Analyzing Blame Shifting on AITA

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r/AmITheAsshole

- Most viewed community on Reddit ([2022 Reddit Recap](#))
- "a place to finally find out if you were wrong in an argument that's been bothering you"
- Users submit posts explaining some conflict in their life and commenters vote on whether the user was justified in their behavior
- Rigid posting guidelines on both form and content
  - 3000 characters max, no violence, no medical conflicts, no cheating/divorcing/etc.
  - Strictly interpersonal drama

Not the A-hole **AITA for wearing a wedding dress at a wedding?**

So my friend 20f and I 19m have been friends for a few years and she recently got engaged.

A week ago I got a dm from her for a small costume party she was hosting as a celebration for her getting engaged. I asked if there was a theme and she said there wasn't. I'm a cosplayer so I had a lot of choices.

I didn't want to rock up in an anime cosplay, so I thought it would be funny to go to an engagement party as the Corpse Bride. I arrived at her house yesterday and everything seemed normal. A few people complemented my costume and I was having a lot of fun.

After ten minutes my friend's fiancé walked out in a black tuxedo and announced this was actually their wedding. Apparently my friend saw a video of someone doing this and

Rulings

- You're the Asshole (YTA), "Asshole"
- Not the Asshole (NTA), "Not the A-hole"
- Everyone Sucks Here (ESH), "Everyone Sucks"
- No Assholes Here (NAH), "No A-holes here"
- Not Enough Information
  - Left out of analysis

Question: How does language vary between rulings? How do posters frame their narratives, and what does that make us think about their role in the conflict?

Data Collection: Problems

- Reddit API does not allow you to scrape more than 1000 posts from a single subreddit and this project revolves around one subreddit
- Pushshift API – Third party database of Reddit posts
  - PMAW – Python wrapper
  - Currently undergoing migration, no data available from before November 2022
  - PMAW bugged so that any attempt to scrape over 1000 posts will scrape all posts available
  - Cannot filter search to only contain posts with link flairs

Data Collection

Solution: Scrape 1000 posts per day in a large range and then pare down the data set to only applicable posts

```python
before = dt.datetime(2023, 3, 15, 0, 0)
after = dt.datetime(2022, 11, 15, 0, 0)
delta = dt.timedelta(days=1)
submissions_list = []
while before >= after:
    submissions = api.search_submissions(subreddit="AmItheAsshole", until=int(before.timestamp()), since=int(after.timestamp(
    submissions_list.extend([sub for sub in submissions])
    after += delta
```
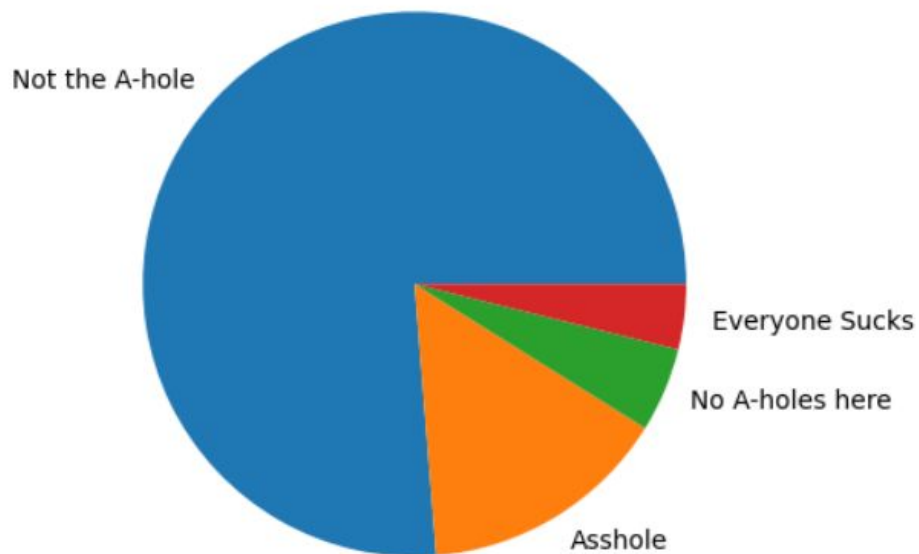
```python
print(len(submissions_list))
```
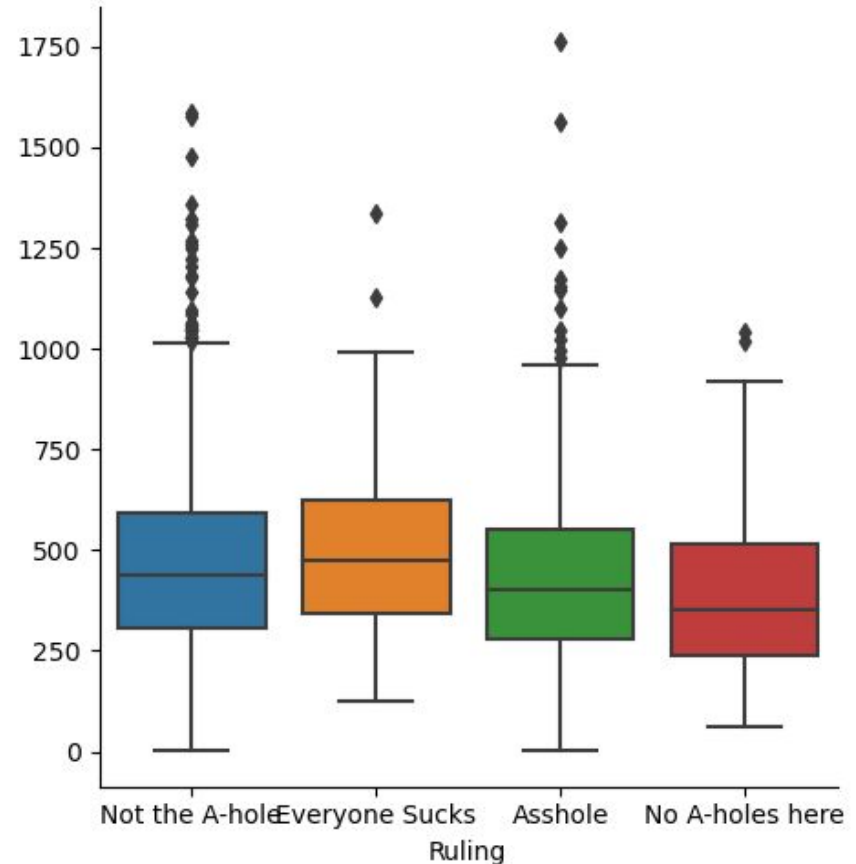
119872

