

# "Hiding in Plain Sight": Designing Synthetic Dialog Generation for Uncovering Socially Situated Norms

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## Abstract

Naturally situated conversations encapsulate the social norms inherent to their context, reflecting both the relationships between interlocutors and the underlying communicative intent. We propose a novel, multi-step framework for generating dialogues that automatically uncovers social norms from rich, context-laden interactions through a process of self-assessment and norm discovery, rather than relying on predefined norm labels. Leveraging this framework, we construct NormHint, a comprehensive synthetic dialogue dataset spanning a wide range of *interlocutor attributes* (e.g., age, profession, personality), *relationship types*, *conversation topics*, and *conversational trajectories*. NormHint is meticulously annotated with turn-level norm violation information, detailed participant descriptions, and remediation suggestions—including alternative trajectories achieved through early intervention. Our human validation and automated analysis demonstrate that our dataset captures diverse conversational topics with high naturalness and realism. We also discovered that fine-tuning a model with our norm violation data enhances its ability to detect and understand potential norm violations in conversations.

## Introduction

Humans excel at navigating complex social interactions by adapting behavior to context—what is appropriate when joking with a friend at a party may be unacceptable at a funeral. Through experience, we internalize social norms: informal rules that govern behavior in groups and societies (Bicchieri, Muldoon, and Sontuoso 2023). Computational systems that interact with people must therefore reason about norms, including when and how they are violated.

Recent efforts have begun to operationalize social norms for NLP. The Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC)<sup>1</sup> has used experts to label norm adherence and violations (Linguistic Data Consortium 2023). However, obtain authentic natural conversation can be hard and data scraped from sources such as YouTube and discussion forums rarely contains explicit violations. On the other hand, purely synthetic approaches (Li et al. 2023; Zhan et al. 2024) that prompt LLMs to “break norms” often produce unnatural exchanges or lack the rich situational context needed for interpretation.

We address these limitations with a multi-step generation framework that creates diverse, context-rich dialogues first and uncovers the relevant social norms afterward. Instead of conditioning generation on predefined norms, we elicit scenarios with detailed roles, relationships, and histories, then apply a post-hoc self-assessment and norm-discovery stage to detect subtle violations and propose remediations across varied social settings. Figure 1 previews this pipeline.

Building on this framework, we introduce NormHint, a curated dataset of 1,743 conversations totaling 23,423 utterances, with 5,709 turn-level norm violations and paired remediation suggestions. Each scenario centers on realistic conflicts or escalations and provides rich participant attributes (e.g., names, ages, personalities/MBTI (Myers 1962), relationship closeness, and acquaintance length) spanning more than 20 relationship types. In addition, NormHint also supplies detailed situational context, turn-level labels, intent-preserving rephrases that avoid violations, and alternative trajectories obtained by intervening at the first violation with the suggested correction.

To evaluate quality and realism, we combine human evaluation with automated analysis. Automated analysis shows NormHint is up to 10% more diverse than scraped situational data and outperforms other synthetic datasets by 27%. Human evaluation indicates that 96% of scenarios are realistic given their context, and overall naturalness matches or exceeds existing resources; full details appear in Section .

In summary, this work contributes: (1) A novel, multi-step framework that help to discover social norms from context-rich dialogues via post-hoc self-assessment, instead of relying on predefined norms. (2) NormHint, a high-quality dataset with turn-level violation labels, rich context and attributes, remediation suggestions, and counterfactual continuations. (3) Empirical evidence that fine-tuning with our violation data improves a model’s ability to recognize potential norm violations in conversation.

## Related Work

### Computational Social Intelligence

Computational social intelligence increasingly studies socio-cultural norms—implicit rules that guide acceptable behavior—and how to encode them. Work on norm identification and knowledge bases (NormKB) has used both automated



Figure 1: Overview of the multi-step framework and annotation schema.

and manual methods (Fung et al. 2023; Forbes et al. 2020; Pujari and Goldwasser 2025), including uncovering nuanced, region-specific norms (Fung et al. 2024). Another line generates synthetic dialogues that either adhere to or violate norms. Li et al. (2023) follow a top-down recipe: propose category-specific norms, negate them to induce violations, pair each with scenarios, and prompt ChatGPT to produce conversations—an approach that can yield contrived violations.

We instead use a bottom-up pipeline: first generate contextual-rich profiles for character pairs and plausible conflict situations; then craft conversations that naturally escalate; discover the applicable norms afterwards, similar to Fung et al. (2023). Because norms are highly context-dependent, this pipeline can also support future expansion of existing NormKBs. In addition, our dataset attaches concrete intervention suggestions to every detected violation to mitigate escalation; to our knowledge, this is the first dataset to introduce interventions.

