

Introduction

The goal of this task is to assess how climate change is portrayed in news articles, and what specific themes (or frames) may be present.

In your annotations, please focus on the most important parts of the article, which are usually the title and the lead paragraph(s). In other words, your annotations should reflect the main focus of the article and not minor details mentioned in passing.

Some themes are more explicit, or blatant, than others, and may often go unnoticed to the average reader. Because of this, we have adopted a particular “coding scheme” to uncover these otherwise hidden themes or frames.

Adherence to the coding scheme will provide you with the idea of what to look for in each article. The scheme contains a list of questions to which you will be asked to provide a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. If you’re unsure about your answer because an article does not refer explicitly to the issue in question, please select ‘no’.

General Instructions

You will code one article at a time by answering a series of questions in an associated spread sheet.

You can view each article in your browser.

The spread sheet asks you to code for mostly latent (underlying) content, which requires you to use your best judgment for interpretation. For example, one question asks, “Does the story refer to morality, God, and other religious tenets?” The notions of “morality” or “other religious tenets” is not particularly defined for this exercise, which requires you to use your understanding for an appropriate answer. We suggest that you use a fairly broad definition of morality, which includes any reference to standards or judgments of right and wrong.

Some questions considered somewhat confusing in the past include:

- “Does the story provide a human example or “human face” of the effects of climate change?” - This refers to whether or not a story **refers specifically to narratives of people**, both individuals and collectives (such as groups or organisations).
- “Does the story employ adjectives or personal vignettes that generate feelings of outrage, empathy-caring, sympathy, or compassion?” - Do not interpret this personally, but judge whether or not the content **could generate such feelings** for another reader.

Main problem/issue of the story

For articles discussing predominantly an issue/problem related to climate change, you will be asked to identify this problem/issue in the story. Please copy-paste the article title if you believe that it reflects well the main problem/issue in the story. Otherwise, please provide an alternative title which describes the issue/problem using your own words.

Entities in the story

Some questions refer to whether an **entity** impacts or is impacted by climate change. An entity may be human (e.g., a person, group, or institution) or non-human (e.g., an animal, object, event, or an abstract concept). For example, “Paris agreement” may be considered responsible for climate change.

For each entity-related question answered with “yes”, you will be asked to select the single most appropriate entity from a pre-selected list. If none of the pre-selected entities match your answer, please select “other” and type in the name of the appropriate entity in the field provided.

Article text files

For each article, please first read the unannotated version with the suffix “_text.html”. Once you read the article, you may open the version without the “text” suffix. This version contains highlights of the most important entities in the article. The highlighted entities correspond to the entity lists provided in the annotation spread sheets and may help you select the most appropriate entities.