

Guidelines for “Normative (Claim)” (2020-05-02)

In this annotation task, you will be given claims that advocate for or object to a certain action or situation. The goal of the task is to annotate each claim as to

- (1) whether it advocates for or objects to an action/situation (or neither)?
- (2) what action/situation is advocated for or objected to (if any)?

ANNOTATION DETAILS

Most claims either advocate for or object to an action/situation.

For each claim, the annotation field looks as follow:

The screenshot shows the annotation interface for a claim. At the top, there is a label 'ID' followed by the text '7872#48_7872#163'. Below this, a label 'Claim' is followed by the text 'VR should not be a complete substitute for human interaction.' Underneath the claim text is a form with two main sections. On the left, there is a 'Claim' label and three radio buttons: 'advocates for', 'objects to', and 'neither'. To the right of these radio buttons is a large text input field. Below the form, there are two columns of instructions. The left column contains the question 'Does the claim advocate for or object to an action/situation? Or neither?'. The right column contains three bullet points: 'What action or situation is advocated for or objected to (if any)?', 'The annotation should consist of text segments from the original text. Copy-paste relevant parts of the original text. Do not re-order words. It doesn't have to be perfectly grammatical.', and 'The annotation should be concise, too. Do not include irrelevant parts nor words that represent advocating or objection, such as "should", "should not", "forbid".'

• ID - 7872#48_7872#163

• Claim — VR should not be a complete substitute for human interaction.

Claim

☐ advocates for
☐ objects to
☐ neither

• Does the claim advocate for or object to an action/situation? Or neither?

- What action or situation is advocated for or objected to (if any)?
- The annotation should consist of text segments from the original text. Copy-paste relevant parts of the original text. Do not re-order words. It doesn't have to be perfectly grammatical.
- The annotation should be concise, too. Do not include irrelevant parts nor words that represent advocating or objection, such as "should", "should not", "forbid".

The definitions and examples of “advocate”, “object”, “neither”, and actions/situations are described below. In all examples, an action/situation that should be annotated is highlighted in **blue**.

(A) Advocate

A claim is considered to advocate for an action/situation if the claim explicitly expresses that a certain action/situation should be brought about. Advocacy is often expressed through advocacy words, such as “should”, “has to”, “need to”, “have a duty”, “necessary”, “encouraged”. When annotating an action/situation, focus on words near advocacy words instead of ones that are far away.

- (1) **The use of aerial-dropped 1080 poison** should be encouraged.
- (2) **Leagues already educate both athletes and the general public on issues around domestic violence.** This should be **enough to discharge any moral burden on them.**
(!!! “This” in the second sentence is ambiguous, so you may instead mark its referent “Leagues already educate ...”. See the “Pronoun Resolution” section.)
- (3) **Healthcare** needs more **transparency in the United States (HIPAA is in the way)**
(!!! “needs more transparency” signals that “transparency” is advocated for. See the “More/Less” section. “HIPAA is in the way” is relevant to the situation, as it presents HIPAA as an example of “healthcare transparency”. See the “Parenthetical Text” section.)
- (4) If children are that fragile and easily influenced, we must also **monitor whether teachers have their hair colored or other chemical treatments.**

(!!! "we" generically refers to all people and thus can be omitted. See the "Omissible Subjects" section.)

