



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

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Description

Hello! Thank you for participating in this study.

In this study, we are going to find out what is the explicit reasoning behind human judgements on what to fact check.

There will be no sensitive or personal information needed.

In order to get payment in Prolific, you have to click the submit button in the end of the questionnaire.

The survey consists of 5 tasks, each with 16 questions, and it will take roughly 10 minutes to complete.

You will be presented with a series of "*pictured claims*" – short statements accompanied by an image. Please read each claim carefully and decide whether it seems **checkworthy or not** (i.e., worth fact-checking).

What is checkworthy? Our core criterion is: if this claim is false, is it likely to have a significant negative impact on an individual or society? Please do not make decisions solely based on whether the image and text match.

Please consider the following questions when making your judgment:

- If someone believes this false claim, will anyone suffer health damage, be scammed, or face safety risks?
- Will it cause unnecessary social panic, discrimination, or antagonism?
- Will it seriously mislead public decision-making (such as voting, health choices) or undermine trust in key institutions (government, hospitals, media)?

Examples

Example of a checkworthy claim



Claim: “Drinking a cup of bleach can cure COVID-19.”

Reason: This statement poses a public health risk and clearly needs fact-checking.

✖ Example of a not-checkworthy claim



Claim: "Cats sleep for most of the day."

Reason: This is a harmless, generally known statement with little consequence even if not fully accurate.

After reviewing each claim and image, please answer the following questions based on your own intuition and judgment.

Task 1



Claim: A man is walking on a lonely street next to a bus stop.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable (Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement (Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
- Politics & Policy
- Science & Environment
- Economics & Finance
- Social Events
- Entertainment & Gossip
- Others

Q5 Is the claim checkworthy?

- Checkwerty
- Not checkworthy

Q6 Why is the claim checkworthy

Potential Harms: If this is false, what are the most direct negative consequences? (e.g., health risks, economic losses, incitement of social hatred, misleading public policy, etc.)

Suspicious Evidence: Which specific elements in the statement (e.g., logical contradictions, questionable data, forged images, unreliable sources) make you feel it needs to be verified?

Avoid using vague expressions such as "seems like fake news" or "feels unreliable."

Q7 If the claim is false, what consequences might occur?

Q6 Why is the claim not checkworthy?

- This is just a personal opinion or feeling; there's no right or wrong answer.
- This is a joke or prank, clearly not true.
- The statement is irrelevant; no one would care if it were false.
- The statement cannot be verified (e.g., predicting the future).

- Others (Please explain briefly)

Q8 Does the image support the claim?

- Fully support
- Partially support
- Misleading

Q9 In the list of these fruits, please select the third option below.

- Apple
- Banana
- Orange
- Grape

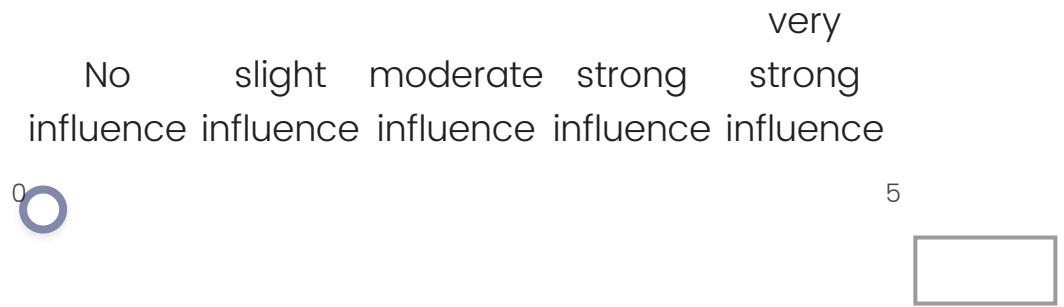
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Q11 Does the text use emotional or manipulative language?

- Fear
- Anger
- Excitement/Surprise
- Sadness/Sympathy
- Humor/Sarcasm
- Religion/Faith
- No, the language is neutral and objective

Q12 Did these emotions influence your judgement?