Data Collection

9414 Posts

- Not the A-hole: 7180
- Asshole: 1399
- No A-holes here: 471
- Everyone Sucks: 364

Not the A-hole

Everyone Sucks

No A-holes here

Asshole

	AuthorID	Title	Text	Ruling	Comment(	Score	UpvoteRat
0	1	AITA for sleeping during the day?	I honestly thought what I was doing was fine, but my	Not the A-hole	34	7	0.82
2	0	AITAH for refusing to change out of my	My boyfriend was FaceTiming his cousin and his	Not the A-hole	23	8	0.78
6	2	AITA for not helping my neighbor?	I (M26) live in a large apartment complex with multiple	Not the A-hole	253	1016	0.97
9	3	AITA for threatening to lock my housem	I'll keep it short; my housemate moved in around	Everyone Sucks	34	4	0.76
25	4	AITA for allowing my bio dad and his wif	I found out that I am pregnant about 5 1/2 months ago	Not the A-hole	62	46	0.88
29	5	WIBTA for confronting my dad about sk	My (31F) parents (55F) and (63M) have been separated	Not the A-hole	20	3	0.81
39	6	WIBTA if on a day trip with friends I opt	I (26F) live in the US and my friend from another country	Not the A-hole	10	8	1
41	7	WIBTA for not celebrating Christmas wi	**edit #1**: Nancy is hosting Christmas dinner	Not the A-hole	12	3	0.8
42	8	AITA for being annoyed that my friend i:	I (38f) have two friends from university: Sue (41f) and	Asshole	27	3	0.58
46	9	AITA for getting upset when my roomm	Keeping this anon cause Iâ€™m not trying to put anyone	Not the A-hole	277	2914	0.97
47	10	AITA For Not Wanting to Pay For An Ub	​	Not the A-hole	19	8	0.9
67	11	AITA I got a kitten and I think I regret it	AITA I got a kitten and I think I regret it now	Asshole	67	8	0.59
73	12	AITA for not compromising on Christma	This is my (20sf) Christmas with my boyfriend (20s). Weâ	Not the A-hole	26	4	0.75
76	13	AITA for not giving one of my gifts	So I recently got in the mail some beautiful brand bags.	Not the A-hole	81	95	0.93
79	14	AITA for telling my brother in law he has	So my brother in law moved in with us last year in July.	Not the A-hole	111	534	0.96
82	15	AITA for telling my ex it was rude of him	Throwaway to start.	Asshole	217	334	0.79
85	16	AITA FOR TRAINING MY DOG AROUND	So long storyâ€¦. yesterday I left work earlier than usual	Asshole	24	4	0.66
86	17	AITA for posting on my step sons tik tok	I (F40) posted a comment on my step son (13M) tik tok	Not the A-hole	40	18	0.82
215	35	WIBTA if I asked my girlfriend to stop pi	I 17M have been dating my girlfriend 18F, who we'll call	Not the A-hole	26	4	0.75
217	0	AITA for accusing my friend of stealing	I have a box with 2k cash saved up that I hid on the top	Asshole	33	15	0.8

Question: How much context and justification do the posters give?

