

 NLP & political science

Trump and Venezuela



What the analysis of the
January 3, 2026 press conference reveals

January 5, 2026

A press conference, four speakers

January 3, 2026

White House press conference following the military operation in Venezuela.

-  858 annotated sentences
-  Associated Press transcript
-  [Source video](#)

 **Donald Trump**
President

 **Marco Rubio**
Secretary of State

 **Pete Hegseth**
Secretary of Defense

 **Dan Caine**
Chairman Joint Chiefs

Methodology



⌕ Transcription

 [antoinelemor/Transcribe-tool](https://github.com/antoinelemor/Transcribe-tool)

⌕ LLM Annotation

 [antoinelemor/LLM_Tool](https://github.com/antoinelemor/LLM_Tool)

⌕ Analysis

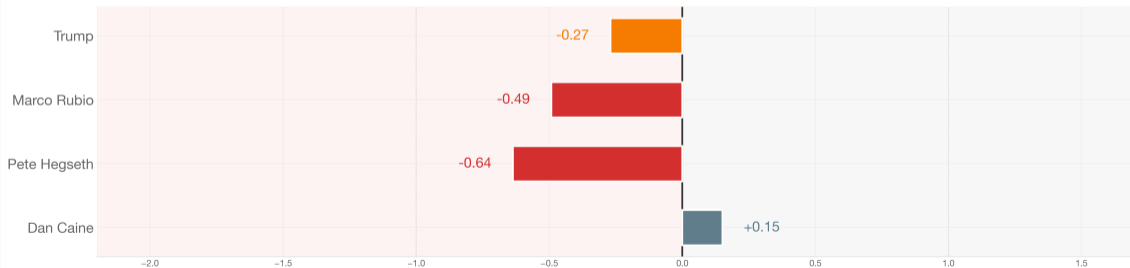
 [antoinelemor/nlp-pol](https://github.com/antoinelemor/nlp-pol)

ANALYSIS #1

**What rhetorical
posture adopted?**

Rhetorical Posture Index by Speaker

Weighted average of tone annotations (-2 = aggressive, +1.5 = neutral)



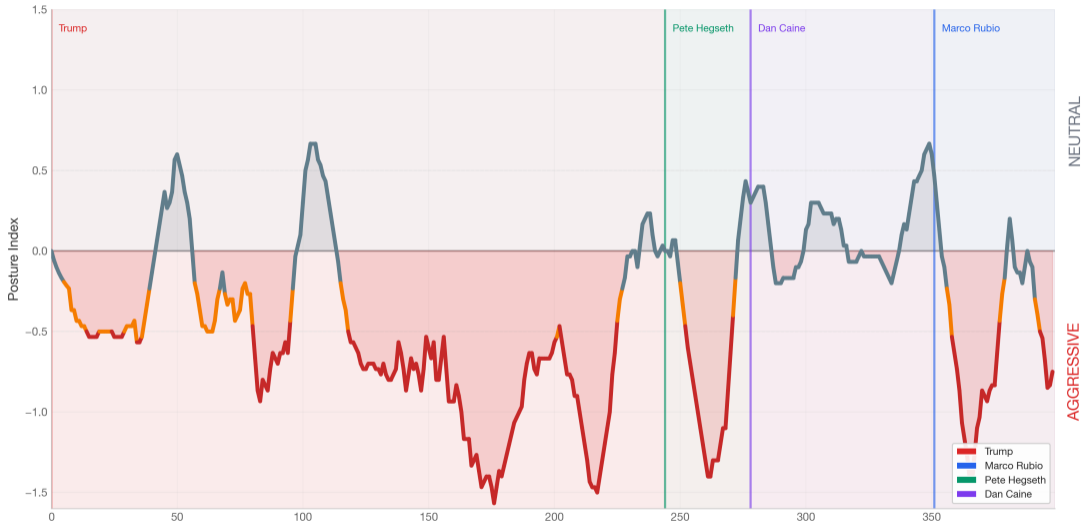
AGGRESSIVE

Reading guide: Each sentence is annotated by LLM for tone (7 categories). Index = weighted average of all sentences.
Scale: threatening (-2), confrontational (-1.5), dismissive (-1), triumphant (-0.5), factual (0), reassuring (+1), deferential (+1.5).