Q13 Do you suspect this picture was generated by AI or maliciously tampered with?

- I suspect
- Hard to tell
- No suspicion

Q14 If you suspected AI generation or manipulation, what clues led you to this judgment?

- Distorted or unnatural hands, feet, or other body parts
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- Illogical lighting, texture, or perspective
- The image feels “too perfect” or unrealistic
- I have seen evidence elsewhere that this image is fake
- Other

Q15 Did seeing similar claims before affect your judgment?

- More likely to believe
- More likely to doubt
- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task2



Claim: A photograph shows lava pouring into an ocean and seven resulting vortices, or what some called "tornadoes."

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

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- Economics & Finance
- Social Events
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- Others

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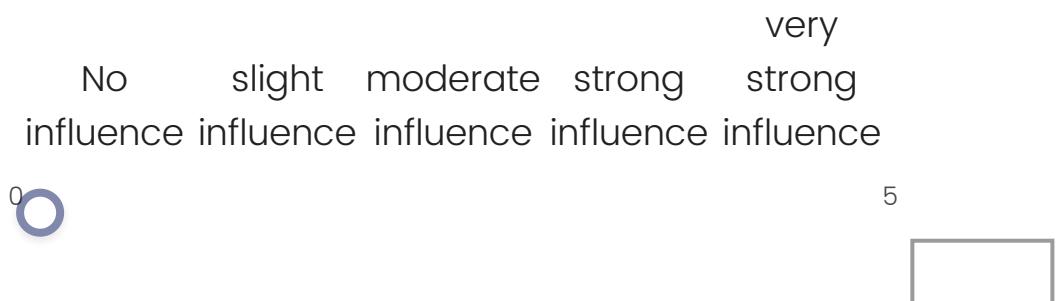
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Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task3



Claim: A photograph shows a panda in Japan hugging a policeman's leg after an earthquake

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
- Politics & Policy
- Science & Environment
- Economics & Finance
- Social Events
- Entertainment & Gossip
- Others

Q5 Is the claim checkworthy?

- Checkworthy
- Not checkworthy

Q6 Why is the claim checkworthy

 Potential Harms: If this is false, what are the most direct negative consequences? (e.g., health risks, economic losses, incitement of social hatred, misleading public policy, etc.)

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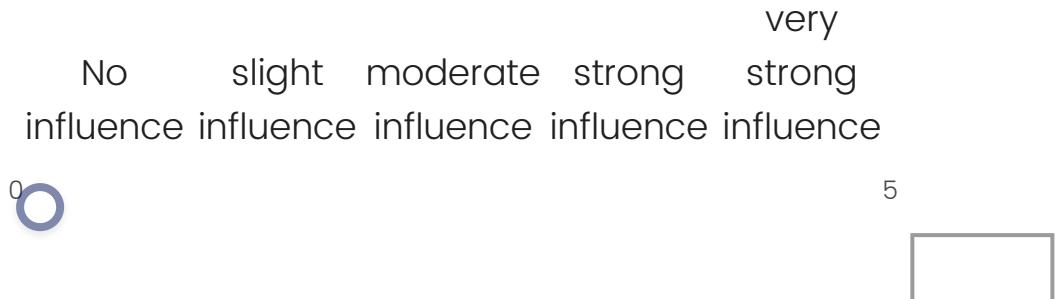
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Task4

Flu Shots in SPACE!



 Two of the biggest hoaxes of all time in one place. Space and vaccines. Gotta love their dedication to fooling the ignorant masses.

Like · Reply · 19h · Edited



 I wonder if he's truly in space? but that's how my mind works.