- NTA write the most on average
- NAH have shortest stories
- YTA widest variance

Question: Who do their stories focalize?

Practically: Do the most common subjects of sentences vary between rulings?

- Use spaCy to extract dependencies within sentences
- Select all nominal subjects
- Compare top 30 subjects per ruling

```python
# For every sentence, go through each token and find if it is a nominal subject. If it's a nominal subject, save it.
analysis_df["Subjects"] = analysis_df["SpacyText"].apply(lambda x: [[tok for tok in sent if (tok.dep_ == "nsubj" or tok.dep_ == "nsubjpass")] for sent in x.sents])
analysis_df["Subjects"] = analysis_df.Subjects.map(lambda x: sum(x, [])) # This is an array of arrays, I want to unpack into just 1 array
```

Subjects by Ruling

Not the A-hole: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, you, me, this, who, mom, which, her, dad, sister, parents, him, one, husband, friend, brother, what, mother, family, people, everyone, wife, things

Asshole: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, this, you, me, who, her, mom, which, parents, wife, him, friend, one, sister, dad, what, husband, people, brother, everyone, son, daughter, family, them

No A-holes here: I, she, he, we, it, they, that, this, me, you, who, which, her, mom, him, friend, dad, one, parents, husband, wife, sister, family, brother, people, what, them, everyone, mother, boyfriend

Everyone Sucks: I, she, he, we, it, they, you, that, me, this, who, which, her, mom, sister, husband, him, friend, what, one, parents, dad, people, everyone, family, brother, mother, friends, them, all

Subjects by Ruling

Not the A-hole: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, you, me, this, who, mom, which, her, dad, sister, parents, him, one, husband, friend, brother, what, mother, family, people, everyone, ==wife==, things

Asshole: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, this, you, me, who, her, mom, which, parents, ==wife==, him, friend, one, sister, dad, what, husband, people, brother, everyone, ==son==, ==daughter==, family, them

No A-holes here: I, she, he, ==we==, it, they, that, this, me, you, who, which, her, mom, him, friend, dad, one, parents, husband, wife, sister, family, brother, people, what, them, everyone, mother, boyfriend

Everyone Sucks: I, she, he, ==we==, it, they, you, that, me, this, who, which, her, mom, sister, husband, him, friend, what, one, parents, dad, people, everyone, family, brother, mother, friends, them, all

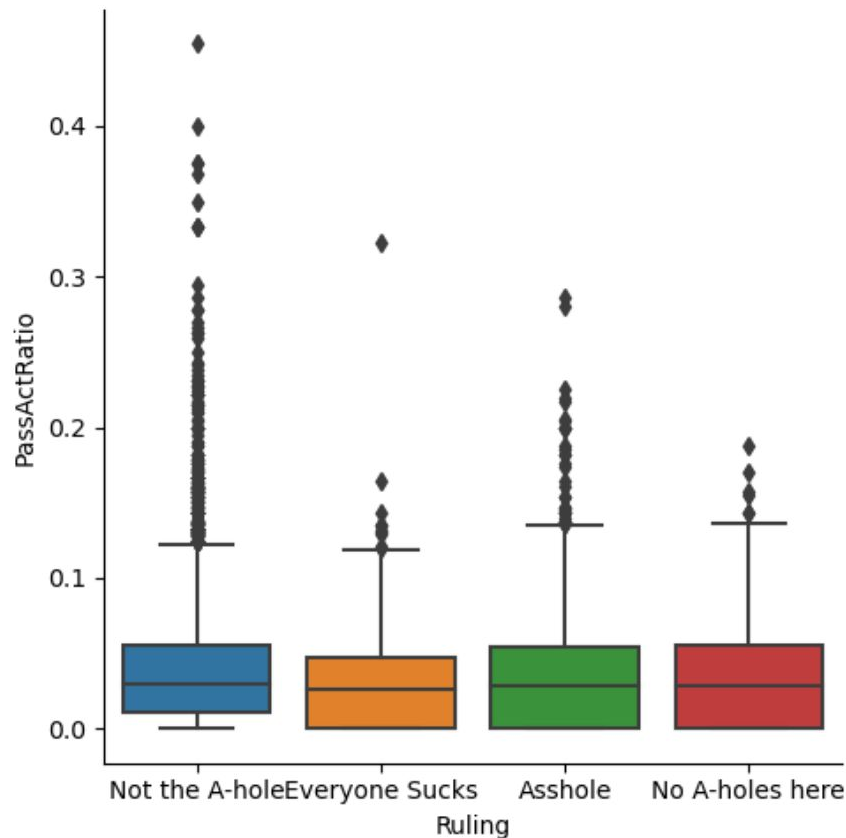# Question: How much agency does the writer express?

