

Tweet Classification Task Tutorial

Your task is simple. You will be shown a tweet relating to marijuana use. You will then be asked to identify the presence of certain features in the tweet and whether some topics were mentioned in relation to marijuana used for medicinal purposes. This tutorial provides instructions and some examples necessary for this work.

<<NEXT >>

General Coding Guidance

Tweets are short and limited to 140 characters. The nature of Twitter is to share and communicate quickly. When coding tweets for this task you should be able to read and understand the tweet quickly and intuitively, like how you would read updates on your own social media.

To answer the coding questions about the tweet you should select the option that best matches your understanding of the tweet. The coding questions are meant to guide you in identifying:

1. The key features of tweets,
2. The topics and relevant medical conditions mentioned in the tweet, and
3. The tone of the tweet.

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Step 1: Coding features of the tweet

To begin coding each tweet you will be asked two questions about the features of the tweet. By “features” we mean the hashtags and URLs that are sometimes included in tweets. For these two questions you should be able to decide the answer quickly by recognizing the presence or absence of these features.

The feature coding questions ask:

- 1) *Does this tweet include a **URL** in it?*

Example URLs: www.twitter.com, <https://tinyurl.com/y7klswjx>, <http://bit.ly/2s57sk5>

- 2) *Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**?*

Example hashtags: #love, #tbt, #selfie

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Step 2: Coding topical focus of the tweet

The next step involves coding the topical focus of the tweet. For this step, we are interested in three common topics that people may bring up in their discussion of using marijuana for medicinal purposes on Twitter. The three topics include sleep, nausea, and pain.

Begin by identifying any explicit keywords that suggest the topics (such as sleep, nausea, pain). Next, determine whether the tweet is about one of these topics and whether the topic clearly relates to marijuana use.

The topic coding question asks:

Is this tweet about sleep/nausea/pain (as it relates to marijuana use)?

- Answer “**Yes**” if the topic is mentioned AND clearly relates to marijuana use.
- Answer “**No**” if the topic is mentioned BUT does NOT relate to marijuana use.
- Answer “**Not applicable**” if the topic is NOT mentioned at all.
- Answer “**Don’t know**” if you cannot determine what the tweet is about.

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Step 3: Coding any mentions of medical conditions in the tweet

Next, we ask about any mentions in the tweet of medical conditions as they relate to the sleep, nausea, or pain. You should be able to decide the answer quickly by recognizing whether any specific medical conditions were also mentioned in the tweet.

The medical condition coding question asks:

Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to sleep/nausea/pain? Please check all that apply.

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Step 4: Coding the tone of the tweet

Lastly, we ask whether the tone of the tweet is **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral** regarding using marijuana for sleep, nausea, or pain. If the message is very ambiguous and you cannot decide the tone or opinion of the tweet, just select “Don’t know/Can’t tell” as the answer. Again, please keep in mind that we are asking about the tone with regards to using marijuana for sleep, nausea, or pain.

The coding of the tweet tone asks:

What is the tweet’s tone or opinion regarding using marijuana for sleep/nausea/pain?

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Additional guidelines:

1. Some tweets may describe a hypothetical situation of marijuana use. Treat a description of hypothetical situations as a description of actual experience.
2. Some tweets may describe someone else's experience of marijuana use. Consider such tweets as the tweet posting about the author's own experiences.

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>

Examples of coded tweets

On the following pages, we will provide examples of coded tweets and explain why tweets have been coded a certain way. We suggest reading through these examples to get a better understanding of the thought process.

<<PREVIOUS>> <<NEXT >>



Jason Clay Dunn
@JasonClayDunn



@csanks @_JoshuaHibbard I smoke weed. Just at home. To get high and not a fake excuse to help with anxiety It helps me sleep too.

10:29 PM - 18 Nov 2014



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **sleep**? **Stress/Anxiety**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for sleep**? A **positive** tone

Coding Rationale:

The tweet only included links of twitter user handles, not hashtags. There is a clean mention of sleep and the condition of anxiety in a positive tone. Pain and nausea were not mentioned at all in this tweet.



Lyrica Jada

@lyricajada

 Follow

I'm addicted to everything that takes the pain away; like sleep, weed... you.

2:04 AM - 3 Dec 2014



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **No**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **sleep or pain**? **None**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for sleep**? **Don't know/Can't tell**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for pain**? A **positive** tone

Coding Rationale:

Although pain and sleep were both mentioned in the tweet, the mention of sleep has nothing to do with marijuana use. In contrast, the mention of pain was related to marijuana use. As for the tone of the tweet, it is clearly a positive tone regarding using marijuana for pain, but it is not clear whether there is any opinion about using marijuana for sleep. Nausea was not mentioned in this tweet.



Austin
@Austin77Allen



I really think some weed brownies would do my grandma good for aching joints.

11:45 AM - 18 Jan 2015



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **pain**? **Arthritis**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for pain**? A **positive** tone

Coding Rationale:

There is a clear mention of physical pain and an implicit mention of the condition of Arthritis. The tweet clearly indicated in a positive tone about using marijuana for grandma's aching joints. Sleep and nausea were not mentioned in the tweet.



Mandarin
@bitememayndee



Weed neutralizes my mood. I can go from wide awake to asleep for the night. From half asleep to busting my ass.

[#alldaymedication](#)

6:24 AM - 9 Dec 2014



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **sleep**? **None**
- Does this tweet mention **sleep** as either a motivation or a consequence for using marijuana? **Consequence (e.g. outcome or side effect) for using marijuana**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for sleep**? A **neutral** tone

Coding Rationale:

The tweet clearly describes the effects of using marijuana on the author with a clear mention of sleep being part of the effect.



Jennifer Toke

@jentoke

Follow

In Short: Cancer patients who are in need of medical marijuana
"suffer from painful nausea, vomiting, and loss..."

bit.ly/17RNwmE

4:44 AM - 18 Feb 2015



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **Yes**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **sleep**? **None**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for nausea**? A **neutral** tone

Coding Rationale:

There is a clean mention of nausea and an implicit mention of physical pain. The "statement" style language did NOT suggest nausea as either a motivation for, or a consequence of using marijuana. Its tone is also plain and neutral.



Barrett
@barrett_fox



"Bows and arrows may kill my dog, but weed will never hurt me"

3:20 PM - 19 Jan 2015

🔙 ↻ 1 ❤️ 7

- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **No**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **pain**? **None**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for pain**? **Don't know/Can't tell**

Coding Rationale:

Although the tweet suggested a neutral or even a positive opinion about marijuana in a general way, the message is NOT about pain, sleep, or nausea. So it is very difficult to tell its tone or opinion regarding using marijuana for pain, nausea, or sleep.



Chonte

@ihartyu_NOT

Follow

The smell of weed makes my stomach & head hurt now 🤢

1:20 PM - 18 Nov 2014



- Does this tweet include an **URL** in it? **No**
- Does this tweet contain any **hashtags**? **No**
- Is this tweet about **sleep** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Is this tweet about either physical or emotional **pain** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Yes**
- Is this tweet about **nausea** (as it relates to marijuana)? **Not applicable**
- Does this tweet mention any of the following medical conditions or symptoms as it relates to **pain**? **None**
- What is this tweet's tone or opinion regarding **using marijuana for pain**? **Negative**

Coding Rationale:

Given the negative emoji and that the stomachache and headache are clearly undesirable consequences of marijuana, the tone is obviously negative.