Like · Reply · 19h



Claim: A photograph shows an astronaut giving himself a flu shot in space.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

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Others

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- Not checkwortsy

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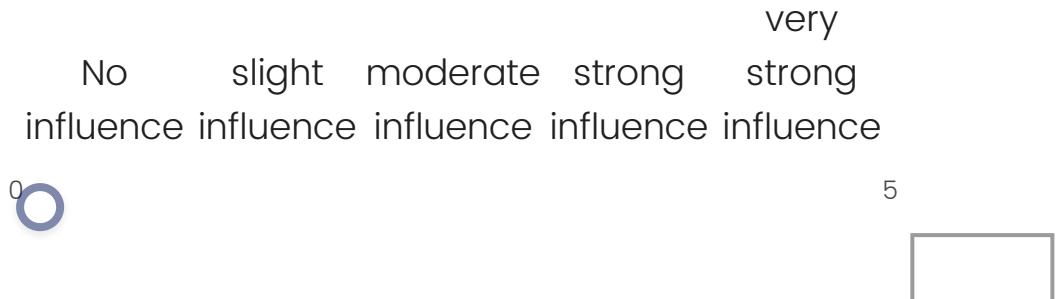
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Q15 Did seeing similar claims before affect your judgment?

- More likely to believe
- More likely to doubt
- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task5



Claim: A photographs show vehicles in Chicago encrusted with ice from severe cold weather.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
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Q5 Is the claim checkworthy?

- Checkwerty
- Not checkwerty

Q6 Why is the claim checkworthy

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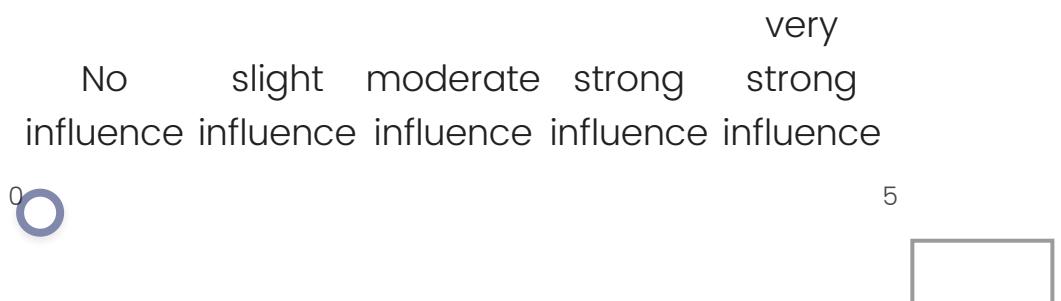
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Q15 Did seeing similar claims before affect your judgment?

- More likely to believe
- More likely to doubt
- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task6



Claim: A female soccer player is lying on the field with a painful expression on her face.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable

- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
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- Science & Environment
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- Social Events
- Entertainment & Gossip
- Others

Q5 Is the claim checkworthy?

- Checkworthy
- Not checkworthy

Q6 Why is the claim checkworthy

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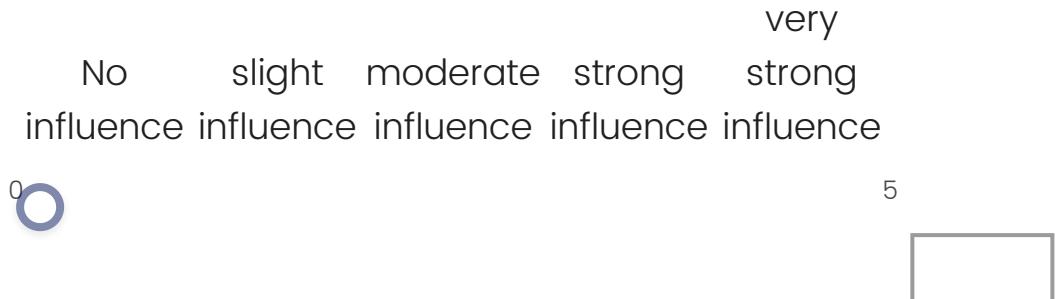
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Q15 Did seeing similar claims before affect your judgment?

- More likely to believe
- More likely to doubt
- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task7



Claim: "At a crowded outdoor event, many people are milling about, with four girls playing jump-rope in the immediate foreground."

