View Reviews

Paper ID
36

Paper Title
How Personal Perceptions of COVID-19 Have Changed Over Time

Reviewer #1

Questions

4. Did the personal statement clearly describe the project team (i.e., group or independent) and the student's role in/contributions to the research?
4: Clearly described project team, student's individual contributions, AND the impact of their contribution on the project

5. Did the personal statement demonstrate understanding of the broader societal impacts of the research?
3: Accurately demonstrated understanding of broader societal impacts

6. Did the personal statement convey the student's interest in pursuing AI research?
2: Interest in AI research is clearly conveyed

7. What was especially effective about how the personal statement presented (1) their interest in continuing in a research career and (2) the student's role in their research?
The personal statement describes multiple research experiences and demonstrates that the student is driven by applying AI to pressing real-world problems. The student specifically describes their own contributions within a larger team, including their source of inspiration and their experience with non-improving intermediate results. These experiences show that the student can work with more advanced career researchers and rise up to new challenges.

8. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the personal statement?
Although the statement does a very good job illustrating the student's motivations through their work, it could be improved with more personal details on the student's journey, particularly any major obstacles or challenges that the student has faced and what unique perspectives or skills they bring to the table.

10. Did the research summary demonstrate the student's technical understanding of the research (e.g., research questions, methods, results, etc)?
3: Evidence of technical understanding through all of the following - motivations/research questions, methods used, and analysis of presented results

11. Did the research summary effectively convey a rationale so readers can understand its significance/context (related work, future work, prospective impact)?
3: Statement has related work, future work and prospective impact accessible to a broad AI audience

12. Is the research summary effectively organized in a scaffolded/logical structure?
4: Summary is well organized at a level that could be submitted for peer-review (e.g., introduction, background, methods, results, discussion, conclusion)

13. What was especially effective about the presentation of the research in the summary?
The research summary is clearly written and accessible to a broad AI audience. However, the strongest aspect, which could have been stronger still, was the attention toward the end of the limitations of this work in capturing the public's true attitudes to the pandemic.

14. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the research summary?
The discussion would have been improved by a closer, more critical look at the sentiment classification results. In particular, it appears that sadness and relaxation are observed with similar frequency. Is this credible? On a minor note, Figure 2 is missing the topic labels. Lastly, although the summary includes some background on different methods for sentiment analysis, topic extraction, and sequential prediction, various methods are simply listed and it would have been better to more clearly contextualize those efforts into this current work and to identify any other efforts to track public sentiments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

15. Consider that the student may not be paired with a mentor, but could still benefit from your advice. What brief, constructive, encouraging feedback would you provide to help this student progress in their AI research pathway? Focus on personalized advice based on the statements, strengths, interests, and opportunities provided in the application.
This is a very solid application and the student already has good research experience early in their career. I would encourage the student to continue to pursue their interests motivated by real world challenges and to also consider what unique skills or experiences they have so that they can play to their own strengths and perhaps identify weaknesses that need to be improved. Everyone encounters obstacles along the way and although identifying areas for personal improvement may be unpleasant at first, turning weakness into strength (and inevitably gaining new skills in the process) is extremely rewarding!

Reviewer #2

Questions

4. Did the personal statement clearly describe the project team (i.e., group or independent) and the student's role in/contributions to the research?
4: Clearly described project team, student's individual contributions, AND the impact of their contribution on the project

5. Did the personal statement demonstrate understanding of the broader societal impacts of the research?
3: Accurately demonstrated understanding of broader societal impacts

6. Did the personal statement convey the student's interest in pursuing AI research?
3: Interest in AI research is clearly conveyed, and shows critical thought about their journey thus far (e.g., strengths, opportunities, constraints)

7. What was especially effective about how the personal statement presented (1) their interest in continuing in a research career and (2) the student's role in their research?
The author does a nice job of describing their work to date and their research journey, and identifying areas that they would like to contribute to. They have clearly done a great deal of independent learning to get up to speed with different ML and deep learning toolkits and frameworks.

8. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the personal statement?
One challenge with this sort of research, which is open-ended and comparative, is constructing a robust, testable hypothesis. This allows your work to be replicated and placed in context. This is something that could be refined, and will get more polished as you move further into your research career.

10. Did the research summary demonstrate the student's technical understanding of the research (e.g., research questions, methods, results, etc)?

3: Evidence of technical understanding through all of the following - motivations/research questions, methods used, and analysis of presented results

11. Did the research summary effectively convey a rationale so readers can understand its significance/context (related work, future work, prospective impact)?
3: Statement has related work, future work and prospective impact accessible to a broad AI audience

12. Is the research summary effectively organized in a scaffolded/logical structure?
4: Summary is well organized at a level that could be submitted for peer-review (e.g., introduction, background, methods, results, discussion, conclusion)

13. What was especially effective about the presentation of the research in the summary?
the author does a nice job of explaining the problem, the approach, and the decisions made in answering the questions posed.

14. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the research summary?
I think a connection to larger outcomes would be helpful. We know from this that, once the pandemic began, most people on Reddit were discussing COVID, and that there was a lot of anxiety. In and of itself, that's not so surprising - what can be done with this insight? How might this result either be used directly to help people, or to support other avenues of inquiry?

15. Consider that the student may not be paired with a mentor, but could still benefit from your advice. What brief, constructive, encouraging feedback would you provide to help this student progress in their AI research pathway? Focus on personalized advice based on the statements, strengths, interests, and opportunities provided in the application.
I think you are on a great path! You've clearly done a lot of work, and learned a lot about different deep learning and ML approaches to text understanding. I would encourage you to keep exploring, keep trying new things that interest you, and following those questions that arise. Nice work!

Reviewer #3

Questions

4. Did the personal statement clearly describe the project team (i.e., group or independent) and the student's role in/contributions to the research?
3: Clearly described project team AND student's individual contributions

5. Did the personal statement demonstrate understanding of the broader societal impacts of the research?
4: Accurately demonstrated understanding of broader societal impacts, and connected impacts with future work

6. Did the personal statement convey the student's interest in pursuing AI research?
3: Interest in AI research is clearly conveyed, and shows critical thought about their journey thus far (e.g., strengths, opportunities, constraints)

7. What was especially effective about how the personal statement presented (1) their interest in continuing in a research career and (2) the student's role in their research?
The students has significant amount of experience in doing AI related research and they have clearly conveyed that in the personal statement.

8. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the personal statement?
The statements made regarding the research that they have done and methodologies that they have used is noteworthy. However, the statement does clearly show how their work in AI affects the society. The statement does mention interest in future research prospects in AI but it is not very apparent from the writing.

10. Did the research summary demonstrate the student's technical understanding of the research (e.g., research questions, methods, results, etc)?

3: Evidence of technical understanding through all of the following - motivations/research questions, methods used, and analysis of presented results

11. Did the research summary effectively convey a rationale so readers can understand its significance/context (related work, future work, prospective impact)?
3: Statement has related work, future work and prospective impact accessible to a broad AI audience

12. Is the research summary effectively organized in a scaffolded/logical structure?
4: Summary is well organized at a level that could be submitted for peer-review (e.g., introduction, background, methods, results, discussion, conclusion)

13. What was especially effective about the presentation of the research in the summary?
The research statement is well structured which clearly demonstrates the student's technical understanding of the research.

14. What could be added or changed to improve some aspect of the research summary?
Throughout the statement there are words which have been capitalized (Infected Symptoms, Future Precaution, Source of Disease,
Route of Spreads) and that was not needed. If emphasis was needed it could have been italicized.

15. Consider that the student may not be paired with a mentor, but could still benefit from your advice. What brief, constructive, encouraging feedback would you provide to help this student progress in their AI research pathway? Focus on personalized advice based on the statements, strengths, interests, and opportunities provided in the application.
Your statement clearly shows that you have a lot of experience in the field of AI and have demonstrated that in the experiences you shared in your personal statement. It is truly impressive. Your work in the area of COVID-19 especially the topics you are looking it has great societal impact.