

Discourse Annotation Instructions [external version]

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Introduction

In this task, you will annotate various pieces of content in pages from forum websites like Reddit. Each such web page will contain one initial post, and zero or more posts replying to the initial post or to each other. You will locate and annotate each post in the discussion with a set of categories defining how that post is contributing to the discussion, as well as what other post the post is responding to.

Categories to Annotate

Your goal is to annotate forum posts with their **categories of discussion** as well as **link** posts to what they are responding to. The following is an example page ([link](#)), including labeling of some of the categories and links you will annotate in this task. Labels are in black and the black arrows point to the post that it is labeling. The blue arrows show links. The link for each post goes towards the post that it is linked to.

Question/ Request

Answer

Appreciation

Elaboration

Answer

Other Humor

ELI5: How can pink eye spread?

submitted 5 hours ago by [silentlyloud12](#)

How can looking at someone who has pink eye cause pink eye?

7 comments share

all 7 comments
sorted by: [best](#)

[–] [the_original_Retro](#) 5 points 5 hours ago
It CAN'T. If that's what you've heard then someone's feeding you a line.
Pinkeye is an infection that's spread through contact. It's irritating so a kid rubs their eye, then they open a door or play with a toy with that hand that had a teardrop on it, then another kid opens that same door or plays with their toy too, and the second kid rubs their own eye. Bam, the infection has found a new home and that second kid now has pinkeye.
[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[–] [silentlyloud12](#) 3 points 5 hours ago
Got it! Thanks!!!
[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[–] [BetterOffBen](#) 2 points 4 hours ago
It is a very contagious disease, both the viral and bacterial forms. It may spread easier through kids, since they are less aware of spreading germs, but it will spread through adults too. The one time I had it (that I can remember) was in college, and a good portion of my classmates ending up having it too, even with everyone knowing that it was going around and being careful about touching stuff, washing hands, etc.
[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[–] [philo_the_middle](#) 2 points 5 hours ago
There are two kinds of "pink eye" (conjunctivitis).
One is viral. One is bacterial.
You could theoretically get either version by being close enough to the infected person if the infected person sneezes or coughs into your face while you're staring into their eyes.
[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[–] [redosabe](#) 1 point 4 hours ago
I always thought it's funny that its called pink eye and not "pink eyes" if it's so contagious
[permalink](#) [embed](#)

[–] [meadhawg](#) 0 points 3 hours ago
By using Worcestershire Sauce as embalming fluid and then being bitten by the person who was embalmed.

On each page you are going to annotate all the posts with one of the following **categories**:

Question/Request

A post with a question or a request seeking some form of feedback or help or other kinds of responses.

Example:

Who are the best NBA players of all time?

How is it scientists are finding links between meat and cancer when humankind has always

existed on meat and vegetable diet?

While the post may have a question mark, it doesn't necessarily have to contain one. For instance it might be posed in the form of a statement.

Example:

Give me your best tips to stave off hunger pangs! It is my best friend's birthday tonight and we are going out to eat at my favorite BBQ restaurant. I calculated the calories for the dinner I plan on ordering and it is just under 1200 calories. I had a small fiber-rich breakfast 3 hours ago and I am planning on not eating until it's time for dinner which is currently 7 hours away.

IAMA person who has been waiting to be seen in the ER for the last 7 hours... Ask Me Anything!