NEUTRAL

Rhetorical Posture Evolution During Press Conference

Rolling average (window = 15 sentences) of tone-weighted posture index



Reading guide: Smoothed curve (rolling avg. of 15 sentences) of posture index over time.
Below 0 = aggressive zone, above 0 = neutral zone. Vertical lines = speaker changes. Statements only (before Q&A).

Finding: Trump is not the most aggressive

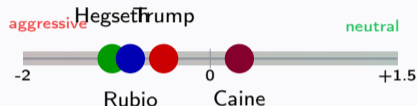
Contrary to the usual image, **Trump** adopts a **moderate** tone.

The most aggressive?

! **Pete Hegseth** (-0.64)

! **Marco Rubio** (-0.49)

Joint Chiefs Chairman Caine remains neutral, he describes and doesn't justify.



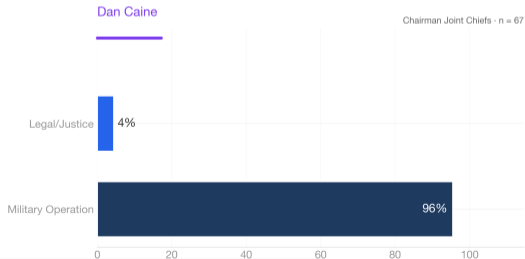
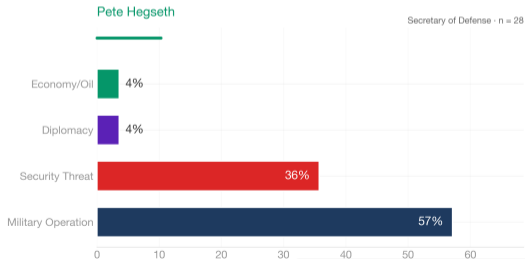
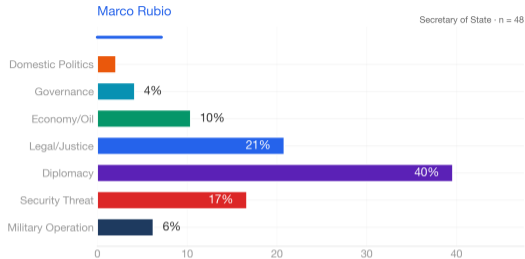
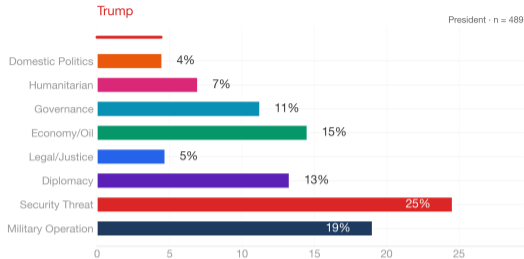
Hegseth	-0.64
Rubio	-0.49
Trump	-0.27
Caine	+0.15

ANALYSIS #2

**What topics raised by
each speaker?**

Topic Distribution by Speaker

Proportion of each speaker's interventions by theme



Reading guide: Each bar = % of that speaker's sentences with that theme (LLM-annotated). Top 8 themes shown.
Shows what each official talked about most. n = total sentences analyzed for that speaker.

