

 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



少不了 Transcription

 [antoinelemor/Transcribe-tool](#)

少不了 LLM Annotation

 [antoinelemor/LLM_Tool](#)

少不了 Analysis

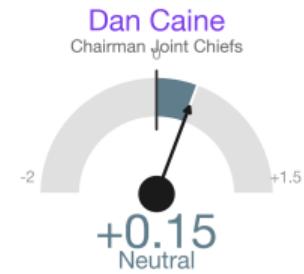
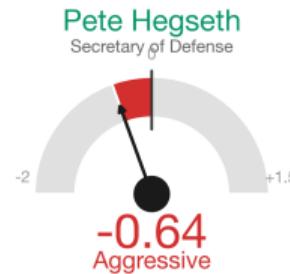
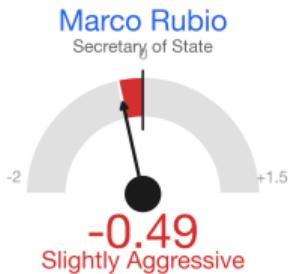
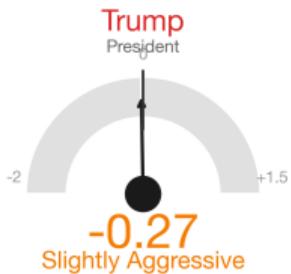
 [antoinelemor/nlp-pol](#)

ANALYSIS #1

What rhetorical
posture adopted?