- (5) **Legalize all drugs**, but **only for mentally stable adults**.
- (6) **Children** need **boredom**.
- (7) **Citizens** have a duty to **maintain the democratic state by voting, which is enforced through compulsory voting**.
- (8) Definitely not, there are **many nation-/region-specific laws that Internet platforms** have to **adhere to, or risk being prosecuted**.
- (9) **Grades** are necessary to **establish specific thresholds**.
- (10) There are **circumstances in which we** must **put animal lives ahead of human lives**.
- (11) **People who work as software developers** need to **make money to buy basic necessities**.
- (12) **The U.S.** had to **use nuclear weapons to achieve its goal of Japan unconditionally surrendering**.
- (13) **All drugs** should **be legalized**.
- (14) **Wealthy people** should **have more decision-making power**.
- (15) **Public health care systems** should **cover the costs of homeopathic treatment**.
- (16) Cases often come to the Supreme Court precisely because there is no clear legal answer, and **justices** have to **use their judgement and understanding of the structure and history of the Constitution to come up with a new workable legal rule**.
(!!! The first clause of the sentence is irrelevant to the situation that the claim advocates for.)
- (17) There is **a large amount of diversity in humans**, and that should **be embraced**, not ignored.
(!!! Since "that" is ambiguous, the concrete referent "a large amount of diversity in humans" is included instead. See the "Pronoun Resolution" section.)
- (18) **Pregnant people** should **have the right to choose abortion**.
- (19) **People** should **marry outside their religious faith**.
- (20) **Euthanasia** should **be legalised**.
- (21) **The US** should **adopt a single-payer health care system**.
- (22) **Internet Access** Should **Be a Basic Human Right**.
- (23) **All humans** should **be vegan**.
- (24) Climate change stands to cause substantial economic, and ecological damage to the world, and **we** should **try to diminish its effects**.
(!!! "Climate change ... world, and" is irrelevant to the situation that the claim advocates for.)
- (25) **The EU** has a number of moral obligations (including duties to its own citizens, obligations to those in poverty and refugees from global violence). It should **try and prioritize those efforts where it can make the most difference**.
(!!! Since "It" is ambiguous, the concrete referent "The EU" is included instead. See the "Pronoun Resolution" section.)
- (26) **The primary focus of prisons** should **be rehabilitation and reintegration, not punishment**.
- (27) **"Women-only" spaces** should **include non-binary people as well**.
- (28) The power to take down statues also is the power to control history and thus, to control the future. **This power** lends itself to being employed in the service of political agendas, rather than

the good of society, and should **be used as sparingly as possible**
(!!! “This power” is the subject of the situation advocated for.)

(B) Object

A claim is considered to object to an action/situation if the claim expresses that a certain action/situation should not be brought about or should be forbidden. Objection is often expressed through negating words (e.g., “should not/never”) or objection words (e.g., “should stop/avoid/remove/forbid/ban”, “need less”). When annotating an action/situation, focus on words near negating/objection words instead of ones that are far away.

- (1) There should be no **welfare state**.
(!!! “There” is generic and has little meaning. The claim simply objects to “welfare state”. See the “Omissible Subjects” section.)
- (2) **Workplaces with vertical farms** need less **resources for climate control**, as the plants provide it instead.
(!!! “need less resources” signals that “resources” are objected to.)
- (3) **The US** should ban **the production and distribution of genetically modified foods**.
- (4) **US and NATO** should completely withdraw from **all combat and peacekeeping roles in Afghanistan**.
- (5) People who are influenced by advertisement are susceptible to all kinds of influence, so we would need to ban **a lot of other things (films, books, newspapers, TV)**
- (6) **The US** should remove **Confederate memorials, flags, and monuments from public spaces**.
- (7) **Humans** should stop **eating animal meat**.
- (8) According to the traditions of the monotheistic religions, we need a period of total destruction to produce “The Rapture” when those who love God (Jesus or Allah) go to Heaven while everybody else goes to Hell. Therefore, **we** shouldn't **avert ecological collapse** - we should accelerate it.
(!!! This claim contains multiple instances of advocacy/objection. The highlighted one seems to be the best choice for annotation.)
- (9) **The government** should not **be bothered with what people consume in private**, as they are not affecting other people publicly.
- (10) **It** would be preferable but should not **be legally enforced**.
(!!! “would ... not” is irrelevant to the situation objected to. “It” is ambiguous, but there is no concrete referent.)
- (11) **We** should not **consider any rule that suggests people have the freedom to choose, but then punish them if the consequences of their choice appear to be negative at a later date**.
- (12) **Copyright** should be abolished
- (13) **The government** should never **permit actions which cannot be consented to and are antithetical to accepted societal values**.
- (14) **The values expressed in the UDHR** do not apply to every culture and should not **be forced upon them**.
(!!! The subject of the norm “The values expressed in the UDHR” is included.)
- (15) **In countering terrorism, the state** should never **infringe on individual human rights**.