Finding: a very clear division of roles

Trump n=489

Security threat **25%**

Military operation 19%

Economy/Oil 15%

Humanitarian 7%

Rubio n=48

Diplomacy **40%**

Legal/Justice 21%

Security threat 17%

Humanitarian 0%

Hegseth n=28

Military operation **57%**

Security threat 36%

Humanitarian 0%

Caine n=67

Military operation **96%**

Technical, factual

Interpretation: an imperialist justification

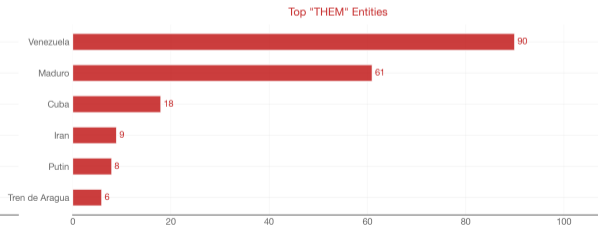
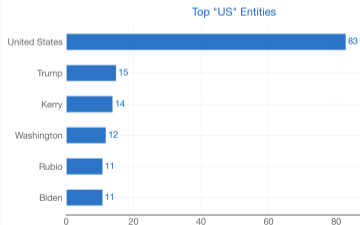
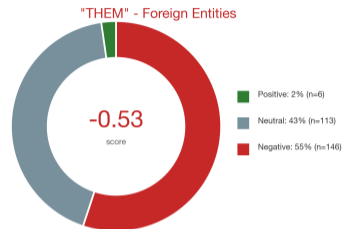
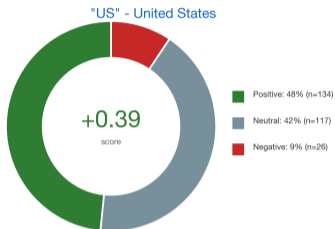
- ▶ The advisors focus on threat and force
- ▶ Trump alone mentions humanitarian issues: a facade role?
- ▶ Total absence of humanitarian concern from Rubio and Hegseth
- ▶ Operation justified mainly by security and economy

ANALYSIS #3

The US against the rest of the world?

"Us" vs "Them": Named Entity Sentiment Analysis

Named entities = people, countries, and institutions mentioned by name in the speech



Reading guide: Each named entity is classified as "US" (United States, officials, military) or "THEM" (foreign: Venezuela, Maduro, Cuba...). LLM annotates valence (positive/neutral/negative) per mention. Score = (positive - negative) / total. Animosity < 0 = hostile to out-group.

Finding: a strongly Manichean discourse

“Us”

United States

+0.39

Positive	48%
Neutral	42%
Negative	9%

“Them”

Foreign entities

-0.53

Positive	2%
Neutral	43%
Negative	55%

Animosity index: **-0.46** (high)

Interpretation: an imperialist isolationism?

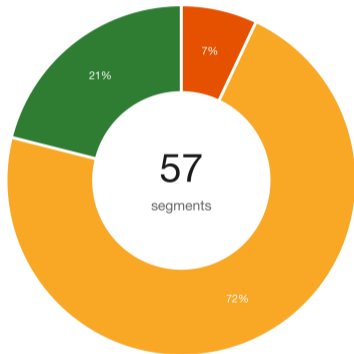
- ▶ Binary worldview: “us” (positive) vs “them” (negative)
- ▶ An assumed regional interventionism
- ▶ A binary discourse that serves to justify imperialist actions

ANALYSIS #4

Facing journalists

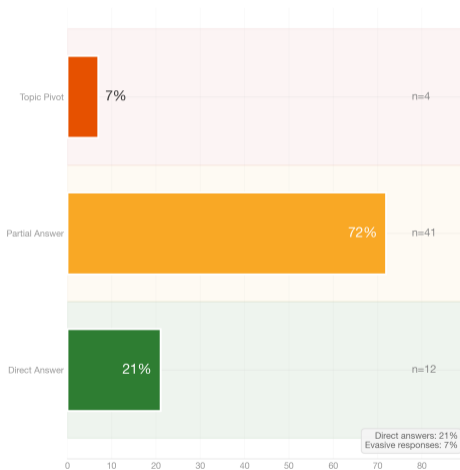
How Did Trump Respond to Journalists' Questions?

Analysis of response patterns during Q&A session



Direct Answer Partial Answer Topic Pivot

Response Quality Breakdown



Direct answers: 21%
Evasive responses: 7%

Reading guide: Trump's response sentences during Q&A, classified by LLM into 5 types.
Direct = answers the question. Partial = incomplete answer. Pivot/deflection = avoids. Attack = criticizes questioner.

Finding: rarely direct answers

72%
partial answers

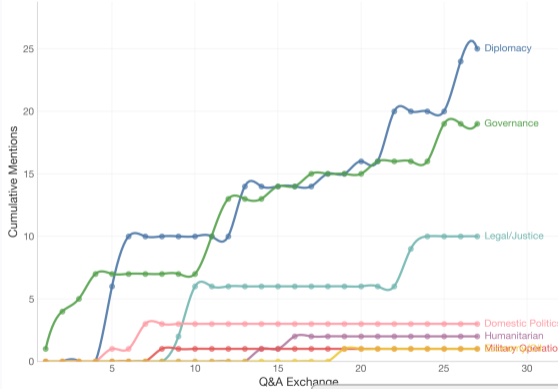
21% direct answers
7% topic changes

Journalists get **fragments**, rarely complete answers.