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable (Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement (Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel (First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar (I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
- Politics & Policy

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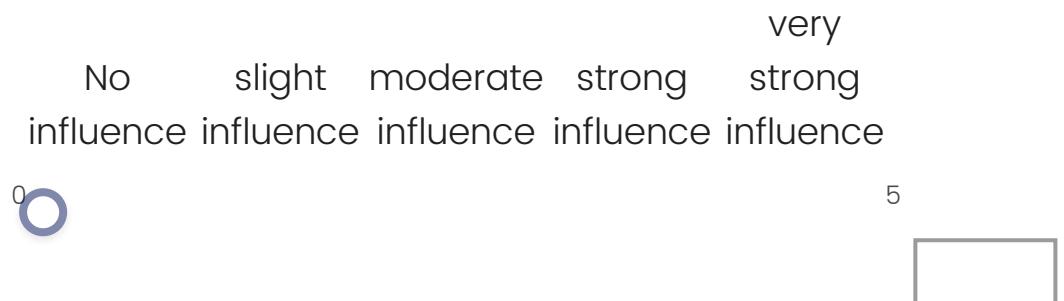
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Task8

中国刘杰  

3月2日 19:57 来自 微博 weibo.com

@布衣周老板 : 意大利86名嫖客被要求在妓院隔壁14天。

↑ 收起 |  查看大图 |  向左旋转 |  向右旋转

布衣周老板  

今天 04:38 来自 HUAWEI nova 青春版

意大利有86名嫖客要被隔离在妓院里面14天 隔离真会选地方 😂



 收藏 |  转发 |  评论 |  点赞 |  举报

 收藏 |  185 |  35 |  221

Claim: A photo shows a brothel in Italy and Valencia (Spain) where 86 ... quarantined for 14 days due to the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
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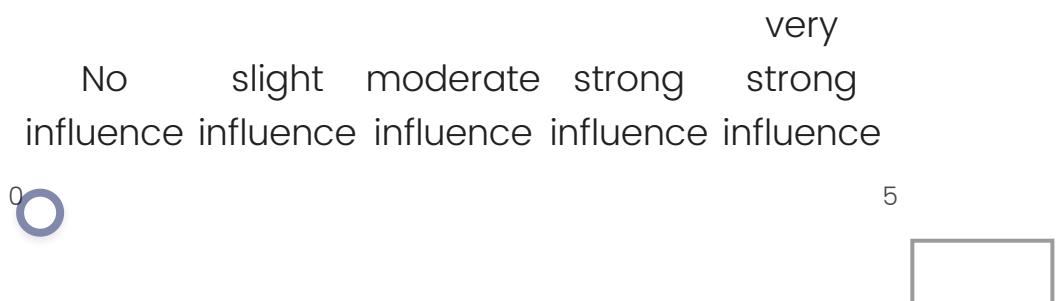
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- More likely to believe
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- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task9



Claim: A photograph shows a 28-foot alligator captured in Florida.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable(Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement(Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

- Health & Medicine
- Politics & Policy
- Science & Environment

- Economics & Finance
- Social Events
- Entertainment & Gossip
- Others

Q5 Is the claim checkworthy?

- Checkworyt
- Not checkworthy

Q6 Why is the claim checkworthy

 Potential Harms: If this is false, what are the most direct negative consequences? (e.g., health risks, economic losses, incitement of social hatred, misleading public policy, etc.)

Suspicious Evidence: Which specific elements in the statement (e.g., logical contradictions, questionable data, forged images, unreliable sources) make you feel it needs to be verified?

Avoid using vague expressions such as "seems like fake news" or "feels unreliable."

Q7 If the claim is false, what consequences might occur?

Q6 Why is the claim not checkworthy?

- This is just a personal opinion or feeling; there's no right or wrong answer.
- This is a joke or prank, clearly not true.
- The statement is irrelevant; no one would care if it were false.
- The statement cannot be verified (e.g., predicting the future).
- Others (Please explain briefly)

Q8 Does the image support the claim?

- Fully support
- Partially support
- Misleading

Q9 In the list of these fruits, please select the third option below.