Practically: What proportion of sentences is written in passive voice? And, who are the subjects of active versus passive sentences?

- Use the ratio of passive versus active subjects to determine how much passive or active voice a given post uses
  - SpaCy: "nsubj" vs. "nsubjpass"
- Compare a ruling's passive versus active subjects

Passive/Active Ratio

Practically: How does post length vary between rulings?

- NTA use most passive voice on average, followed by YTA
- Might be a coincidence but the ratio of passive versus active voice is in the same order as total number of posts in the data set (NTA, YTA, NAH, ESH)

AITA for telling my mom I don't care about my little brothers

(...) I don't hate them nor resent them I just don't care for them, I'm 16 and I have a ton of things I'd rather be doing and hanging out with babies that I have no care for is not one of them. What's worse is how much my mother demands that I watch them and take care of their needs, these are not my kids and not my responsibility however I am constantly yelled at by her, my step father, and my biological father that I need to take care of them. Today was the final straw, I was just relaxing when they barged in,I told the, to get out but was met by a rotten scowl from my mother and she yelled at me to keep them in, immediately my switch was thrown of the floor, my desk was completely trashed, and my phone was being yanked out of my hands by my toddler brother, I was fed up and yelled at my mom to just leave because I don't have any desire to spend time with them and to stop forcing me to love them. She gave me another scowl and told me that I no longer get my allowance or my console because I'm being cruel and heartless. So tell me, Am I the Asshole?

AITA for telling my mom I don't care about my little brothers

(...) I don't hate them nor resent them I just don't care for them, I'm 16 and I have a ton of things I'd rather be doing and hanging out with babies that I have no care for is not one of them. What's worse is how much my mother dem___ ___ ___ ___ ___ot my kids and not my responsibility how ___ ___ ___ ___logical father that I need to take care of ___ ___ ___ ___ged in,I told the, to get out but was met ___ ___ ___ ___em in, immediately my switch was thrown of the floor, my desk was completely trashed, and my phone was being yanked out of my hands by my toddler brother, I was fed up and yelled at my mom to just leave because I don't have any desire to spend time with them and to stop forcing me to love them. She gave me another scowl and told me that I no longer get my allowance or my console because I'm being cruel and heartless. So tell me, Am I the Asshole?

NOT THE ASSHOLE

Passive/Active Subjects by Ruling: NTA

Not the A-hole Passive: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, who, which, this, you, what, sister, me, mom, everything, parents, brother, all, dad, husband, car, things, one, mother, son, friend, baby, wife, her

Not the A-hole Active: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, you, me, this, who, mom, which, her, dad, sister, parents, him, one, husband, friend, brother, what, mother, family, people, everyone, them, wife, things

Passive/Active Subjects by Ruling: YTA

Asshole Passive: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, this, who, wife, brother, which, you, what, one, husband, son, nothing, people, me, mom, family, sister, daughter, kids, money, parents, dad, car, her

Asshole Active: I, she, he, it, we, they, that, this, you, me, who, her, mom, which, him, parents, friend, wife, sister, dad, one, what, husband, people, brother, everyone, son, daughter, family, them

Gendering of Passive/Active Subjects

Not the A-hole Passive: she, he, sister, mom, brother, dad, husband, mother, son, wife, her

Not the A-hole Active: she, he, mom, her, dad, sister, him, husband, brother, mother, wife

Asshole Passive: she, he, wife, brother, husband, son, mom, sister, daughter, dad, her

Asshole Active: she, he, her, mom, him, wife, sister, dad, husband, brother, son, daughter

Coming Up

- Using machine learning to try and predict the verdict on these posts
- Use the information built up my the ML model to find any further patterns in writing style across the rulings and consider why those patterns might be present

Thank you!

Questions?