Rhetorical Posture Index by Speaker

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



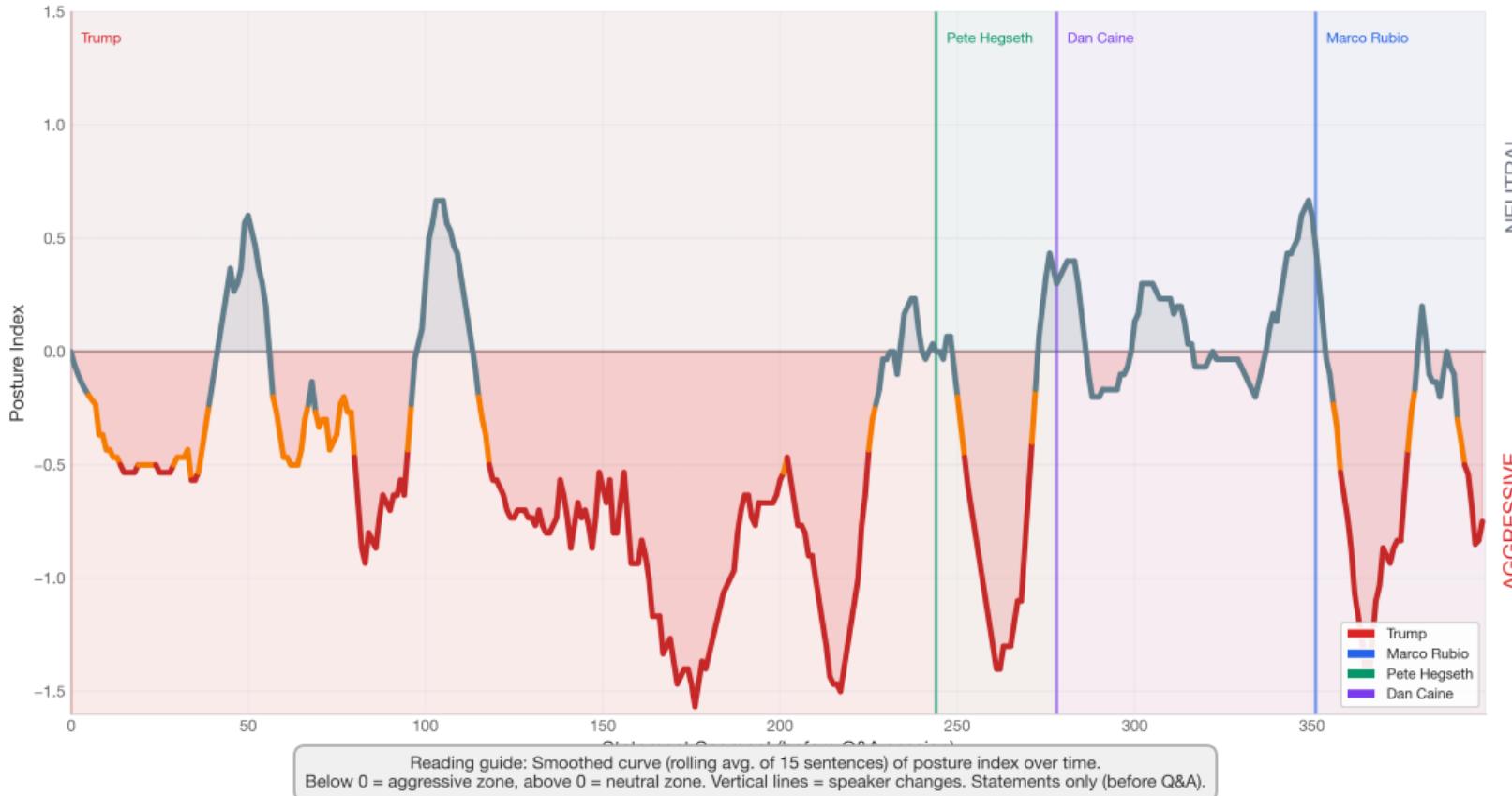
AGGRESSIVE

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



Finding: Trump is not the most aggressive

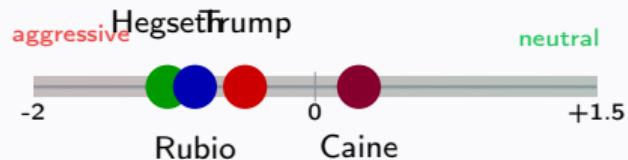
Contrary to the usual image, Trump adopts a **moderate** tone.

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

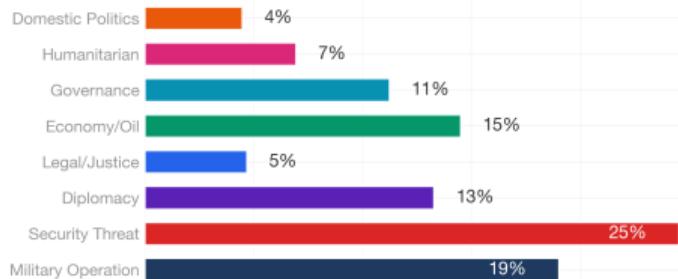
ANALYSIS #2

What topics raised by
each speaker?

Topic Distribution by Speaker

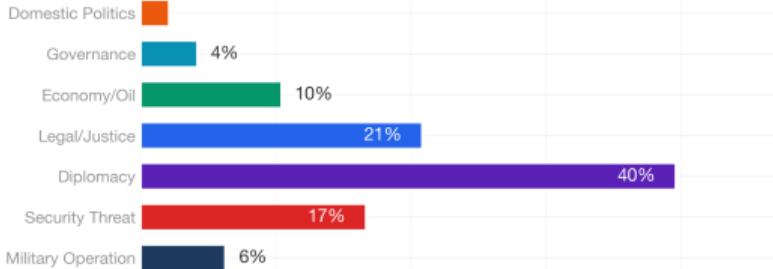
Proportion of each speaker's interventions by theme

