

## Detect Emotion in Tweets (Dominance, Gun)

### Full instruction

#### Qualification

If you finish this training module with a passing score, you will be qualified to complete HITs posted by the requester “zhlei” with the title, “Identify Dominant/Submissive Emotion in English Tweets”.

#### Task

You will be presented with a group of four randomly selected tweets that are relevant to significant social issues in the US (e.g., gun, immigration, abortion, climate change, or same-sex marriage). Your task is to select two tweets out of the four; one tweet is associated with the most dominant, and the other is associated with the most submissive. And, you will rate how confident you are for the decisions you made.

#### Emotion in Text

To give you some background knowledge, a written or spoken text message (e.g., a tweet, an argumentative statement, a public speech) is often associated with different levels of **feeling-in-control** over a focal discussed issue/event/problem. At one end, it is feeling in control of the situation, dominant, powerful, influential, important, or autonomous. At the other end, it is submissive, controlled by outside factors, weak, influenced, cared-for, or guided.

#### Dominant/Submissive feelings in tweets

Feeling-in-control is not the actual control over things. When identifying the dominant/submissive feelings in Tweets, such feelings are often suggested by how the focal discussed issue/event/problem is taken, interpreted, judged, or responded to by the tweet author. You may find a **higher level of feeling-in-control** in the following circumstances:

The tweet authors talk about

- **a desirable happening or outcome** of the focal discussed issue/event/problem, or/and
- **an effort that helps the desirable happenings or outcomes**

Because in such circumstances, there will be less feeling that things would fall out of one's control.

## Type of tweets and examples

To help you compare the levels of feeling-in-control across tweets, we further categorize tweets roughly into three types: Dominant tweets, Neutral tweets, and Submissive tweets. Note that not all tweets can fall into the there types exactly. But this rough categorization will help you to locate tweets in the spectrum of dominance.

Here is a general principle:

### Dominant tweets > Neutral tweets > Submissive tweets

Dominant Tweets have a higher level of dominance, Submissive tweets lower, and Neutral tweets in between.

To better understand this principle, we now discuss each type of tweets and give examples:

#### 1. A Dominant tweet:

A tweet is a Dominant tweet when it includes **an effort** to promote the desirable (or to prevent the undesirable) happenings or outcomes. Mostly, the effort involves: (1) the tweet author **self-participates** in actions, or (2) the tweet author says or does something through tweeting, which is **to Influence the thoughts and behaviors of others**. Usually, the former has a higher level of dominance than the latter.

When people are taking part in a thing, they feel they are more likely to have actual control over it. So they tend to have a higher level of dominant feeling. The more people put an effort into influencing others and believe such an effort will make a difference, the higher the level of dominant feeling.

#### ❑ **Self-participation in action**

E.g., *"I am proud to join my colleagues & local leaders in solidarity and against hate. And to put an end to gun violence. [PHOTO]"*

#### ❑ **Advocate** (i.e., call to action)

E.g., *"Let's ALL join in! The violence MUST stop. League of Women Voters takes on gun control [LINK]"*

#### ❑ **Demand/Request**

E.g., *"We won't ignore the gun violence. Today I continue to demand that Congress vote to #DisarmHate & say #NotOneMore. [LINK]"*

#### ❑ **Advice**

E.g., *“Instead of banning guns.... give everyone a gun so then we can shoot back !!!! Arm yourselves people !!!!! Protect yourself !!! 🚬🚬🚬”*

❑ **Praise/Approval**

E.g., *“Thanks to @OregonGovBrown for taking action to reduce gun violence in Oregon! [LINK]”*

❑ **Argument/Counterargument** (i.e., argue what is right/wrong or true/false)

E.g., *“Six facts that disprove EVERYTHING liberals say about gun control [LINK]”*

❑ **Questioning**

*“Largest mass shooting in USA history. What will it take for citizens to realize that new gun laws need to take effect #OrlandoStrong”*

❑ **Critique/Disapproval**

E.g., *“@MegGerrish @FLGovScott @orlandohealth @FSU\_Football yes because gun control will keep the idiots from killing people! Not!! Ur dumb”*

## 2. A Submissive tweet

A tweet is a submissive tweet if it indicates doubt in any effort that could make a difference in changing the current undesirable happenings or outcomes.

❑ **A lost feeling in knowing what is happening at present or what will happen in the future**

The tweet indicates the author's feeling of a loss in control (or a lack of power) in happenings or regarding how to think and interpret an issue/event/problem.

E.g., *“how many people need die until there are proper gun control laws?? I feel sick 🤢 #OrlandoShooting”*

❑ **A powerless situation**

Nothing can be done or happen.

E.g., *“Sadly heard a father tell his cold daughter to take her hands out of inside her sweatshirt because nobody knows if she has a gun or not. 😞”*

## 3. A neutral tweet (neither submissive nor dominant)

Some tweet expressions may not be associated with either submissive or dominant emotion; the tweet could be a statement or an argument that reads neutral to you.

E.g., *“Boston Globe editorial on gun control: Ban assault weapons. [LINK] via BostonGlobe”*

#### 4. Mixed feelings about dominance

A tweet may consist of several sentences. In some cases, the coders may find different feelings of control in these distinct sentences. In such case, please determine the level of dominance based on the overall message - read all the sentences as a whole and rate on the overall feeling of control.

#### Summary of principles to determine the level of dominance in tweets

- **Dominant tweets > Neutral tweets > Submissive tweets**

You can consider Dominant tweets are associated with positive feelings in control, and Submissive tweets negative. So Neutral tweets would be in-between.

