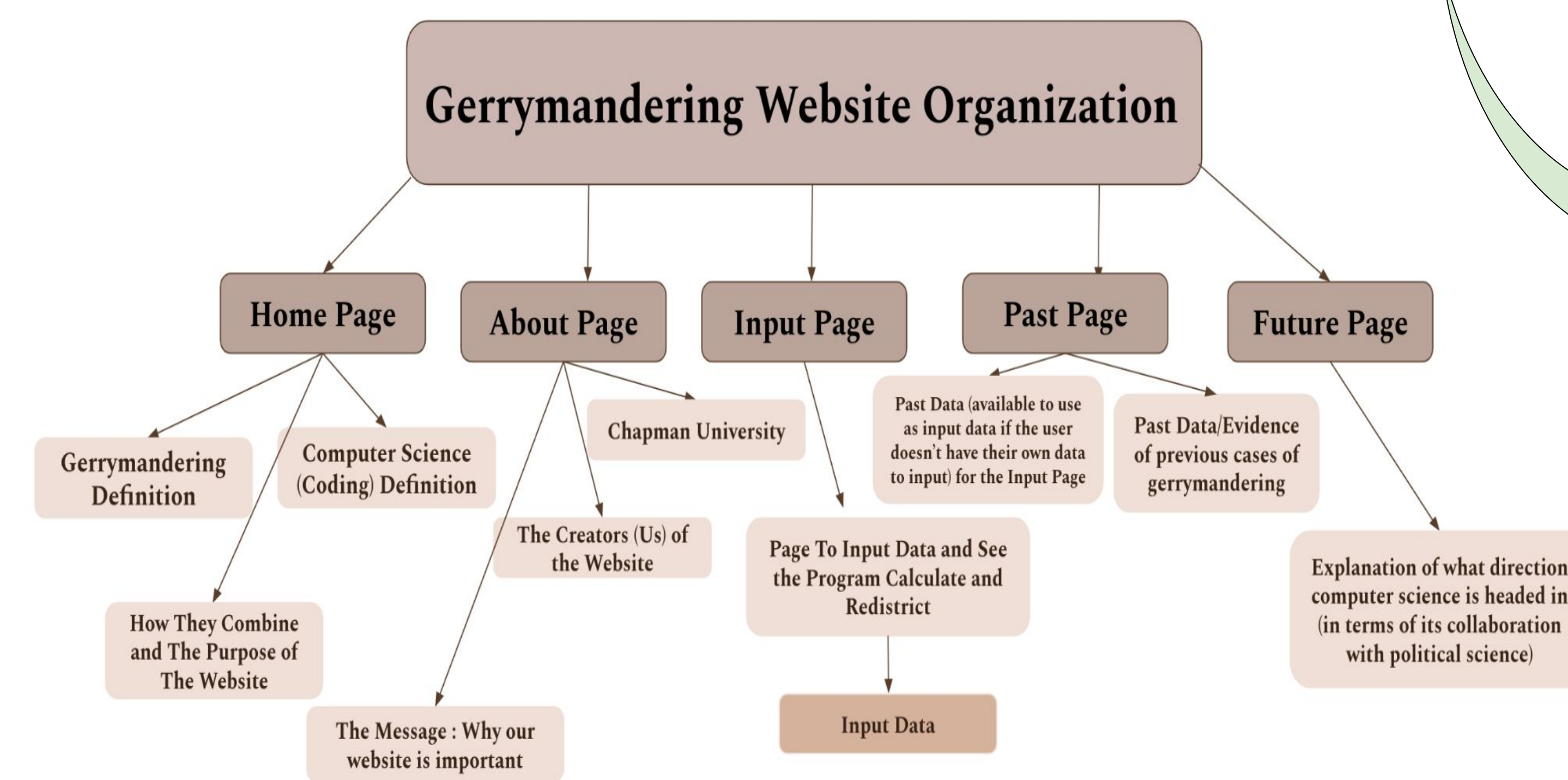
THE METHODS

- Academic articles and research
- Original plan : Create an algorithm to redistrict and solve gerrymandering
- **Finalized Solution** : The idea manifested into the creation of an educational website that describes what gerrymandering is.
- Usage of :
 - Macbooks for coding
 - Open sources from
 - law.stanford.edu
 - Chapman domain
 - Interactive Map (using a direct link from mapbox.com)

WEBSITE CREATION



WEBSITE PLAN



WEBSITE PLAN OUTLINE



WEBSITE QR CODE

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

During the planning process, we constructed a document of pseudocode and a detailed mind map to organize the format of our website. While creating the website, our group members worked through a shared github repository. The website creation implemented HTML5 for website substance, and CSS for website styling. All 6 HTML files for each page of the website uses one CSS file for styling rules.

In the end, we created a workable website that gives users a basic understanding of gerrymandering and its true effects on elections, while also implementing an interactive gerrymandering map.

Once people understand gerrymandering, it is easier for them to see examples and cases of gerrymandering in their everyday lives. Trying to convince politicians that gerrymandering is immoral and unjust, the very people who benefit from gerrymandering at the expense of others, is futile. However, if more people learn about gerrymandering and its effects, it would be possible to create massive social pressure onto politicians from their own constituents.

This social pressure, if strong enough, would cause politicians to adopt new methods for gerrymandering like bi-partisan district drawing, redrawing districts strictly through computational methods.

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