## Conversational Dataset

Obtaining real conversational data is difficult due to privacy and collection costs. Pre-LLM datasets typically came from: (1) human-authored dialogues—via scraping (Li et al. 2017), hiring actors (Busso et al. 2008), or crowdsourcing (Gopalakrishnan et al. 2023; Rashkin et al. 2019)—which can be short, domain-limited (e.g., empathy-primarily), and expensive; (2) TV/movie transcripts (Chen et al. 2022; Poria et al. 2019; Chen, Huang, and Chen 2020), which skew dramatic and unrealistic; and (3) social-media threads (Wang et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2018; Ritter, Cherry, and Dolan 2011), which are noisy and weakly conversational. Our approach addresses these issues by conserving annotation resources while promoting diverse, context-rich, and natural everyday dialogues.

## Generation Framework

In this section we outline our framework: (i) generate rich context for characters and situations, (ii) produce conversations with guided flows plus self-verification (Weng et al. 2023), and (iii) discover norms and propose interventions. The full pipeline is in Algorithm 1; templates and generation parameters appear in Appendix .

## Character Information

To explore interpersonal dynamics, we enumerate 20+ relationship types (e.g., familial, friendship) and follow (Mairesse et al. 2007)’s discovery that interaction quality relies on intimacy, duration, and personality. We prompt ChatGPT to create character pairs with traits (MBTI, dispositions, closeness, relationship duration), while constraining the relationship type and personality contrast. An example is provided in the Contextual Information section in Figure 1.

## Situation Information

We align scenarios with relationship type, closeness, age, etc., to ensure plausibility (e.g., chores disputes are likelier for parent-and-child than friends). To avoid generic themes (e.g., *career, projects, art*), we first filter topics via N-gram analysis, then cluster with SBERT (Reimers and Gurevych 2019) embeddings (character names removed) and keep one representative per cluster when pairwise similarity exceeds 0.75.

## Full Conversation

Given the context, we generate dialogue using flow guidance (e.g., “start cautious, escalate as boundaries are breached”) and track each participant’s evolving emotions. This mitigates overly optimistic defaults and produces more natural trajectories.

## Post Validation

Following Weng et al. (2023); Fung et al. (2023), the model first summarizes a conversation, then (with greedy decoding) rates alignment with the situation and flow on a 1–5 Likert scale (Robinson 2014) plus a True/False approval. This leverages GPT-4’s strong summarization (OpenAI et al. 2024; Goyal, Li, and Durrett 2023). Human evaluation is also done on a randomly selected subset (Section ).

## Norm Discovery and Avoidance

We extract instances where emerging social norms are violated in the conversation for both parties. For each violation, the model outputs a concise category, generic norm description, violator, and cited utterance, restricted to text-observable

evidence. It then proposes a minimal revision preserving intent while avoiding escalation. If any violation occurs, we intervene at the first one with the revised utterance and ask the model to complete the conversation (without flow guidance), yielding an alternative outcome.

## NormHint

Building on the framework in Section , we curated NormHint, a corpus of 1,743 dialogues (23,423 utterances). Basic statistics appear in Table 1. We assess data quality along five axes—(i) situational likelihood, (ii) conversational naturalness and faithfulness, (iii) linguistic diversity, (iv) norm/violation discovery, and (v) intervention quality—using both human annotators and GPT-4. We then test downstream utility via norm-violation detection. All human annotation interfaces can be found in Appendix .

Dialogues	1743
Utterances	23423
Utr. per Dialogue (Avg)	13
Token per Dialogue (Avg)	226
Norm Violation per Dialogue (Avg)	3
Token per Utterance (Avg)	16
Remediated Dialogues	1743

Table 1: Basic Statistics of Our Dataset

### Situational Likelihood

We ask annotators to judge whether each generated situation (given age, relationship, intimacy, etc.) is *Likely* or *Unlikely* (see Fig. 2). On 100 randomly sampled situations (3 annotators each; majority vote), **96%** were deemed likely. Inter-annotator reliability, via Randolph’s Kappa (Randolph 2005; Nowak and R ger 2010), is **moderate** (0.53).

### Conversational Naturalness and Faithfulness

Annotators rated naturalness on a 1–5 Likert scale (Robinson 2014) and judged faithfulness to the provided metadata/situation (Fig. 3). On 100 examples (3 annotators each), the mean naturalness is **4.11**, and **96%** of dialogues are faithful. To standardize our evaluation with prior studies (e.g., Li et al. (2023)), we prompt GPT-4o, differs from the model that generated the conversation, using the same rubric and instruct it to produce a chain-of-thought style explanation before providing its rating, following the approach of Sun et al. (2023); GPT-4o agrees with humans **84%** of the time. Table 2 compares naturalness across datasets. Notably, DailyDialogue receives lower GPT-4o naturalness (despite being human-authored), due to its ESL-teaching origin, whereas NormHint achieves consistently high scores (GPT-4: **4.13**; Human: **4.11**).