Trump



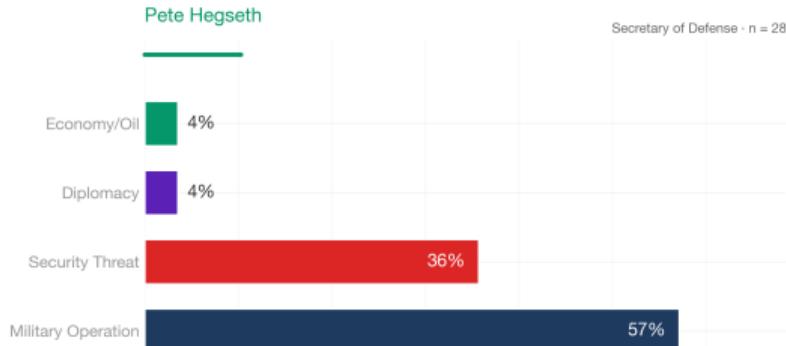
President · n = 489

Marco Rubio



Secretary of State · n = 48

Pete Hegseth



Secretary of Defense · n = 28

Dan Caine



Chairman Joint Chiefs · n = 67

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



ANIMOSITY
INDEX

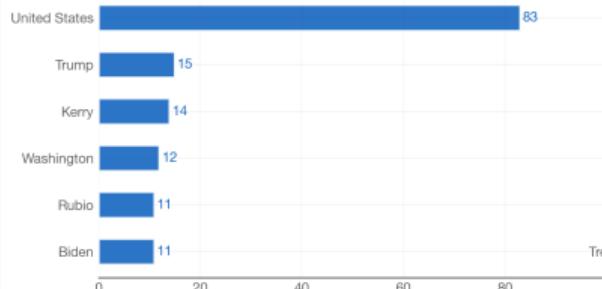
-0.46

High Animosity

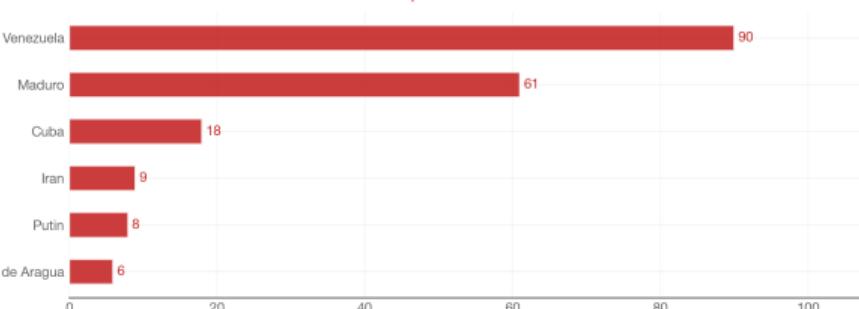
-1 <- -0 -- +1
hostile conciliatory



Top "US" Entities



Top "THEM" Entities



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?

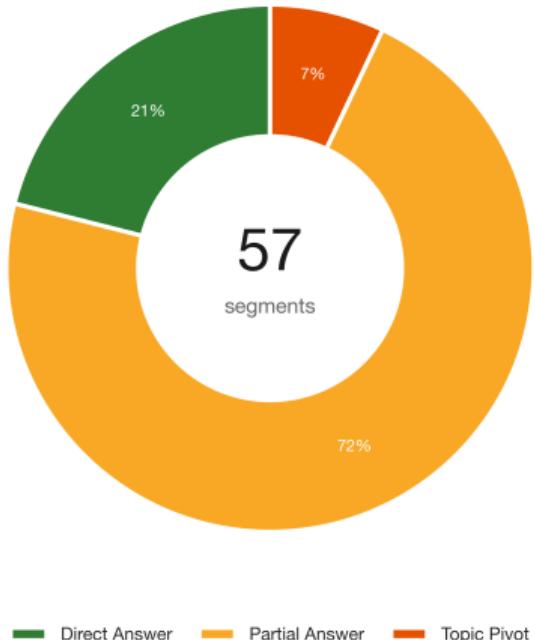
- ▶ Binary worldview: “us” (positive) vs “them” (negative)
- ▶ An assumed regional interventionism
- ▶ A binary discourse that serves to justify imperialist actions

