1. Introduction:

Your task is to annotate tweets by identifying the emotional tone based on two dimensions: **valence** (positive, neutral, or negative) and **arousal** (low, medium, or high). The goal is to analyze how understanding emotions in tweets can help us to combat fake news. Correctly identifying the intensity and sentiment of emotions in each tweet will provide valuable insights for our research.

2. Instructions:

For each tweet, assign two labels:

1. **Valence**: This measures whether the emotional tone of the tweet is positive, neutral, or negative.
2. **Arousal**: This assesses how **intense** the emotional expression is (low, medium, or high).

3. Explanation of Categories:

Valence (Emotional Tone)

- **Positive**: The tweet conveys optimistic, happy, or hopeful emotions. Positive valence generally indicates approval, excitement, joy, or satisfaction.
  - **Examples**:
    - **"I totally agree with JoJo on this. You cannot compare TFG's insane wall with Biden's eviction moratorium – apples & oranges."**
    - *This tweet conveys agreement and a positive stance toward Biden's policy. The valence here is **positive**.*

- **Neutral**: The tweet is emotionally neutral or lacks a clear emotional stance. It may contain facts, descriptions, or objective statements that don't explicitly indicate strong emotions.
  - **Examples**:
    - **"For the first time in 35 years, America has more businesses dying than starting."**
    - *This tweet presents a factual statement without emotional language. The valence is **neutral**.*

- **Negative**: The tweet expresses criticism, sadness, anger, fear, or disapproval. This category includes complaints, frustrations, or pessimism.
  - **Examples**:
    - **"The left doesn't care how they won this election. By hook or by crook."**
    - *The tweet criticizes the outcome of the election, indicating disapproval and skepticism. The valence here is **negative**.*

Arousal (Emotional Intensity)

- **High Arousal**: The tweet conveys strong, intense emotions. Look for urgency, excitement, frustration, or extreme emotional language. High-arousal tweets often have energetic expressions, capitalized words, multiple exclamation marks, or a clear sense of intensity.
    - **Examples**:
        - **"Beijing Biden Has Rescinded Trump's Executive Order Banning Chinese Involvement in Our Power Grid!!!"**
        - *The tweet has intense language with capitalized words, indicating high emotional intensity. This is an example of **high arousal**.*

- **Medium Arousal**: The tweet expresses a noticeable but moderate emotional tone. The emotions are clear but not overpowering or extreme. There might be mild enthusiasm, annoyance, or frustration, but they aren't at their highest intensity.
    - **Examples**:
        - **"I think we need a strong background check for Americans for gun purchases, but we also need to close all immigration loopholes."**
        - *The tweet expresses an opinion and some emotion but without intense or exaggerated language. This is **medium arousal**.*

- **Low Arousal**: The tweet reflects calm, subdued, or very mild emotions. It could convey peace, mild frustration, or a relaxed tone, with no urgency or extreme emotional intensity.
    - **Examples**:
        - **"The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world."**
        - *The tweet is factual and lacks emotion. This is an example of **low arousal**.*

4. Handling Borderline Cases:

Some tweets may not clearly fit into one specific category, and this is common. To handle these **borderline cases**, follow these principles:

Valence Borderlines:

- **Neutral vs. Positive**: If the tweet seems generally factual but has a slight hint of positivity (e.g., optimism or approval), classify it as **positive** if the positive emotion is noticeable.
    - **Example**: **"Biden's policies are finally helping Americans get back on their feet."** (positive, not neutral).

- **Neutral vs. Negative**: If a tweet is mostly factual but expresses a mild sense of frustration or discontent, lean toward **negative** if the emotion can be sensed, even subtly.
  - **Example**: **"I never put much into the Arizona Audit, but now I almost pray it's a reality and Trump is reinstated."** (negative, not neutral).

Arousal Borderlines:

- **Low vs. Medium Arousal**: If the tweet expresses emotion but remains calm, rational, or composed, it is likely **low arousal**. If there is a noticeable emotional tone (e.g., slight enthusiasm, frustration), but it's not intense, it should be categorized as **medium arousal**.
  - **Example**: **"We definitely need a strong background check for gun purchases but also need to close immigration loopholes."**
  - *This expresses concern but in a composed way, so it leans more towards **medium arousal**.*

- **Medium vs. High Arousal**: If the tweet feels emotionally charged but not extreme, it is likely **medium arousal**. **High arousal** tends to involve urgency, strong emotional expressions, or dramatic language.
  - **Example**: **"Beijing Biden Beckons China to Take Over the U.S. Power Grid!!!"**
  - *The use of capitalized words and intense accusation shows urgency and frustration, leading to **high arousal**.*

General Approach to Borderline Cases:

- Focus on the **most prominent emotion** when deciding between two categories.
- If the tweet seems to fall between two levels of arousal (e.g., between medium and high), consider the **context**:
  - **Does the tweet show urgency or emotional intensity?** (If yes, lean towards high arousal).
  - **Is the tone emotional but more measured?** (If yes, lean towards medium arousal).

IMPORTANT:

If even after following these guidelines you are still insecure on where the tweet would fit, you can still annotate, but also **mark the tweet via an "r" for Revision in the "Revision" Column**, so that the peers can review and discuss the annotation.