### Linguistic Diversity

We compare NormHint to human-crafted sets (DailyDialogue (Li et al. 2017), Friends (Zhou and Choi 2018), Switchboard (Stolcke et al. 2000), CaSiNo (Chawla et al. 2021)) and the LM-generated NormDial (Li et al. 2023) using Distinct- $n$

Dataset	Annotation Type	Naturalness
Daily Dialogue	GPT-4o	3.0
NormDial	GPT-4o	3.9
NormHint	GPT-4o	<b>4.13</b>
	Human	4.11

Table 2: **Naturalness comparison across datasets and annotation types (higher is better)**. NormHint attains the highest naturalness under both GPT-4o–based and human evaluations, outperforming Daily Dialogue and NormDial.

(Li et al. 2016) and the geometric mean of  $n$ -gram entropies for  $n \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  (Majumder et al. 2021). Table 3 shows NormHint is competitive with human generated datasets and substantially surpasses NormDial (e.g., +31%, +23%, +14% for bi-/tri-/4-grams; +8% entropy vs. NormDial), supporting our claim that it captures diverse, real-world conversational patterns.

Dataset Name	DD-2	DD-3	DD-4	ENTR $\uparrow$
Non-Synthetic Dataset				
Daily Dialogue	0.23	0.54	0.72	<b>13.84</b>
Friends	0.29	0.68	<b>0.89</b>	13.58
Switchboard	0.17	0.45	0.70	12.83
CaSiNo	0.20	0.48	0.72	11.61
Synthetic Dataset				
NormDial	0.26	0.57	0.77	12.57
NormHint	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.70</b>	0.88	<b>13.54</b>

Table 3: Comparison of NormHint with other dialogue dataset using Distinct-N and N-Gram Entropy

### Norm and Violation Discovery Quality

We evaluate whether identified norms apply to the characters and whether cited utterances truly violate them. On a randomly sampled subset, human evaluations show **82%** of the instances are valid.

### Intervention Quality

We randomly sample and test whether ChatGPT-generated revisions preserve intent while avoiding violations. Human evaluation shows **90%** preserve the original message; **96%** correctly remediate. Jointly, **86.7%** both preserve intent and reduce violation risk. A GPT-4-based analysis (as in §) shows a  $\sim$ **43%** reduction in escalation. Information preservation is high (avg **4.83/5**) while escalation drops from **3.49** to **2.00** (Table 4).

Type	Escalation $\downarrow$	Information Preservation $\uparrow$
Original	3.49	4.83
Intervened	<b>2.00</b>	

Table 4: Comparison of Escalation Levels and Information Preservation in Original and Intervened Conversations

## Effectiveness of NormHint

We fine-tune Llama-3.1-8b-Instruct (Grattafiori et al. 2024) with LoRA (Hu et al. 2021) on NormHint vs. NormDial (harmonized format; 10% validation; best-checkpoint selection; details in App. ). For evaluation, we follow Wang et al. (2024) on Friends with emotion-causal annotations, filtering to cases where one speaker’s positive  $\rightarrow$  negative transition is attributable to another’s prior utterance (509 conversations; 1,096 instances). Treating these as positive norm-violation candidates, we ask models to detect violations. Results (Table 5) show that NormHint-fine-tuning yields the best matches to gold positives, outperforming both the base model and NormDial fine-tuning.

Training Data	Accuracy
None	16.33
NormDial	15.10
NormHint	<b>17.52</b>

Table 5: Performance comparison of norm violation detection across different training data.

**Summary.** NormHint exhibits high situational plausibility, strong naturalness/faithfulness, effective and minimally escalatory interventions, and robust linguistic diversity. Crucially, its synthetic, context-aware annotations improve downstream norm-violation detection, underscoring the value of careful curation over naïve synthetic generation.

## Conclusion

We presented a novel multi-step generation framework that uncovers social norms directly from context-rich dialogues, rather than relying on predefined norm categories. Our approach generates natural conversations imbued with detailed contextual information, which are then analyzed to identify norm violations and suggest appropriate remediation strategies. Extensive human and automated evaluations confirm that NormHint not primarily captures a wide range of social contexts and conversational trajectories with high naturalness but also enhances model performance; our experiments demonstrate that fine-tuning with NormHint can improve model’s ability to detect potential norm violations.

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## Limitations

The scope of this study was primarily confined to the examination of conversations with conflict in the English language. This focus inherently imposes a limitation on our exploration, as it restricts our understanding to the norms and nuances prevalent within English-speaking societies. Consequently, the potential diversity and richness of conversational norms in non-English speaking cultures remain unexplored, thereby creating a gap in our comprehensive understanding of global conversational norms.

Furthermore, our reliance on crowdsourcing workers from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for the human validation process introduces another layer of limitation. This geographical constraint could potentially skew our findings, as the perspectives and interpretations of these workers are inevitably influenced by their cultural and societal backgrounds. The absence of input from crowdsourcing workers from other regions of the world might lead to a less than ideal norm discovery process, as it overlooks the diversity and complexity of global conversational norms.