- **A desirable happening/outcome involved > An undesirable happening/outcome involved**  
of the focal discussed issue/event/problem

- **A desirable effort involved > No desirable effort involved**

Any desirable effort - either from the tweet authors themselves or others - gives a better chance to dominate the happenings and outcomes so usually lead to a higher level of dominant feeling. AND, an effort comes from the self may bring about more dominant feeling than an effort from others.

- **An effort to promote a desirable outcome > An effort to prevent or question an undesirable outcome**

The latter suggests that the focal discussed issue/event/problem has been felt undesirable by the tweet author, so the level of dominant feeling is lower.

- **In conversation with those who have similar stances > in conversation with those who have distinct stances**

It is more likely to have an influence on someone who shares similar views or stances, which could lead to a higher level of feeling-in-control. For example, a tweet author who prefers gun control will appear to have higher dominance when advocating, requesting, advising, praising those congressmen who have been

inclined to work on gun laws. In contrast, the same author will appear to have a lower level of dominant feeling when trying to persuade, question, and confront those who may not originally share the same goals.

- **Putting two conditions together to determine the level of dominance**

		Current Situation	
		Desirable	Undesirable
<b>Effort</b>	<b>to promote Desirable</b>	A - highest	D
	<b>to prevent Undesirable</b>	B	E
	<b>none</b>	C	F - lowest

**A** will have the highest level of dominance, and **F** the lowest. As for B, C, D, and E, it depends on how the feeling-in-control is affected by the exact happenings relevant to both conditions. For example, a tweet that talks about a desirable current situation with no effort may have a lower level of feeling-in-control than a tweet that talks about an undesirable situation, in which a desirable action has started making a difference.

Finally, **a reminder again**. A tweet may not exactly fall into these categories and fit into these principles. And these categories and principles are not exclusive. Please do follow the guide but not in a rigid manner. This guide should have given what you need to make good decisions in determining the level of dominance for any group of four tweets in a task.

### **The specific task in each HIT:**

For each HIT, you will be presented with a group of four tweets and you will have to answer the following 4 questions:

Q1: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **MOST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR LEAST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q2: How confident are you in your answer to Q1? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High

Q3: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **LEAST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR MOST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q4: How confident are you in your answer to Q3? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High

- For Q2 & Q4, your confidence level may vary depending on how explicit the tweet authors express their emotions and feelings. When the expression is direct and obvious, you may have higher confidence; when the emotion is less explicit and more suggestive, you may have lower confidence.

It is important that you read each tweet carefully, and that you determine your answers by the criteria outlined above.

Also, knowing some basics regarding how to read and interpret a tweet text is important. We highlight two principles here: Read all the information as a whole, and read from the Twitter user's perspective.

## Two principles to read tweets overall

1. **Read all the information as a whole:** Read all the sentences and expressions (e.g., hashtags, emojis, punctuations, other creative expressions of using words/characters/symbols) as a whole. Make sure you know how to interpret the following three types of information:

- #Hashtag

A tweet may have #Hashtag. You should take hashtags as a part of the tweet content. Usually, hashtags situate the tweet discussion in relevant contexts and may be used to express a particular idea, claim, or slogan that calls to action.

- @Username: mention or reply to another Twitter user

If you see a tweet that contains @Username, this means that this tweet is in conversation with another Twitter user with this Username. Some of the user names belong to a public figure and can be recognized (e.g., @realDonaldTrump is the president Donald Trump; @repXXX refers to representatives; @senateXXX refers to senators). You have to pay attention to @Username, in order to know the tweet, in some cases, is in conversation with specific people. It may be critical for you to determine how the tweet is associated with emotions.

- Embedded contents

A tweet may include multimedia content (e.g., photos, videos, etc.) or a URL linking to external information (e.g., news articles, blogs, etc.). In this task, you will not see and do not need to see these multimedia contents. You will only focus on the text presented, and determine how a tweet is associated with emotions solely based on the present text. To help you focus on the text, we have replaced these multimedia contents with these symbols: “[PHOTO],” “[VIDEO],” or “[LINK].”

## **2. Read the text from the Tweet author's perspective**

You decide how the tweet is associated with emotion from the Tweet author's perspective, not from the perspective of readers or yourself. It has nothing to do with whether you agree or disagree with the tweet content as well as how you respond to the content emotionally. For example, you may have different opinions about an issue than the tweet authors do, and when the happenings help with the authors' desirable direction, you may feel things are getting out of control because it is undesirable to you; however, in the tweet itself, the authors' expression would indicate a higher level of feeling in control due to the desirable happenings to the authors. In such a case, you should determine that this is a dominant tweet with a higher level of dominance.

## Training module

### Training Part 1

This part includes eight practice questions to help you better understand the nature of the task. Your answers will NOT be scored.

**Please read the four tweets presented below, and answer the following questions.**

Q1: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **MOST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR LEAST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q2: How confident are you in your answer to Q1? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High

Q3: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **LEAST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR MOST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q4: How confident are you in your answer to Q3? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High

### Training Part 2

To receive the qualification for “Identify Dominant/Submissive Emotion in English Tweets”, you must answer at least 13 out of 16 questions in the eight example HITs correctly. Only Q1 and Q3 will be scored. Q2 and Q4 that ask about your confidence level regarding your answers in Q1 and Q3 will not be scored. However, it is important for us to interpret your answers better, so please rate it carefully based on your confidence level for each answer.



Q1: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **MOST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR LEAST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q2: How confident are you in your answer to Q1? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High

Q3: Which of the four tweets is associated with the **LEAST dominant / feeling in control of the situation** / powerful / influential / important / autonomous OR MOST controlled by outside factors / submissive / weak / influenced / or guided.

Q4: How confident are you in your answer to Q3? Rate your confidence level:  
Low / Medium / High