

# An Analysis of the Content and Affective Processes in the Comments of the r/chanceme Subreddit

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## Introduction

- About **60% of youth** feel as though the college admissions process overwhelms them and this could contribute to academic stress
- Currently, there is research available that states that in academic subreddits **29% of comments** contain stressful language
- The r/chanceme subreddit focuses on students providing their college admission statistics to receive advice on which colleges others believe they will be admitted in to
- Gap:** Few studies have explored how the r/chanceme subreddit's comments reference high expectations and mental well-being
- Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to determine the content and affective processes in the comments of the r/chanceme subreddit

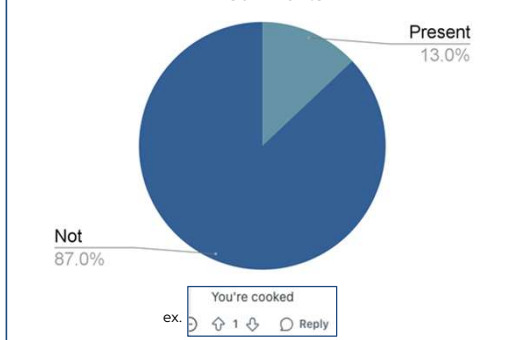
## Methods

- Design:** The design included content analysis and Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) of comments under the r/chanceme subreddit
- Subjects:**
  - 100 comments were analyzed off of 20 posts
  - Inclusion Criteria:** Posted in the last year, contained high expectation, and have at least 5 comments
    - High expectations: 1500 or above on the SAT, over 6 extra curriculars, or had taken 5 or more AP or IB courses
  - The comments analyzed were the first 5 under each post, including only 2 sub comments under each main comment
- Measures:**
  - The variable looked into through content analysis was poster targeted aggression
  - Affective processes, anxiety, anger, sadness, and negative/positive emotions, were analyzed through LIWC
- Analysis:**
  - Determined the frequency of the presence of poster targeted aggression
  - Determined the average LIWC score for each variable

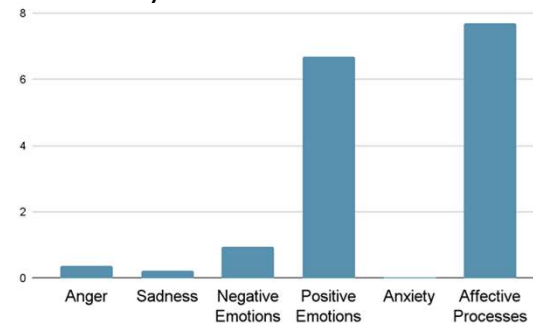
## Results

- Subject Information**
  - The average number of upvotes (the equivalent of a like on Reddit) on all the comments was 1.44
  - The comments were made between July 18th, 2025 and July 21st, 2025
- Main Points**
  - In total 13% of comments contained language that had poster targeted aggression
  - The average affective processes score was 7.69
  - The greatest score was for positive emotions which had an average score of 6.70
  - Negative emotions had an average score of 0.95

Frequency of Poster Targeted Aggression in r/chanceme Comments



Average LIWC Scores for Affective Processes in r/chanceme Comments



## Conclusions

### Key findings

- In total 13% of comments contained poster targeted aggression that may be displaced anger, due to a lack of satisfaction in the commenters' own achievements
- The most prevalent LIWC variable was positive emotions
  - This may indicate that the comments of the r/chanceme subreddit provide support and community for posters who have high expectations of themselves
  - It is to be noted that some comments contained negative emotions, possibly resulting from comparison, deviating from the sense of community that the subreddit fosters

### Limitations

- As LIWC is an automated system, it may not always capture underlying human tones or references
- This study was conducted with a small sample of comments made in a short time span
  - Expanding both of these factors could allow for more accurate results

### Implications

- Future studies could focus on whether Reddit academic communities provide a sense of community and relief for students with high expectations
- Providers working with youth in high school could consider recommending Reddit communities to help students with high expectations find a sense of community

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