In essence, while our study provides insights into the norms of negative conversations in English-speaking societies, it is still limited based on our scopes. Future research should aim to incorporate a more diverse range of languages and cultural perspectives to achieve a more holistic and inclusive understanding of conversational norms.

## Ethics Statement

For human annotations, we paid \$0.65 for each annotation that estimate completion time is around 2 minutes and \$0.45 for annotations that estimate completion time is around 1 and half minute. This yields an hourly wage of \$18 and \$19.5 respectively, which is well above the minimum hourly wage of \$12.9 set by the US Federal Government for 2024<sup>2</sup>.

## Generation Template and Parameter Used Template for Character Pair Generation

Imagine {num\_pairs} of participants for conversations , with the following requirements.

**\*\*Requirements\*\*:**

1. List their name and age first.
2. Assume they have {personal\_desc} personalities, describe their personality separately in two sentences.
3. Personality should not include their hobby, it should be generic but with details. DO NOT mention each other's name, describe like they don't know each other.
4. Use the personality to come up with their MBTI. Also include a one-sentence generic explanation for that MBTI type.
5. Based on their relationship, describe how close they are using terms like "extremely close", "very close", "moderately close", "slightly close", "not close at all". They don't have to be

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-09-28/pdf/2023-21114.pdf>

close, but closeness must relate to the relationship given. For example, if they are siblings, they are probably have a close relationship. If they are strangers, they must not be close.

6. Describe how did they meet in a sentences with details. They don't have to know each other, it can be the first time they met. However, the description must relate to the relationship given. If they know for life, just put "since birth".
7. Describe how long have they known each other with a time. If this is the first time they met, just put "first time".
8. Generate with plain text and strictly follow the output format. If more than one pair is generated, separate each pairs by "====".

**\*\*Restrictions\*\*:**

Everything generated MUST align with their relationship of {relation\_desc}.  
They MUST have {personal\_desc} personalities.  
Each pair MUST be unique from each other.  
Generate exactly {num\_pairs} pairs.

**\*\*Output format\*\*:**

Name:  
Age:  
Personality:  
MBTI:

Name:  
Age:  
Personality:  
MBTI:

How did they meet:  
How long have they known each other:  
Closeness:  
====

## Template for Situation Generation

Using the information provided below, imagine what are some scenarios where {person\_1\_name} or {person\_2\_name} will start a conversation with each other?

Name: {person\_1\_name}  
Age: {person\_1\_age}  
Personality: {person\_1\_personality}  
MBTI: {person\_1\_mbti} {person\_1\_mbti\_desc}

Name: {person\_2\_name}  
Age: {person\_2\_age}  
Personality: {person\_2\_personality}  
MBTI: {person\_2\_mbti} {person\_2\_mbti\_desc}

Closeness: {closeness}

How they know each other: {how\_they\_know}  
How long do they know each other: {how\_long\_they\_know}  
} Their relationship: {relationship}

**\*\*Restrictions\*\*:**

Avoid scenarios including: projects, discovery, social gathering, art, poem, trips, family gathering, career plans, future plans.

**\*\*Requirements\*\*:**

1. Each scenario must be common, day to day, and non-generic that is likely to happen between {relationship} at their age.
2. These scenarios should be more unique to their relationship. I.e., the same scenario is not likely to happen to other relationships.
3. These scenarios must be conditioned on their closeness. I.e., the scenarios should be more likely to happen between people who are {closeness}.
4. List as much different scenarios as possible but do not exceed total of five. Keep these scenarios to be as distinguishable and diverse as possible.
5. Each scenario should be one to three sentences long with details to make them not generic. It should only include the scenario.
6. Make sure these situation will likely to lead to a conflict that will result in an awkward, unpleasant or other negative ending.
7. Do not generate repeated or similar scenarios that have been generated previously.
8. Generate without Markdown syntax and address each one with their name. List them one by one with numbering.

## Template for Conversation Generation

Imagine a 5-10 turns conversation between {person\_1\_name} and {person\_2\_name} with the following information, requirements and restrictions.

Name: {person\_1\_name}  
Age: {person\_1\_age}  
Personality: {person\_1\_personality}  
MBTI: {person\_1\_mbti} {person\_1\_mbti\_desc}

Name: {person\_2\_name}  
Age: {person\_2\_age}  
Personality: {person\_2\_personality}  
MBTI: {person\_2\_mbti} {person\_2\_mbti\_desc}

Closeness: {closeness}

How they know each other: {how\_they\_know}  
How long do they know each other: {how\_long\_they\_know}  
} Relationship: {relationship}

Situation: {situation}

**\*\*Requirements\*\*:**

1. The conversation should feel natural and real to people.
2. Since participants don't often articulate their thoughts exactly, the conversation should have

utterances where their true message is hidden between what they said.

