

Annotation Guidelines

Objective: The objective of the task of annotation is to label each datapoint with its corresponding stance. By accurately annotating the stances of the datapoints, we aim to build a comprehensive dataset that can be used for various analyses and natural language processing tasks.

Scope: The dataset provided is a random sample that contains social media (Reddit) posts and comments covering a diverse range of topics, from 14 different subreddits. Each datapoint represents a unique perspective or opinion expressed by an individual or group regarding a specific issue or event. Some of the datapoints might seem trivial or incomplete in this regard, since they might be a continuation of some conversation.

Guidelines: In order to annotate correctly, the task is to review each datapoint and assign one of the predefined stance labels that best represents the expressed or implied stance towards the subject matter. Our work revolves around the Israel-Gaza war. For our purpose, ‘Stance’ refers to the expressed or implied position, viewpoint, or sentiment conveyed by the datapoint towards a particular subject, topic, or entity.

For example, ‘Israel doesn’t occupy Gaza, for the past 18 years. They pulled settlers and military out in 2005.’ – this statement reflects clear support for Israel as the author of the text seems to provide justifications that prove Israel as not being any sort of culprit, so the stance is ‘Supports Israel’.

The detailed guidelines for stance labels pertaining to a text block can be referred to from the Table below:

Annotation	Rules	Examples
P = Supports Palestine	This label signifies a position that advocates for the rights, interests, or perspectives of the Palestinian people, their statehood, sovereignty, and their aspirations for self-determination, independence, and equality within the region.	Hamas wanted to negotiate the week of the 7th. USA/Israel said no. I think most of us know that not all Palestinians support Hamas. However, being able to express it is a different story in Gaza and usually leads to death.

		But it is more than just Israel. It is the imperialist countries, too, including the United States.
I = Supports Israel	This designation reflects a stance supportive of Israel's interests, security, and rights, including its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the protection of its citizens. It may also encompass backing for Israel's right to defend itself and ensure its survival in the region.	<p>It's the ultimate gaslighting to blame Israel for people deciding to be terrorists.</p> <p>Israel doesn't occupy Gaza, for the past 18 years. They pulled settlers and military out in 2005.</p> <p>Thank you Israel. Taking the garbage out now so we don't have to in 5 years.</p>
N = Neutral / Unclear Stance	This classification denotes an impartial or ambiguous viewpoint that refrains from taking a definitive position in favour of either the Palestinian or Israeli side. It may indicate a lack of sufficient information, understanding, or conviction to align with one perspective over the other, or it could reflect an intentional avoidance of partisanship in complex geopolitical issues.	<p>There's a pretty large difference between engineers making nuclear weapons for a country that swears to destroy you in a rain of hellfire vs. random Israeli civilians.</p> <p>Not a progressive and IDF stalled negotiations and brought back the fighting.</p> <p>All I ask is for my legitimate questions to be legitimately answered, how am I so despicable in this scenario? Words matter, if convincing me is your goal here, it's not working. If it is simply to channel aggressions towards someone who doesn't agree with you, by all means, keep at it. I am open to conversation the moment you are.</p>

Points to consider:

- Evaluate each datapoint based on its context, tone, and content to determine the appropriate stance label.
- Take into consideration the nuances and subtleties in the language used to express the stance.
- Avoid making assumptions or introducing bias when assigning stance labels.

Acknowledgment: Your contributions to this annotation task are greatly appreciated and will play a vital role in enhancing the quality and usability of our dataset. Thank you for your participation and commitment to this task!