Note: Although uncommon, a claim may have double-objection, that is, “not/never + objection word” (e.g., “Smoking should not be forbidden”), which could be thought of as advocating for an action/situation by meaning. However, for this annotation task, if a claim has a negated advocacy word (e.g., “should not”, “do not have to”), the claim is considered as “object”. For the example above, the claim is considered to object to “Smoking be forbidden”.

(C) Neither Advocate nor Object

Although not very common (less than 5%), some claims may not advocate for or object to any action/situation, despite their use of some advocacy/objection words.

- Even where a referendum results in a clear result, there is often a lack of clarity as to how the referendum result should be implemented.
(!!! This claim does not advocate for or object to any action/situation.)
- People are able to control themselves. People who are unable to stop themselves from doing bad things must be immoral.
(!!! “must be immoral” is not an action/situation advocated for. Instead, it represents a strong belief about a fact (i.e., “People ... doing bad things are certainly immoral”).)

TIPS

General Tips

- Given a claim, do not try to read between the lines. Instead, focus more on what/how words and expressions are used.
- Questions are annotated as “neither”.
- The annotation of an action/situation should consist of text segments from the original claim. Copy-paste relevant parts.
- You can remove a punctuation mark attached to a word or add a comma if that provides better readability for your annotations (e.g., you could add a comma when combining a subordinate clause with the main clause).
- The annotation of an action/situation should be concise. Do not include irrelevant parts of the claim. Do not include words that represent advocacy or objection, such as “should”, “should not”. Include only the action/situation that is advocated for or objected to. The annotation does not have to be perfectly grammatical.

Multiple Instances of Opposite Attitudes

In case a claim has multiple instances of opposite attitudes (e.g., “we should do X but not Y”), you should annotate the first instance only (“do X”). If multiple instances of the same attitude are listed in a row (we should do X and Y”), you can annotate all of them at once (“do X and Y”).

- **Fireworks** should **only be enjoyed at organised public displays** and not sold domestically.
- We should **focus on protecting existing species which are threatened**, not on resurrecting those which are already extinct.

Omissible Subjects

In an action/situation, the subject is omissible if it is generic and has no specific target.

- There should be no **welfare state**.
(!!! “There” is generic and has little meaning. The claim simply objects to “welfare state”.)
- If children are that fragile and easily influenced, we must also **monitor whether teachers have their hair colored or other chemical treatments**.
(!!! “we” generically refers to all people and thus can be omitted.)
- People should **choose to opt into internships**.
(!!! “People” is generic and thus omissible.)
- Everyone should **choose almond milk over cow's milk, when it is available**.
(!!! “Everyone” generically refers to all people and thus can be omitted.)

Insertion of Critical Information

The annotation of an action/situation should include all critical information. But sometimes this goal can be achieved only by resolving pronouns or inserting words that are far away from the advocacy/objection words. In such cases, you can resolve pronouns or insert critical information in your annotation. Please note that the rule of thumb is to put together necessary text spans without changing the original order of words of the claim. You may change the original order of words **very sparingly and minimally** only if your annotation would lose critical information or become nonsensical otherwise. Do not change the (upper/lower) cases of words. Do not change word order just to make your annotation grammatical.

- If **a young woman** has decided to become sexually active, she should **be allowed to decide whether to have an abortion and whether to choose to involve her parents in the decision about an abortion**.
(!!! Instead of “she” in the main clause, you may mark its concrete referent “a young woman”.)
- **Leagues already educate both athletes and the general public on issues around domestic violence**. This should be **enough to discharge any moral burden on them**.
(!!! Instead of “This” in the second sentence, you may mark the concrete fact “Leagues already educate ...”.)
- In the vast majority of cases, **refugees do not choose to leave their country out of their own free choice**, and instead flee for fear of their lives; this must **be kept in mind when considering the treatment they deserve**. (p.1)
(!!! Instead of “this”, you may mark the concrete statement “refugees do not choose ...”.)
- Even if you're right that the "human spirit" is **a desire to expand and dominate**, it ought not necessarily be encouraged.
(!!! The claim objects to “it”, and “it” seems to refer to “a desire to expand and dominate”.)
- These EU strictures exist for a reason. **Overfishing** is a serious issue and **the UK** will still have to **enforce some limits**.
(!!! Your annotation would be “the UK enforce some Overfishing limits” after inserting “Overfishing”.)

