

Do you need a
lawyer, or are you
just a jerk?

An adventure in subreddit
classification



Not allowing my best friend to crash at my house after his wife died

My best friend Jake's wife died about a month ago in a car crash and he's handling it terribly. He's a complete mess and while we all try to be there for him, he's become very depressed and

How can I verify the offer my attorney says I was given?

We are at a point in the litigation where the opposing counsel made an offer. It is WAY too low. I am worried my attorney is lying to me and telling me this low offer just so I will retain him further. I have a PACER account and can see all the briefs so I know he isn't totally BS: he has litigated the case this far, but I just feel funny about the offer since it is way lower than what we projected.



r/????? · Posted by u/throwaway900000q 3 hours ago

6



Inheritance drama



r/??? · Posted by u/AllTiedUpRN 1 month ago

15



Asking for a prenup to protect my assets



r/AmItheAsshole

A subreddit for asking strangers to litigate fights between you and your friends/family/significant other in order to determine if you are a jerk. (The answer is usually yes.)

r/legaladvice

A subreddit for asking strangers about actual litigation that you may want to pursue, or you are otherwise party to. (It is possible you are also a jerk.)

What are people talking about on these subreddits?





Word	 r/AmItheAsshole	 r/legaladvice
Total words	529355	426870
really	3499	1009
want	3124	1640
friends	3052	503
friend	3047	858
feel	2531	582
work	2029	2067
house	1359	1420
legal	49	1420
car	927	1839
pay	881	1761

- Count Vectorizer
 - N-gram range of (1, 2)
 - 300,000 features
 - No stop words
- Logistic Regression
 - Lasso
 - Alpha = 166.81
- This was an increase of .7% from a CVEC/logistic regression model with no parameters

97%

accuracy

Confusion Matrix

	Predicted:  r/AmItheAsshole	Predicted:  r/legaladvice
Actual:  r/AmItheAsshole	917 True Negatives	48 False Positives
Actual:  r/legaladvice	16 False Negatives	1064 True Positives

What kind of posts did it get wrong?

 **r/AmItheAsshole** · Posted by u/sexypinochet 2 months ago

AITA for objecting to smart assistants (amazon echo) in shared spaces in a shared flat?

 **r/AmItheAsshole** · Posted by u/flauntedwrench 3 months ago

AITA for breaking a classmates nose because he called me a “worthless slut”

 **r/legaladvice** · Posted by u/AsAbOveSoBelOw 3 months ago

Wrongfully received a No Pass in a class and nobody at my college is doing anything about it. Emails being ignored.

 **r/legaladvice** · Posted by u/AustrianDthMchn 3 months ago

Just bought a car...maybe?

300,000

features created using Count Vectorizer with n-gram length of 2

turned into

2,312

non-zero coefficients

Most powerful variables:



r/legaladvice

1,127

doing the

males and

her husbands

timeline day

nickname

of judgement

suspended account

zero income



r/AmItheAsshole

1,185

all pitch

shield for

dad called

the fallout

withdrawn all

cards later

our personal

repeatedly threatened

“worst person”



r/AmItheAsshole

“get coffee”

—



r/legaladvice

“her husbands”

—



r/legaladvice

“youtube upload”



r/AmItheAsshole

“fortnite”



r/legaladvice

“strong suspicions”



r/legaladvice

“repeatedly threatened”



r/AmItheAsshole

“his text”

—



r/legaladvice

“withdrawn all”



r/AmItheAsshole

Conclusions

- Text-heavy posts make for easy classification.
- The way we talk about our lives in the context of the law and personal drama is very different.
- The two *can* overlap.
- A lot of people are jerks.