- Apple
- Banana
- Orange
- Grape

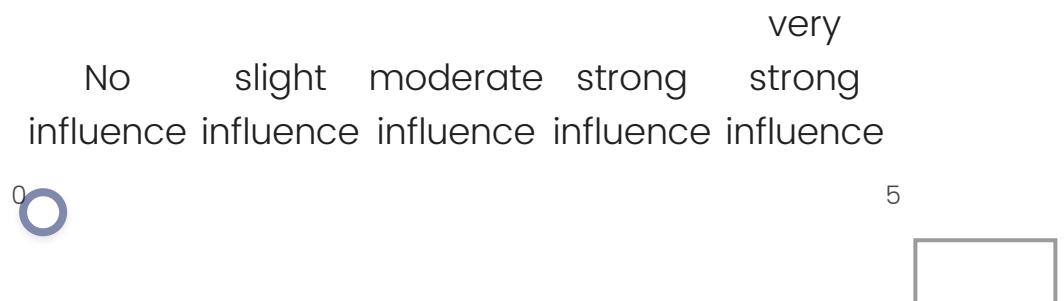
Q10 Would your judgement change without the image?

- Yes, without the image I would be less willing to fact-check it
- Yes, without the image I would be more willing to fact-check it
- No, my judgment is mainly based on the text; the image does not affect it
- No, my judgment is mainly based on the image; the text does not affect it

Q11 Does the text use emotional or manipulative language?

- Fear
- Anger
- Excitement/Surprise
- Sadness/Sympathy
- Humor/Sarcasm
- Religion/Faith
- No, the language is neutral and objective

Q12 Did these emotions influence your judgement?



Q13 Do you suspect this picture was generated by AI or maliciously tampered with?

- I suspect
- Hard to tell
- No suspicion

Q14 If you suspected AI generation or manipulation, what clues led you to this judgment?

- Distorted or unnatural hands, feet, or other body parts
- Stiff facial expressions or unnatural facial features
- Text incorrectly blended with objects (e.g., floating text)
- Illogical lighting, texture, or perspective
- The image feels “too perfect” or unrealistic
- I have seen evidence elsewhere that this image is fake

Other

Q15 Did seeing similar claims before affect your judgment?

- More likely to believe
- More likely to doubt
- No effect

Q16 How might personal feeling influence interpretation of this statement?

Task10



Claim: A photograph shows a library parking facade lined with giant-sized representations of books.

Q1 How understandable is this claim?

- Clearly understandable
- Vague or ambiguous

Q2 Is the claim factual or opinion-based?

- Factual or verifiable (Able to verify authenticity)
- Opinion or judgement (Unable to verify authenticity)

Q3 Is the claim novel or familiar?

- Novel(First time or rarely seen)
- Familiar(I often see similar statements)

Q4 Which domain best fits this claim?

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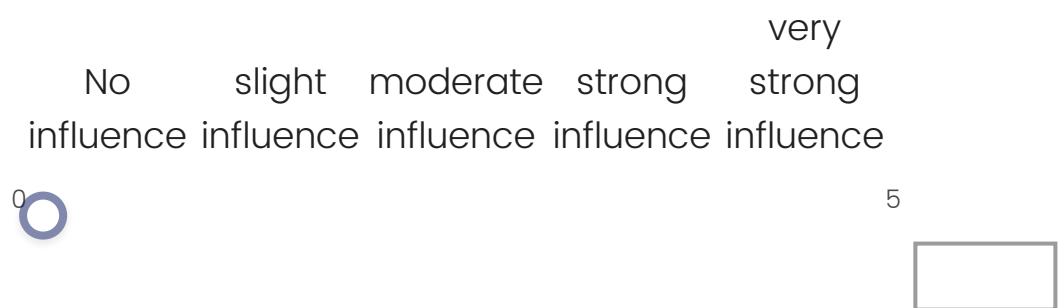
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Submit

Do you have any feedback about this questionnaire? if you have, please let us know about your feeling.

You have finished all tasks!

- I confirm that I have completed all tasks and click Submit

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