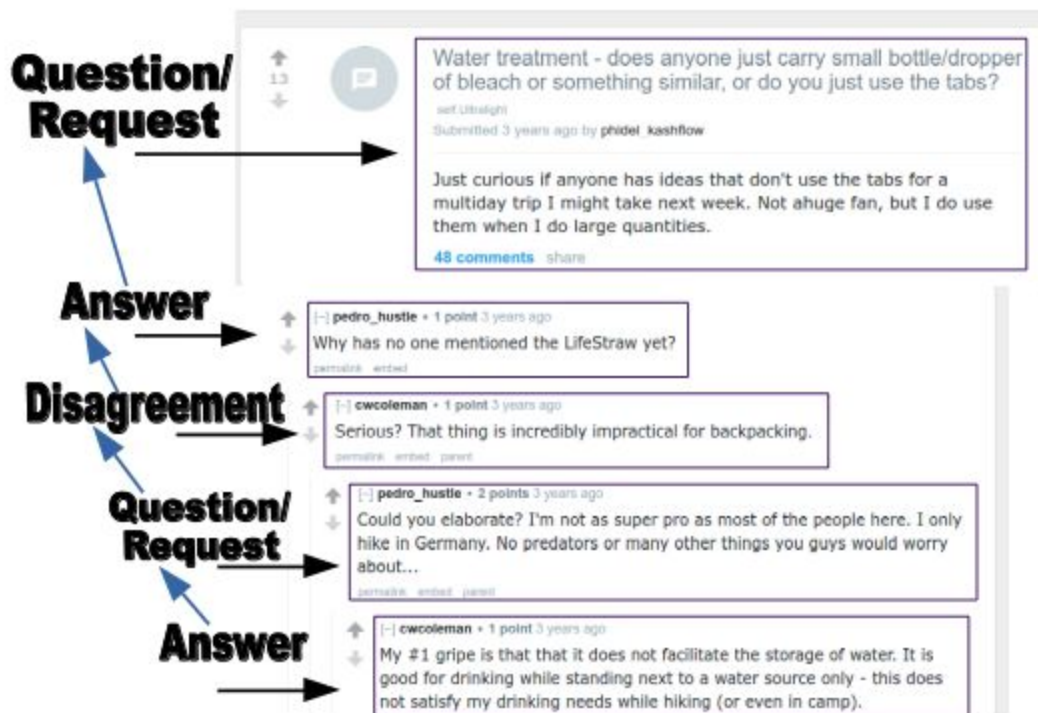
Also, not everything that has a question mark is automatically a Question/Request. For instance, rhetorical questions are usually not actually asking for a response. In the following exchange, the Answer post contains a question mark:

Question/Request: What's your favorite brand for hiking gear?

Answer: Why has no one mentioned Patagonia yet?

Sometimes a question might be the 1st post of the page, including both a title and a body. These posts, since they come first, don't link to anything. The example image above about "How can pink eye spread?" shows a Question/Request as the 1st post.

Other times, questions or requests are made somewhere in the replies, that are clarifying or following up on something stated earlier. In these cases, the Question/Request must be linked to what it is clarifying or following up on. For example, the 2nd Question/Request in the below image is a question asking for clarification on the opinion stated in a previous post.



Answer

A post that is responding to a question or request posed with an answer. There can be more than one answer post responding to the same question post.

- This post **must always** be linked to a Question/Request post.
- Answers can respond to initial Question/Request posts as well as follow up or clarifying Question/Request posts. For example, in the above image, you can see an Answer post that is linked to a 1st post Question/Request as well as another Answer post that is linked to a followup Question/Request post.
- Posts that build upon prior Answer posts with more information are not Answer posts but Elaboration/FYI posts (defined below) because they are elaborating on another answer.

Announcement

A post that is presenting some new information to the community, such as a piece of news, a link to a picture or article, a story, an opinion, a review, or new insight. The information is unprompted and not in response to anything else that is said.

- This is **always** the 1st post in a discussion thread and is not linked to anything.

Examples of 1st posts from different discussions:

4135



TIL a 10 year old British girl saved nearly a hundred foreign tourists at Maikhao Beach in Thailand by warning beachgoers minutes before the arrival of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake tsunami. She learned about tsunamis in school just two weeks prior to the event. (en.wikipedia.org)

submitted 10 hours ago by IM_NOT_UR_BUDDY_GUY
962 comments share

3098



Hubble Space Telescope captured giant auroras around Jupiter (i.imgur.com)

submitted 5 hours ago by Meggot
163 comments share

all 163 comments

Si

thi
3
shc

Agreement

A post that is expressing any sort of agreement with some information presented in a prior post. It can be agreeing with a point made, providing supporting evidence, providing a positive example or experience or anecdote, or confirming or acknowledging a point made in the prior post. Posts of this category are more informational as opposed to interpersonal.