3. The conversation that reflects the individuals' unique traits, such as personality, closeness, age difference, and relationship dynamics, ensuring it aligns with the provided information and avoiding generic dialogue.
4. The conversation should {flow}
5. Conversation does not need to be peaceful, there can be arguments, conflict or even curse word.
6. Adjust level of respectfulness with each one's emotional state.
7. DO NOT repeat or use similar words that is used to describe each character.
8. Avoid repeating what has been said previously in the conversation.
9. Use casual words that usually appear in a conversation.
10. Format should be "Name (Emotion): Utterance". Do not include anything else. Do not use Markdown nor double quotes for the utterances.
11. Emotion should fall into the space of Plutchik's wheel of emotion.

**\*\*Restrictions\*\*:**

Avoid using the following or similar terms in the conversation

- Trying to help
- I'm doing my best
- Don't come crying to me
- Agree to disagree
- The way I am

## Template for Summarize the Conversation

{conversation}

Summarize the above conversation in 4-5 sentences. It should capture the situation and the flow of the conversation. It should also indicate the outcome of the conversation (i.e., If it ended positively or negatively).

## Template for Self-Verification

Use the situation, conversation flow and summary given, answer the following tasks. Strictly follow the output format.

**\*\*Tasks with instruction\*\*:**

- Does summary align with both the situation and the flow? Respond with only Yes or No.
- On a scale of 1-5, rate the alignment between situation and summary. 1 being the summary is not describing the situation and 5 being the summary is describing the situation. Respond with only a number.
- On a scale of 1-5, rate the alignment between conversation flow and summary. 1 being the summary is not reflecting the flow provided and 5 being the summary is reflecting the flow. Respond with only a number.

Situation: {situation}

Conversation Flow: {flow}

Summary:  
{summary}

**\*\*Output format\*\*:**

Situation: [1-5]

Flow: [1-5]

Overall Alignment: [Yes/No]

## Template for Norm Violation Discovery and Remediation Suggestion

The following is a conversation between {relationship}. Explain why this conversation did not go well partially or entirely. What are some of the norms or rules that are being violated in the conversation?

**\*\*Information about the participants\*\*:**

Participant 1: {person\_1\_name}, Age {person\_1\_age}

Participant 2: {person\_2\_name}, Age {person\_2\_age}

Relationship: {relationship}

Closeness: {closeness}

How they know each other: {how\_they\_know}

How long do they know each other: {how\_long\_they\_know}

**\*\*Requirements\*\*:**

1. Norms or rules should be generic meaning it can be applied to different scenarios. However, norms listed must be applicable to the participants given their relationship, closeness, and other information provided.
2. Descriptions should describe the norm in a general way. Include information like what is the expected behavior. Do not mention anything from the conversation nor the information provided.
3. Analyze norm violations for both participants.
4. List only one violator for each norm. If both participants violated the same norm, list them separately.
5. Evidence should be the utterance where the violation happened. The utterance must from the violator. Only include the utterance without name and emotion.
6. Only list the norms that can be observed from the text transcript. Do not list norms that require further evidence from audio and video. An example to avoid is actively listening, as you can't observe that from the text.
7. Only list norms that significantly caused this conversation to go awry.
8. Suggest a way to make least amount of changes to the original utterance that convey the same message and intention without break the norm violated. The suggestion can not be generic. It must align with the conversation until that turn and the speaker. Do not repeat anything said previously.
9. Do not list similar norms. Make sure listed norms are common and important.



10. Do not use Markdown, and follow the output format provided. Do not generate anything else.

**\*\*Output format\*\*:**

Norm:

Description:

Violator:

Evidence:

Suggestion:

**\*\*Conversation\*\*:**

{conversation}

## Template for Naturalness

Instruction:

Please act as an objective judge and evaluate the naturalness of the conversation given. Read the conversation between the two participants. Pay attention to their dialogue, tone, the flow of conversation, as well as whether it resembles a typical conversation in the given context.

To evaluate the conversation, first, begin your evaluation by providing a short explanation of how likely the conversation is going to happen as well as an explanation of the naturalness. After providing your explanation, you must rate the conversation by choosing from the following options:

- Rating 5: The conversation sounds entirely natural and realistic.
- Rating 4: The conversation sounds reasonably natural and flows well.
- Rating 3: The conversation is neither particularly natural nor unnatural.
- Rating 2: The conversation lacks some naturalness but is not entirely unrealistic.
- Rating 1: The conversation sounds forced, awkward, or unrealistic.

Background Information:

Note: If relationship is unknown, try to infer it from the conversation given below.