More/Less

If the claim suggests more of X, the claim is considered to advocate for X. In contrary, if the claim suggests less of X, the claim is considered to object to X. In these cases, the words “more” and “less” may not be included in the action/situation.

- **Financial literacy** needs more **prevalence in the education system**.
- **Workplaces with vertical farms** need less **resources for climate control**, as the plants provide it instead.

- **Healthcare** needs more **transparency in the United States (HIPAA is in the way)**

Parenthetical Text

Whether the annotation of an action/situation should include parenthetical text can be subjective. In principle, parenthetical text is included if it's relevant to the action/situation, e.g., it states the condition, scope, or examples of the action/situation. Generally, if parenthetical text is in the same clause as the action/situation, lean toward including it unless the text is completely irrelevant.

- **Pursue a 'war on drugs' with harsh policies for both the consumption and trade of drugs (not including alcohol).**
(!!! “not including alcohol” is relevant, as it states the scope of the situation.)
- **Germany** should **dissolve its armed forces ("Bundeswehr").**
(!!! “Bundeswehr” is relevant, as it is the name of Germany’s armed forces.)
- **It** should not **matter which individual sits on the bench (assuming basic qualifications).** The role should be executed in exactly the same way no matter who the individual Justices are. Concern over who exactly holds office as a Justice is therefore misplaced.
(!!! “assuming basic qualifications” is relevant, as it states the condition of the situation.)
- Jeremy Corbyn's position as leader of the Labour Party is secure for the foreseeable future. **Those in favour of a Labour government (or who oppose Conservative rule)** must therefore **accept that under current circumstances he should be the next Prime Minister.**
(!!! “or who oppose Conservative rule” is relevant, as it states the scope of the subject.)
- **Healthcare** needs more **transparency in the United States (HIPAA is in the way)**
(!!! “HIPAA is in the way” is relevant, as it presents HIPAA as an example of “healthcare transparency”.)
- **The sale of semi-automatic rifles (external box magazine)** should be banned.
(!!! “external box magazine” is relevant, as it explains “semi-automatic rifles”.)

ANNOTATION EXAMPLES

7100#1_7100#2381

All drugs should be legalised.

Claim	<input checked="" type="radio"/> advocates for	All drugs be legalised
	<input type="radio"/> objects to	
	<input type="radio"/> neither	

2027#840_2027#841

The government should not be bothered with what people consume in private, as they are not affecting other people publicly.

Claim	<input type="radio"/> advocates for	The government be bothered with what people consume in private
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> objects to	
	<input type="radio"/> neither	

27376#1_27376#6

Copyright should be abolished.

Claim	<input type="radio"/> advocates for	Copyright
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> objects to	
	<input type="radio"/> neither	

28455#552_28455#553

Even where a referendum results in a clear result, there is often a lack of clarity as to how the referendum result should be implemented.

Claim	<input type="radio"/> advocates for	
	<input type="radio"/> objects to	
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> neither	

23850#302_23850#313

Cases often come to the Supreme Court precisely because there is no clear legal answer, and justices have to use their judgement and understanding of the structure and history of the Constitution to come up with a new workable legal rule.

Claim ☒ advocates for
☐ objects to
☐ neither

justices use their judgement and understanding of the structure and history of the Constitution to come up with a new workable legal rule

16566#107_16566#108

There is a large amount of diversity in humans, and that should be embraced, not ignored.

Claim ☒ advocates for
☐ objects to
☐ neither

a large amount of diversity in humans be embraced

30884#11_30884#128

The values expressed in the UDHR do not apply to every culture and should not be forced upon them.

Claim ☐ advocates for
☒ objects to
☐ neither

The values expressed in the UDHR be forced upon them