- This post is **always** linked to the post that it is agreeing with.

Example:

Question/Request →

Answer →

Disagreement →

Agreement →

Question/Request

ELI5: Why is it so important that the US President is limited to two terms, but congressmen/senator can be elected repeatedly?

submitted 10 days ago by willnotakktou
[removed]
1556 comments share

top 200 comments show 500
sorted by: best

Answer

[-] keplar 3083 points 10 days ago*
Presidential term limits were a tradition, not a law, for the first 150 or so years. George Washington chose to step down after two terms, and every president ...
permalink embed

Disagreement

[-] A_Swell_Gaytheist 817 points 10 days ago*
IIRC the term limit on the presidency is actually part of a constitutional amendment, not just a law. Removing it would be pretty difficult at this point.
permalink embed parent

Agreement

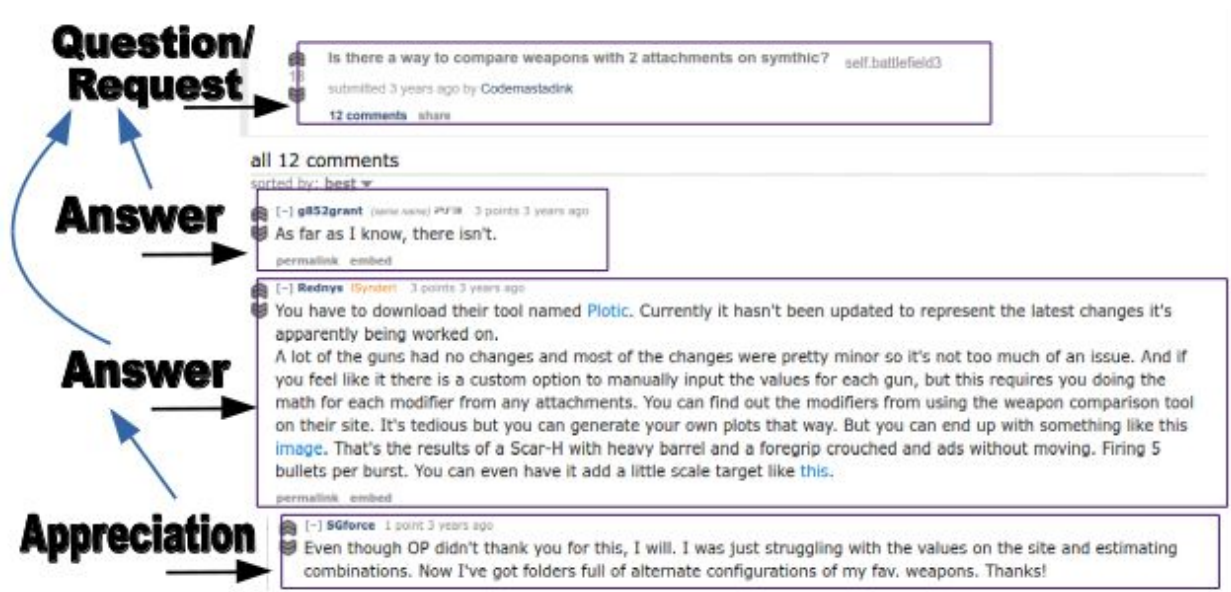
[-] keplar 362 points 10 days ago
Quite right! I tend to think of constitutional amendments as "laws" (given the nature of the constitution as the founding legal document of the nation), but there's definitely a difference between changing a normal law, and changing the Constitution. Point well made.

Appreciation/Positive Reaction

A post that is expressing thanks, interest, appreciation, praise, or any sort of positive reaction to a post that is not related to agreeing with points made in the post, which would fall under Agreement. This post is not expressing agreement with the post so much as thanking the previous poster or expressing appreciation for the post or expressing excitement in reaction to the post. It is not evaluating the merits of the points brought up. Posts of this category are more interpersonal as opposed to informational.