Relationship: {relationship}

Conversation:

{conv}

## Template for Escalation

Objective: Measure the Level of Escalation in a Conversation

Instructions:

1. Start by briefly summarizing what happened in the conversation. Focus on the key turning points and the overall tone.
2. Choose a rating based on how much the conversation escalated. Use the following scale:
  - Rating 5: The conversation has escalated to a high degree of conflict. (Very hostile)

- Rating 4: The conversation has escalated to a moderate degree of conflict.
- Rating 3: The conversation has escalated but to a low degree of conflict.
- Rating 2: The conversation has not escalated, but there is potential for conflict.
- Rating 1: The conversation has not escalated, and there is no potential for conflict. (No hostility)

Conversation:

{conv}

## Template for Intervention Conversation Quality

Objective: Compare the Overall Conversation Quality Between Two Conversations

Instructions:

1. Start by briefly summarizing what happened in each conversation. Focus on the key points and the overall tone of each conversation.
2. Compare the two conversations based on the following criteria:
  - Are the characters in both conversations conveying similar messages?
  - Is the core complaint or issue addressed in both conversations?
  - Are both conversations about the same situation or topic?
3. Choose a rating based on the overall quality of the conversations. Use the following scale:
  - Rating 5: The conversations are highly similar in message, address the same core complaint, and are focused on the same situation.
  - Rating 4: The conversations are mostly similar in message, address mostly the same core complaint, and are largely focused on the same situation.
  - Rating 3: The conversations share some similarities in message, address somewhat the same core complaint, and are generally about the same situation.
  - Rating 2: The conversations have few similarities in message, address barely similar core complaint, and are loosely related to the same situation.
  - Rating 1: The conversations are not similar in message, address different core complaint, and are about different situations.

Conversation 1:

{conv\_1}

Conversation 2:

{conv\_2}

## Annotation UI

### Correlation between Norm and Relationship

In our study of how relationships influence the nature of norm violations, we systematically categorized conversations based on different relationship types. For each category, we identified tri-grams for norm violations and noted those appearing more than five times.

Contextual Information

Character 1	Character 2	Relationship: landlord and tenant
<b>Name:</b> Alex Rodriguez	<b>Name:</b> Jamie Park	<b>Closeness:</b> Not close
<b>Age:</b> 38	<b>Age:</b> 34	<b>How do they know:</b> Alex met Jamie when he decided to rent out part of his property and Jamie attended the open house he organized.
<b>Personality:</b> Alex is keen on maintaining a structured lifestyle, highly prioritizing efficiency in both his personal and professional life. He is not one for surprises, preferring routines that allow him to predict outcomes with some degree of accuracy.	<b>Personality:</b> Jamie shares a similar disposition to Alex, valuing efficiency and enjoying when plans come together smoothly. She dislikes unnecessary disruptions, focusing on achieving her goals through careful planning and foresight.	
<b>MBTI</b> INTJ - INTJs are strategic visionaries with a plan for everything, known for their ability to analyze complex situations.	<b>MBTI</b> INTJ - Characterized by their strategic thinking and self-confidence, INTJs are natural problem solvers.	

Rate Likelihood of the Situation

*Situation is expected to be **negative**, only rate the likelihood given the background information.  
Failed to do so may result in rejection of your HIT.*

**Situation:** After receiving a higher-than-expected water bill, Alex contacts Jamie for a meeting to discuss potential leaks or excessive usage on her part, implying negligence, which sparks a defensive response from Jamie and escalates into an argument about assumptions and accusations.

Likelihood of this Situation

Based on the background information above, rate how likely this situation will happen. You should consider their **power relationship, age difference, relationship, personality, etc.** provided.

- ☐ **Likely** The situation is very probable given the context. ☐ **Unlikely** The situation is improbable given the context.

Figure 2: UI for annotator to judge likelihood of the situation

Conversation

**Alex:** Hey Jamie, got a second? The water bill this month nearly gave me a heart attack. It's sky-high.  
**Jamie:** That's odd. Did we spring a leak somewhere? I haven't noticed anything unusual on my end.  
**Alex:** That's the thing, I can't find any leaks either. But the numbers don't lie. Something's causing this spike, and since you're the only other person here...  
**Jamie:** Hold on, are you suggesting I'm responsible? Because if so, that's quite an accusation without evidence.  
**Alex:** I'm not accusing outright. I'm just looking at the facts. We need to figure this out, and well, your usage is the only variable that comes to mind.  
**Jamie:** So now it's my fault? I've been living as usual. You know what, maybe the problem is on your side. Did you ever consider that?  
**Alex:** My side is just fine, thank you. And forgive me for trying to address what clearly is an issue affecting both of our pockets.  
**Jamie:** Well, maybe if you weren't so quick to point fingers, we could have a constructive conversation about this.  
**Alex:** Constructive? You've been nothing but defensive since I brought this up. How is that helping?  
**Jamie:** Look, I didn't mean to snap. It's just unfair to assume it's negligence on my part without any proof.  
**Alex:** Maybe you're right. I jumped the gun on blaming you without thorough checking. Let's just figure out a solution together, okay?  
**Jamie:** Okay, let's do that. Maybe we can check for less obvious leaks or review both our usages more closely.  
**Alex:** Sounds like a plan. We'll sort this out together then.

Rate Conversation

*Please first read the conversation carefully.  
Failed to do so may result in rejection of your HIT.*

Is the Conversation related to the Situation?

