

# Emotions expressed in US election tweets: Who is feeling what, towards whom, and why?

## Instructions Hide

1. Please read the instructions below fully before you attempt your first HIT. Many examples have been provided to convey the objectives of this task clearly. Once you are familiar with the directions, you can jump directly to the questions for the subsequent HITs.
2. Attempt HITs only if you are a native speaker of English, or very fluent in English.
3. Certain check questions will be used to make sure the annotation is responsible and reasonable. Assignments that fail these tests will be rejected.
4. Your responses are confidential. Any publications based on these responses will not include your specific responses, but rather aggregate information from many individuals. We will not ask any information that can be used to identify who you are.

## TASK

Based on the given tweet, what reasonable inferences can be drawn about people's emotions—who is feeling what emotion, towards whom, and why?

**EXAMPLE 1** *Do we really want to move back to the jobless 1800s with Liar #Romney #Corrupt*

We can reasonably deduce that the tweeter dislikes Romney because (according to the tweeter) Romney is a liar and he is corrupt. Thus the following set of “who is feeling what, towards whom, and why?” can be deduced:

Who: Tweeter

What emotion: dislike

Towards: Romney

Why (what reason): jobless; Liar; #Corrupt

**We are also interested in determining whether the emotions are associated with certain key campaign issues of the 2012 elections:**

The emotion of dislike expressed towards Romney is associated with *economy*, and more specifically *jobs*.

Finally, we want to know the words in the tweet that help identify the emotion being felt or expressed. We deduce the dislike towards Romney through “jobless”, “Liar” and “#Corrupt”. Thus the full response for this

tweet is as shown below:

Who: Tweeter

What emotion: dislike

Towards: Romney

Why (what reason): jobless; Liar; #Corrupt

Issue: Economy: jobs

Which words: jobless; Liar; #Corrupt

**EXAMPLE 2** *Both democrats and republicans were visibly ecstatic, and cheered Ryan's selection as VP candidate.*

Who: democrats and republicans

What emotion: joy

Towards: Ryan's selection as VP candidate

Why (what reason): not specified

Issue: None of the above

Which words: visibly ecstatic; cheered

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- A tweet may not explicitly express emotions. However, often people's emotions towards other people or entities can still be deduced. The goal here is to identify emotions conveyed in a tweet even if they are not explicitly stated.
  - Sometimes emotions are directed inwards rather than outside towards somebody else. For example, one may be disappointed in herself. In such cases, the "who is feeling" and "towards whom" slots should be filled by the same person.
  - It is possible that a tweet does not convey information about all of the slots with regard to an emotion. For example, a tweet may not specify the target of an emotion, or the reason why an emotion is being expressed. In such cases, type "not specified" as the response for the corresponding slot.
  - Use the term `tweeter` to refer to the person who has posted the tweet.
  - In your responses, **use words as stated in the tweet**. Avoid using words that are not in the tweet. **Copy and paste your response from the tweet**. If your response is made of words or phrases that are not adjacent to each other (that is, you have to copy and paste more than once), then separate these words and phrases with a semicolon. For example, "jobless; Liar; #Corrupt" and "visibly ecstatic; cheered" in the examples above.
  - Notable exceptions to the point above are when the correct answer is the "tweeter" or "not specified".
  - Do not use quotation marks in your response unless there are quotation marks in the tweet that are part of the answer.
-

**Tweeter: I send them hoodsters through and they coming with the guns Barack killed Osama with**

**Q1. Who is feeling (or who felt) an emotion? In other words, who is the source of the emotion? (required)**

If the person who has posted the tweet is the source, then type: tweeter. Otherwise, copy and paste your response from the tweet. If your response is made of words or phrases that are not adjacent to each other (that is, you have to copy and paste more than once), then separate these words and phrases with a semicolon.

**Q2. What emotion? Choose one of the options from below that best represents the emotion. (required)**

**Positive Emotions**

- acceptance
- admiration
- calmness or serenity
- joy or happiness or elation
- like
- trust

**Negative Emotions**

- anger or annoyance or hostility or fury
- disappointment
- dislike
- disgust
- fear or apprehension or panic or terror
- hate
- indifference
- sadness or gloominess or grief or sorrow

**Other Emotions**

- amazement
- anticipation or expectancy or interest
- surprise
- uncertainty or indecision or confusion

vigilance

**Tweeter: I send them hoodsters through and they coming with the guns Barack killed Osama with**

**Q3. If there is a better word for describing the emotion (than the ones listed above), then type it here:**

If you answered this question, then please answer Q4 as well.