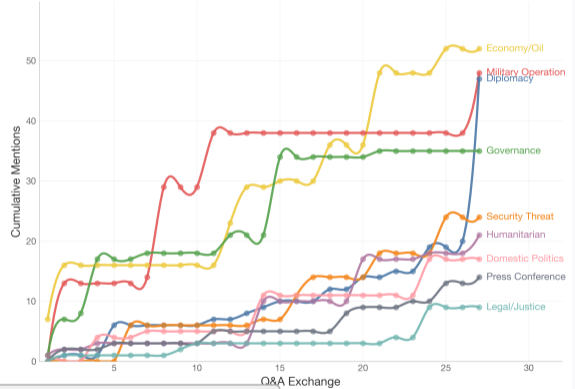
Out of 57 response segments, only 12 directly answer the question asked.

Theme Focus Evolution During Q&A Session

Journalist Questions



Trump's Responses



Reading guide: Left panel = themes (LLM-annotated) in journalist questions. Right panel = themes in Trump's responses.
Cumulative curves: topics accumulating over Q&A exchanges. Divergence between panels = thematic mismatch.

Finding: oil above all

A revealing thematic gap

Journalists

1. Diplomacy
2. Governance
3. Legal / Justice

Questions about the *how*

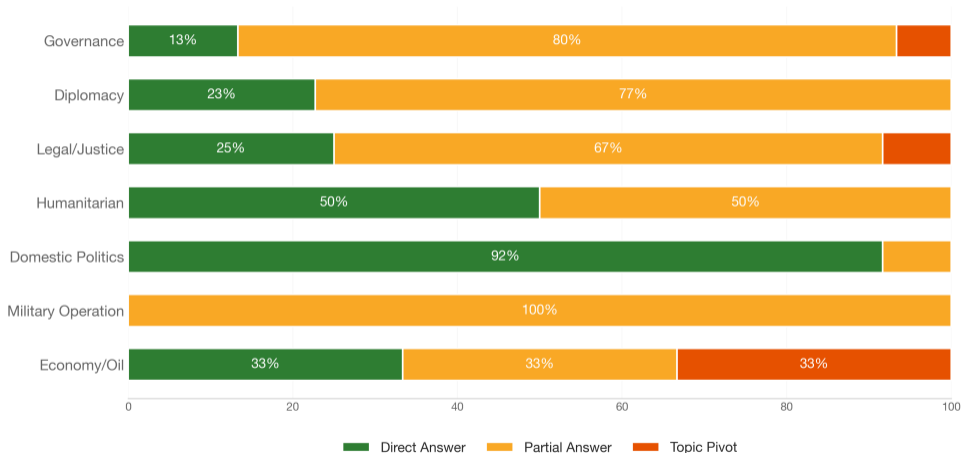
Trump answers

1. **Economy / Oil**
2. Military operation
3. Diplomacy

Insistence on *resources*

How Did Trump Respond to Questions by Topic?

Response type distribution by topic during Q&A session



Reading guide: For each topic asked by journalists, shows how Trump responded (% of response types). Green = direct. Yellow = partial. Orange = pivot. Red = deflection. Purple = attack. Sorted by question volume.

Finding: the “how” remains unanswered

The most **avoided** topics are the most **concrete**

80%

Governance

partial answer

67%

Legal / Justice

partial answer

77%

Diplomacy

partial answer

33%

Economy / Oil

topic change/defer to advisor

ANALYSIS #5

Conclusion

What the analysis reveals

Delegated aggression

Trump moderate, advisors offensive. The president leads, pushed by his entourage.

Oil above all

Revealing thematic gap. Justified by resources, not humanitarian concerns.

Clear imperialism

Assumed regional interventionism. Binary “us” vs “them” worldview.

The future remains unclear

Governance, legality: no concrete plan for the aftermath.

Antoine Lemor

 github.com/antoinelemor

Want to see the method and code?

 **This analysis** [antoinelemor/nlp-pol](#)

 **Transcription** [antoinelemor/Transcribe-tool](#)

 **LLM Annotation** [antoinelemor/LLM_Tool](#)