- ☐ **Yes** The conversation is about the given situation. ☐ **No** The conversation is not about the given situation.

Naturalness of Conversation

Rate how natural the conversation sounds to you. Consider factors such as coherence, fluency, and whether it resembles a typical conversation in the given context.

- ☐ **Not Natural** The conversation sounds forced, awkward, or unrealistic.
- ☐ **Somewhat Unnatural** The conversation lacks some naturalness but is not entirely unrealistic.
- ☐ **Neutral** The conversation is neither particularly natural nor unnatural.
- ☐ **Somewhat Natural** The conversation sounds reasonably natural and flows well.
- ☐ **Very Natural** The conversation sounds entirely natural and realistic.

Figure 3: UI for annotator to rate naturalness of the conversation (Below) and whether the conversation aligns with the situation (Above)

Task

Instructions

Contextual Information

Character 1

Name: Alice

Age: 32

Personality: Alice is intuitive and analytical, often thinking several steps ahead in any situation. She values logic and consistency in her personal and professional relationships.

MBTI INTJ

Character 2

Name: Marvin

Age: 34

Personality: Marvin is also highly analytical and thrives on understanding complex systems and ideas. He prefers structured environments where his strategic thinking can flourish.

MBTI INTJ

Relationship: neighbors

Closeness: moderately close

How do they know: They met at a neighborhood block party organized to welcome Marvin when he moved into the area.

Situation: Alice calls Marvin to express her frustration about the loud noise coming from his house during his late-night home improvement activities. Marvin, feeling misunderstood and judged, responds curtly, worsening the neighborly tension.

Conversation

Alice: Marvin, could you cut down the late-night noise from your renovations? It's really disruptive.

Marvin: I'm only doing what's necessary for my home. It's the only time I can manage it.

Alice: Necessary or not, it's loud! Couldn't you at least keep it down after midnight?

Marvin: I already shift the louder tasks to earlier hours. You know, I have tight schedules too.

Alice: Well, your 'earlier hours' are my sleep time. It feels like you don't consider anyone else with your planning.

Marvin: Consideration? I moved the drill work to weekends, yet here we are. What more do you expect?

Alice: I expect some common decency! It's called mutual respect, Marvin. Maybe look it up sometime?

Marvin: Respect goes both ways, Alice. Maybe you should check your own tone before lecturing me about decency.

Alice: Oh, so now my tone is the problem? Not the fact that your 'home improvements' sound like a construction site at 1 AM?

Marvin: You're being overdramatic. It's not every night, and you're making a mountain out of a molehill here.

Alice: **Overdramatic? You try getting a good night's sleep with all that clatter! Maybe if you were considerate for once...**

Marvin: Perhaps if you were a bit more understanding, this conversation would be different. But clearly, that's too much to ask.

Does the highlighted turn above violate the following norm?

Please first read the conversation and contextual information carefully

Failed to do so may result in rejection of your HIT.

Norm Violated: Avoidance of hyperbolic statements

Description of the Norm: Using exaggerated or hyperbolic statements can undermine the validity of a complaint and can be perceived as manipulative or inflammatory rather than constructive.

☐ Yes

This highlighted turn above VIOLATED the norm of Avoidance of hyperbolic statements

☐ No

The highlighted turn above DID NOT violate the norm of Avoidance of hyperbolic statements

Submit

Figure 4: UI for annotator to judge the norm violation

Task

Instructions

**Contextual Information**

**Character 1**

**Name:** Hannah

**Age:** 42

**Personality:** Hannah is pragmatic and grounded, often serving as the voice of reason among her friends. She prides herself on her reliability and capacity for hard work.

**MBTI** ISTJ

**Character 2**

**Name:** Oliver

**Age:** 45

**Personality:** Oliver has an adventurous spirit tempered by a thoughtful contemplation of the world around him. He cherishes deep conversations and experiences that challenge him to grow.

**MBTI** ENFP

**Relationship:** husband and wife

**Closeness:** very close

**How do they know:** At a travel photography exhibition where Oliver was showcasing his work, and Hannah attended out of her growing interest in photography.

**Situation:** Hannah: One rainy weekend, Hannah suggests they finally tackle the overstuffed garage that's been on their to-do list for months. The task quickly becomes contentious as Oliver discovers Hannah has thrown out some of his old adventure gear without consulting him, sparking a debate over what constitutes 'junk'.

**Utterances**

1. I'm feeling overwhelmed by this. Perhaps we need a little space to think about how we can both feel more at home with our belongings.

2. Fine, maybe you should find some place where your 'memories' can sprawl out.

**Does the above utterance convey the same message?**

*Please first read the conversation and contextual information carefully*

**Failed to do so may result in rejection of your HIT.**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Which one is sounds smoother, i.e. will likely not cause a conflict?**

☐ 1

☐ 2

Figure 5: UI for annotator to rate remediation

Upon analyzing each relationship type, we discovered distinct patterns in norm violations that highlight the unique dynamics within each type of relationship.