If you feel that a post is equally an Appreciation/Positive Reaction post and an Agreement post, and you cannot pick one over the other, then label the post as Appreciation/Positive Reaction.

- This post is **always** linked to the post that it is expressing appreciation for.
- Sometimes a post is expressing appreciation to multiple posters or to the community in general. In that case, link it to the most recent response that it is expressing appreciation for.



Disagreement

A post that is expressing disagreement with something in a prior post. It can be correcting, criticizing, contradicting, or objecting to a point made in a prior post. It can also be providing evidence to support its disagreement, such as an example or anecdote to the contrary. Posts of this category are more informational as opposed to interpersonal.

- This post is **always** linked to the post that it disagreed with.

Example:



Negative Reaction

A post that is expressing a negative reaction to a previous post, but is not focused on arguing against the points made in a prior post, which would be under Disagreement. This post may be attacking or mocking the poster of the prior post instead of engaging with the content. Or the post may be reacting negatively, such as with emotions like disgust, derision, or anger, to the contents of the prior post. This post is not discussing the points made in a prior post or trying to correct them in any way. It is not evaluating the merits of the points brought up. Posts of this category are more interpersonal as opposed to informational.

If you feel that a post is equally a Negative Reaction post and a Disagreement post, and you cannot pick one over the other, then label the post as Negative Reaction.

- This post is **always** linked to the post that it is expressing a negative reaction to.



Elaboration/FYI

A post that is adding information on to another post. Oftentimes, you can imagine it simply appended to the end of the post it elaborates on and it would still make sense. One can elaborate on many kinds of posts, for instance, the question-asker elaborating on their question to provide more context, or a person elaborating on an answer or announcement or some other kind of post to add more information, give examples, provide exceptions, tell an anecdote, point out a detail, or provide other context.

If a post is providing more information towards a pre-existing answer then it is an Elaboration/FYI of that answer and not an Answer post. If it is directly answering a Question post then it is an Answer. If you are unsure between Elaboration/FYI and Answer, then choose Answer.

If a post is expressing agreement or disagreement with another post, then it is an Agreement or Disagreement post and not Elaboration/FYI, even if the post is also providing additional information. If you are unsure between Elaboration/FYI and Agreement or Disagreement, then choose Agreement or Disagreement.

If a post is providing a positive or negative reaction to a prior post then it is an Appreciation/Positive Reaction post or a Negative Reaction post, and not an Elaboration/FYI. If you are unsure between Elaboration/FYI and Appreciation/Positive Reaction or Negative Reaction, then choose Appreciation/Positive Reaction or Negative Reaction.

An Elaboration/FYI post's primary purpose is adding on more information.

- This post is **always** linked to the post that it is elaborating on.

Question/ Request

Answer

Elaboration

Elaboration

Elaboration

Elaboration

What was something that shocked you when you visited a foreign country?

(self:AskReddit)

submitted 11 days ago * by thebackfish

EDIT: Thank you all for your stories and experiences! I've had a great time reading as many as I can and I'm sure others have as well.

[~] PM_ME_YOUR_LADYPART 991 points 11 days ago

Beer on tap at the breakfast buffet.

Prague Czech Republic

permalink embed

[~] patty_hewes 266 points 11 days ago

Beer being served in fast food restaurants in Spain.

permalink embed parent

[~] Lamparita 298 points 11 days ago

Or anywhere, really. I'm a Spaniard living in Canada and the views on alcohol here are ridiculous to me but they make sense once you see the people drink. In Spain, a beer is seen as a coke for grown ups, nothing else. In Canada its a whole different story.

permalink embed parent

[~] GLOZZ51 200 points 11 days ago

Day drinking being normal in Italy.

No, Mario, the rest of the world doesn't get wine with lunch on a Tuesday.

permalink embed parent

[~] DisneyBoulder 91 points 11 days ago

Day drinking is pretty normal in a lot of Europe. Had lunch with my sister earlier (London) and people were already on the beers and wine at half twelve.

permalink embed parent

Humor

This post is primarily a joke, a piece of sarcasm, or a pun intended to get a laugh or be silly.

