Instructions for Coding Scheme

The data file has the following three columns: (i) a subject ID to index the participants, (ii) a context column to know which vignette participants read, and (iii) participant’s free form responses. There are 425 responses across 8 total vignettes. This document outlines how participant’s responses have to be classified.

Each participant read only one of the 8 vignettes and after reading it were asked to explain, in their own words, why the focal action was performed.

Each vignette contains some background information and an action (involving giving something to someone). All vignettes employed have some structural similarities. First, they all involve only 2 individuals. Second, almost all of the scenarios involve one person leaving something on the other person’s pillow or on their desk. What was left (or done) is stored in the context column. So, if the context column says “flowers”, that means, person 1 left flowers on person 2’s pillow. Third, all the items were left with a note that says “Love, your roommate (or colleague)”.

An example vignette is presented below. This vignette is not a part of the data set and is being used only to illustrate the coding scheme.

Example Vignette

*Steve lives in an apartment with one other roommate, Andrew. Steve found Andrew on an apartment share app and the two of them have been living together for the last few months. They don't hang out much together, but they are cordial to one another.*

*Steve is an engineer at a big software company. He's been doing that job for over a year and seems to enjoy it. Andrew recently switched jobs and started working for a company that produces cleaning supplies for clothes. He joined as a marketing manager and is responsible for creating advertising campaigns for their products.*

*Steve and Andrew have a sweet living arrangement. They have a large living room, a kitchen, and a fully functioning washer-dryer in their apartment unit, that they both end up using at least once a week. They get along well, but do not like to share their stuff. So, at the start of their living arrangement, Andrew decided that each of them will use only his own products (like, body wash, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc.) for his cleaning.*

*One day, Steve comes back home to find a shiny new voucher for a laundry detergent on his pillow with a ribbon around it and a tag that says" "Love, your roommate".*

In response to reading this vignette, participants answered the question: *Why do you think Andrew left a voucher for a laundry detergent on Steve's bed?*

In this vignette, the action performed was “leaving a voucher”. So, the context column for any participant who read this vignette would read “voucher for laundry detergent”. Participant’s free form responses have to be classified into one of the following four categories:

**(i) As a gift, classification label “gift”:**

To be classified under this category, a participants’ response must contain a gift-like, positive inference about the item left. Some illustrative examples of such responses are as follows:

* “*Andrew left the voucher for Steve to be nice to him/to show his appreciation for being a good roommate/to get closer to Steve”*
* *“Because Andrew had some extra’s from work and wanted to help out his roommate/ Andrew was promoting his company’s products”*
* *“It was a nice gesture”*
* *“Because it’s Steve’s birthday”*

If a given response is similar to the sentiment in the aforementioned responses carry, the response should be classified with the label “gift”. The important thing to remember about coding this category is that the interpretation is positive and gift-like.

**(ii) As a disapproval, classification label “diss”:**

To be classified under this category, a participants’ response must reference a disapproval and communicative inference of the item left. A few illustrative examples of responses that would warrant this label are as follows:

* *“I think Andrew left the voucher because Steve was probably using his detergent. He was being passive aggressive.”*
* *“Andrew does not like to share, and Steve probably used Andrew’s stuff.”*
* *“Andrew is being immature and telling Steve to use his own cleaning supplies.”*

The commonality across these responses is that they all construe the item left as Andrew trying to communicative his disapproval of Steve’s behavior through the item. If any participant response falls in this category, it should receive the label “diss”. The important thing to remember about this coding category is that the interpretation of the inference is one of disapproval, or, referencing a signal to some kind of problem.

**(iii) Both as a gift and as a punishment, label “both”**

Responses under this category will be a combination of those in the earlier two categories. In other words, there should be a mention of both possibilities with respect to the item – that is a gift and/or it is a way for Andrew to communicate his disapproval to Steve. A couple illustrative examples are:

* *“Well, what seems to be going on here is that Andrew is aggressively telling Steve that he should use his own laundry supplies and not use Andrew’s. So, he’s giving him a warning. It seems that he might also be giving Andrew a present by giving him a voucher for a laundry detergent.”*
* *“Either Andrew is trying to be a good roommate by doing something nice or he’s being a jerk and telling Steve to use his own supplies.”*

The commonality in these responses would be an acknowledgment of both the possibilities of the item being a gift and a signal of disapproval. If a participant’s response falls under this category, it should receive a classification label “both”. The important thing to remember about this coding category is that the response will reference both interpretations. A particular subject may endorse one interpretation over the the other, but, if they acknowledge both, then that response should be categorized as both.

**(iv) None of the above, label “none”**

Finally, there will be responses that fall under none of the classifications above on account of being irrelevant, vague, or incomplete. Such responses should get a classification label of “none”. Some illustrative examples are given below:

* *“I have no clue”*
* *“To play a joke on Steve”*
* *“I am not sure, but I think in this scenario in this story, Andrew overstep his boundaries. Personally, I have never touched or altered someone's else physical properties that I did not have access or rights to without their permission.”*
* *“It's a micro-aggression. Conflict is needed to prevent violence. Opposed to giving his anger a voice, Andrew chose violence. He did it because some people are violent.”*
* *“On the first Christmas sweater that my true love gave to me was I just wanna go home and play video games A parody of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes as performed by The Platters I like What better way, on a special day, to ask, will you be mine? They take a lame pickup line, and they find a brand new way to ask it”*

As you can see, some of these responses are related but do not clearly fall into any of the three categories, some of these responses might be the participant’s evaluation of the act, and some of these responses are completely irrelevant. Responses falling under these categories, should be labelled as “none”.