In parent-child relationships, the norms most frequently violated are *maintaining supportive tone* and *respecting personal space*. These findings underline the often hierarchical nature of this relationship, where parents may adopt a more directive tone and impose boundaries, which can lead to emotional and spatial conflicts.

In sibling relationships, the most common norm violations include *avoiding accusatory language* and *respecting personal property*. This suggests that siblings, who typically share a more egalitarian and competitive dynamic, are prone to engaging in accusatory exchanges and conflicts over shared or personal items.

When examining romantic relationships, such as husband-wife and boyfriend-girlfriend, the prevalent norm violations shift to *acknowledging partner's feelings* and *addressing concerns directly*. This finding highlights the expectation for partners to be emotionally supportive and communicative, reflecting the close, intimate nature of such relationships.

In colleague relationships, the pattern of norm violations is distinct yet again, with *maintaining a professional tone* and *avoiding personal attacks* being the most common. This is indicative of the professional and often formal environment of the workplace, where maintaining decorum and avoiding personal conflicts is crucial.

These observations reveal that relationship contexts significantly shape the types of norms likely to be violated, capturing the nuanced dynamics specific to each type of interpersonal interaction.

## Training Details

### Training Arguments

```
==Base Model==
unsloth/Meta-Llama-3.1-8b-Instruct-bnb-4bit

==Lora Args==
r=16
target_modules=[
    "q_proj", "k_proj", "v_proj", "o_proj",
    "gate_proj", "up_proj", "down_proj"
]
lora_alpha=16
lora_dropout=0
bias="none"
use_gradient_checkpointing="unsloth"
random_state=3407
use_rslora=False
loftq_config=None

==Training Args==
per_device_eval_batch_size=32
per_device_train_batch_size=8
gradient_accumulation_steps=2
learning_rate=2e-4
lr_scheduler_type="linear"
warmup_steps=10
num_train_epochs=4
```

```
bf16=True
optim="adamw_8bit"
weight_decay=0.01
max_grad_norm=0.3
save_strategy="best"
eval_steps=5,
eval_strategy="steps"
seed=42
greater_is_better=False
metric_for_best_model="eval_loss"
```

### Training Prompt Template

**\*\*Instruction:\*\***

Analyze the given conversation for any violations of social norms by either participant. Identify each violation, specifying the social norm that was violated, the violator, and the turn in which the violation occurred. Additionally, suggest a more appropriate way for the violator to express themselves to avoid escalating the situation.

If no social norms were violated, respond with: `No clear violation found.` Otherwise, format your response as follows:

**\*\*Response Format:\*\***

```
1. Social Norm Violated: [Brief explanation of the
    norm and how it was violated]
Detailed Explanation: [Provide a detailed explanation
    of the violation]
Violator: [Name of the person who violated the norm]
Violated Turn: [Utterance where the violation
    occurred]
Suggestion: [How they could have expressed themselves
    more appropriately]
...
```

**\*\*Conversation:\*\***  
{conv}"""

---

**Algorithm 1** Conversation Generation Pipeline

---

```
1: Input: Seed relationships  $R_{pool}$ 
2: Initialize conversation list:  $Conv \leftarrow []$ 
3: Initialize participant profiles list:  $P \leftarrow []$ 
4: Define prompts:  $Prompts \leftarrow \{Pt_{pair}, Pt_{sit}, Pt_{conv}, Pt_{qc}, \dots\}$ 
5: // Step 1: Generate character profiles for each relationship
6: for each relationship  $r \in R_{pool}$  do
7:   Generate character profile using prompt  $Pt_{pair}$ :
8:    $P \leftarrow P \cup OpenAI(r, Pt_{pair})$ 
9: end for
10: // Step 2: Generate potential situations for each character profile
11: for each profile  $P_i \in P$  do
12:   Generate situations using prompt  $Pt_{sit}$ :
13:    $P_i[situations] \leftarrow OpenAI(P_i, Pt_{sit})$ 
14: end for
15: // Step 3: Filter out similar situations within the same relationship
16:  $P_{filtered} \leftarrow Filter(P, R_{pool})$ 
17: // Step 4: Generate conversations and perform quality check
18: for each profile  $P_i \in P_{filtered}$  do
19:   for each situation  $s \in P_i[situations]$  do
20:     Generate conversation using prompt  $Pt_{conv}$ :
21:      $conv \leftarrow OpenAI(P_i, s, Pt_{conv})$ 
22:     Verify conversation quality using prompt  $Pt_{qc}$ :
23:      $isValid \leftarrow OpenAI(conv, P_i, Pt_{qc})$ 
24:     if  $isValid$  then
25:       Add valid conversation to  $Conv$ :
26:        $Conv.add(conv, P_i, s)$ 
27:     end if
28:   end for
29: end for
```

---

Figure 6: Overview of the entire pipeline from a pool of seed relationships to conversation.