This post is not trying to make a serious point or add information. If a post is sarcastic but using sarcasm to make a point or provide feedback to another post as opposed to being silly, then it should be in a different category.

- This post may be the 1st post or a reply to another post and usually has a link.



Other

Anything that doesn't fit into one of the other categories goes in Other.

For instance, these posts can include:

- Meta posts, or posts talking about the rules or tone of the community or discussion
- Coordination posts, where people are trying to organize some action or buy and sell items
- Spam and gibberish
- Posts by administrators or moderators of the forum
- Solicitations to buy something or click on something
- Bots and other automated messages
- Posts that are only links to something where it is not clear what kind of post it is without clicking the link.
- Somewhat irrelevant side commentary or witty comments that don't really serve a purpose
- Any chit-chat that doesn't fit into other categories ("Congrats", "Feel better", "Good luck",

etc.). Posts that are like “Thanks” should be labeled Appreciation.

- Posts that clearly have been posted in the wrong discussion or forum.

Other posts do not have to link to anything.

Multiple Classifications

Sometimes, different sentences or paragraphs within a single post serve different functions, and it is difficult to pick one classification. For instance, a post might be answering a question, and then asking another question. Or it could be at first expressing agreement with a post, followed by some sentences where it expresses disagreement. For these clear-cut cases, you can add a secondary classification in the tool, as shown in the screenshot below. This should be something that you do rarely.

Do NOT add multiple classifications for cases where a post has only one function but you are undecided between multiple classifications. For instance if a post could be seen as expressing agreement and also as elaborating on another post, then pick the one that fits the post the best. As another example, say a post might be giving an Answer but could be saying it in a funny way. In that case, the post should just be labeled Answer.

To decide which is the primary category and which is the secondary category, go in order of what is happening in the post. For instance, if the post is *answering* a question, and then afterwards, *asking* another question, then the Primary Category should be “Answer” and the secondary should be “Question”.

The link you select should correspond to the *Primary Category*.

Here are examples with posts with two classifications in blue.

Primary: Agreement

Secondary: Answer

The diagram illustrates a forum thread with annotations for linguistic analysis. The thread starts with a question/request, followed by several answers and appreciations. The annotations are as follows:

- Question/Request:** Points to the initial post by *Stenchgirl* asking for fountain pen recommendations in Missoula.
- Answer:** Points to the first comment by *st3ve* providing a link to <http://www.noteworthystore.com/>.
- Appreciation:** Points to the second comment by *Stenchgirl* thanking *st3ve*.
- Agreement+ Answer:** Points to the third comment by *gordwiser* agreeing with *st3ve* and adding another recommendation.
- Appreciation:** Points to the fourth comment by *Stenchgirl* thanking *gordwiser*.

The forum thread content is as follows:

Fountain pens in Missoula? (self,missoula)
submitted 6 months ago by *Stenchgirl*

Hey guys, I've lived in Missoula for about 5 or 6 years now but am still not very familiar with the place as I really don't go out much. I recently got into fountain pens and have been buying all my stuff online but I was wondering if anyone knows of a place in the Missoula area that sells fountain pens and/or fountain pen accessories.

I know that there is a company (Tree Ring pens I think?) that makes their own fountain pens that is based in Missoula, but I'm looking for anywhere that sells the different brands of pens, ink and notebooks etc.

Thanks so much for the help! =)

8 comments share

all 8 comments
sorted by: **best**

[+] *st3ve* *Nevermore* 4 points 6 months ago
Looks like <http://www.noteworthystore.com/> might have a small selection.
permalink embed

[+] *Stenchgirl* (S) 1 point 6 months ago
Ooh thank you! I'll have to check it out after the holidays are over! =)
permalink embed parent

[+] *gordwiser* 3 points 6 months ago
I'll second what *u/st3ve* said. Rockin Rudy's might have some as well.
permalink embed

[+] *Stenchgirl* (S) 1 point 6 months ago
Holy crap, how have I never been there before, it looks awesome! I'll check it out, thanks! =)
permalink embed parent

Primary: Question

Secondary: Answer