**Q4. If when answering Q2 you have chosen an emotion from the "Other emotions" category or if you answered Q3, then please tell us if the emotion in this tweet is positive, negative, or neither?**

- positive emotion
- negative emotion
- neither positive nor negative

**Tweeter: I send them hoodsters through and they coming with the guns Barack killed Osama with**

**Q5. How strongly is the emotion being expressed in this tweet? (required)**

- the emotion is being expressed with a high intensity
- the emotion is being expressed with medium intensity
- the emotion is being expressed with a low intensity

**Q6. Towards whom or what? In other words, who or what is the target of the emotion? (required)**

If the person who has posted the tweet is the target, then type: tweeter. If the target is not specified, then type: not specified. Otherwise, copy and paste your response from the tweet. If your response is made of words or phrases that are not adjacent to each other (that is, you have to copy and paste more than once), then separate these words and phrases with a semicolon.

**Q6b. Which of these best describes the target of the emotion? (required)**

- Barack Obama and/or Joe Biden
- Mitt Romney and/or Paul Ryan
- Some other individual
- Democratic party, democrats, or DNC
- Republican party, republicans, or RNC
- Some other institution
- Election campaign, election process, or elections

- The target is not specified in the tweet
- None of the above

**Tweeter: I send them hoodsters through and they coming with the guns Barack killed Osama with**

**Q7. Which words in the tweet help identifying the emotion? (required)**

Copy and paste your response from the tweet. If your response is made of words or phrases that are not adjacent to each other (that is, you have to copy and paste more than once), then separate these words and phrases with a semicolon. **Please do not copy the whole tweet; copy the relevant portion only.**

**Q8. What reason can be deduced from the tweet for the emotion? What is the cause of the emotion? (required)**

If the reason is not specified, then type: not specified. Otherwise, copy and paste your response from the tweet. If your response is made of words or phrases that are not adjacent to each other (that is, you have to copy and paste more than once), then separate these words and phrases with a semicolon. **Please do not copy the whole tweet; copy the relevant portion only.**

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**Q9. This tweet is about which of the following issues: (required)**

**ECONOMY**

- federal debt
- jobs
- housing
- taxes
- military spending
- About the Economy: but not related to any of the above issues

**CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM**

- Terrorism
- Afghanistan or Iraq war
- Arab Spring, Egypt, Syria, or Libya
- Iran, Israel, or Palestine
- About Conflicts and Terrorism: but not related to any of the above issues

**SOCIAL AND CIVIL ISSUES**

- education
- environment

- gay rights
- gun control/rights
- health care
- racism
- religion
- women's rights
- About Social and Civil Issues: but not related to any of the above issues

**OTHER**

- About the election process, election publicity, or election campaign
- None of the above

**Tweeter: I send them hoodsters through and they coming with the guns Barack killed Osama with**

**Q10. If the tweet is about an issue not listed above, then type it here:**

Use colon to separate the broader issue and the sub-issue. For example, Social and Civil issues: Legalizing Marijuana.

**Q11. Which of the following best describes the purpose of this tweet? (required)**

- to point out hypocrisy, to disagree, to ridicule, to criticize, or to vent
- to agree, to praise, or to support
- to motivate, to entertain, or to provide information
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**Comments:**

**Tweeter: I know that it is #election2012 season but do not let your political ideals mix in with your job. It could be ugly**

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**Q3. If there is a better word for describing the emotion (than the ones listed above), then type it here:**

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**category or if you answered Q3, then please tell us if the emotion in this tweet is positive, negative, or neither?**

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- Terrorism
- Afghanistan or Iraq war
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**SOCIAL AND CIVIL ISSUES**

- education
- environment
- gay rights
- gun control/rights
- health care
- racism
- religion
- women's rights
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**Comments:**

**Tweeter: @BarackObama Barack Follow mee!! pleasee!!  
I'll vote for you!! You are the best!!**

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**Comments:**

**Tweeter: I hope every1 that camped out overnite 2 get**

# the new #iPhone5 will also camp out 2 cast their vote this Nov.! #4moreyears #Obama/Biden

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**Comments:**

**Test validation**

*(Test if required elements raise errors when they aren't filled in properly.)*

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Turkopticon lets you rate requesters and see requester ratings as you browse and choose  
HITs. Know who you're working for: <http://turkopticon.differenceengines.com>