ANALYSIS #4

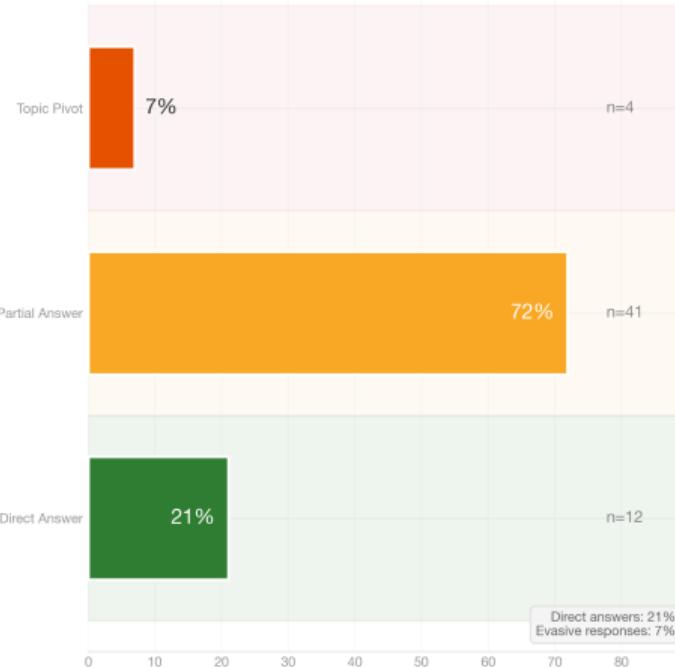
Facing journalists

How Did Trump Respond to Journalists' Questions?

Analysis of response patterns during Q&A session



Response Quality Breakdown



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

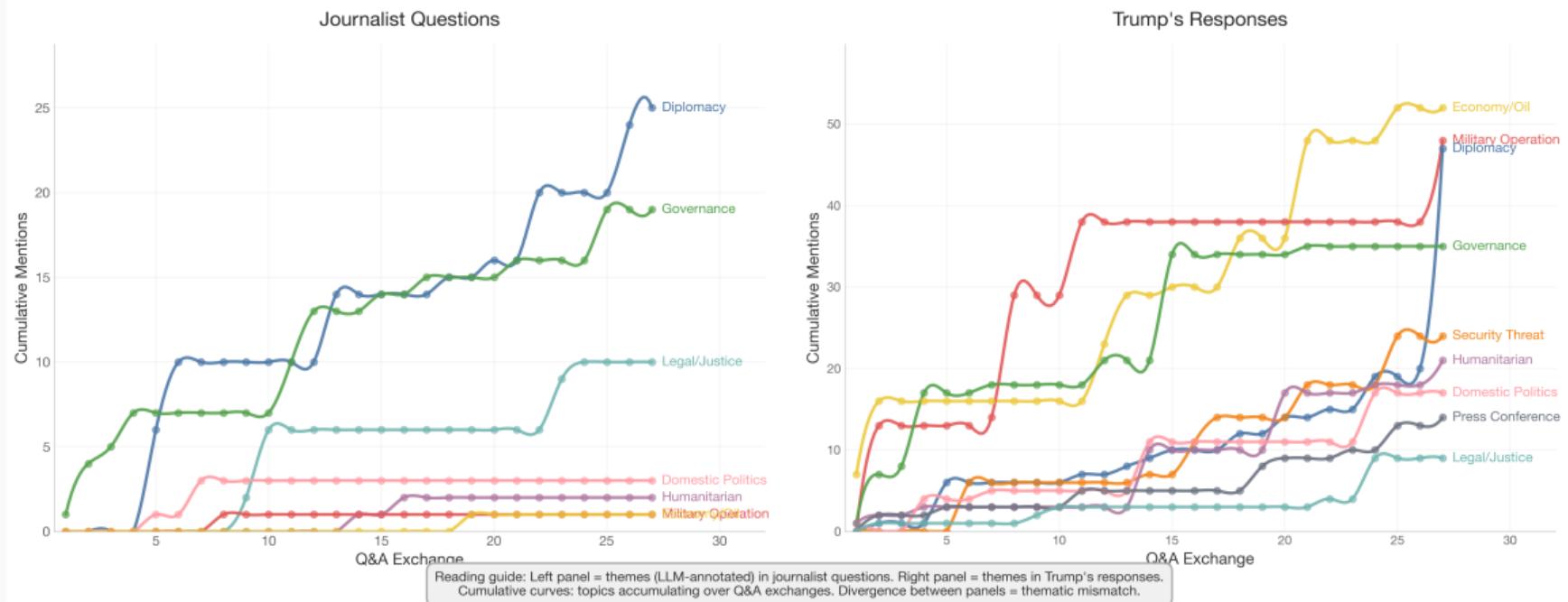
21% direct answers

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



Finding: oil above all

A revealing thematic gap

Journalists

1. Diplomacy
2. Governance
3. Legal / Justice

Questions about the *how*

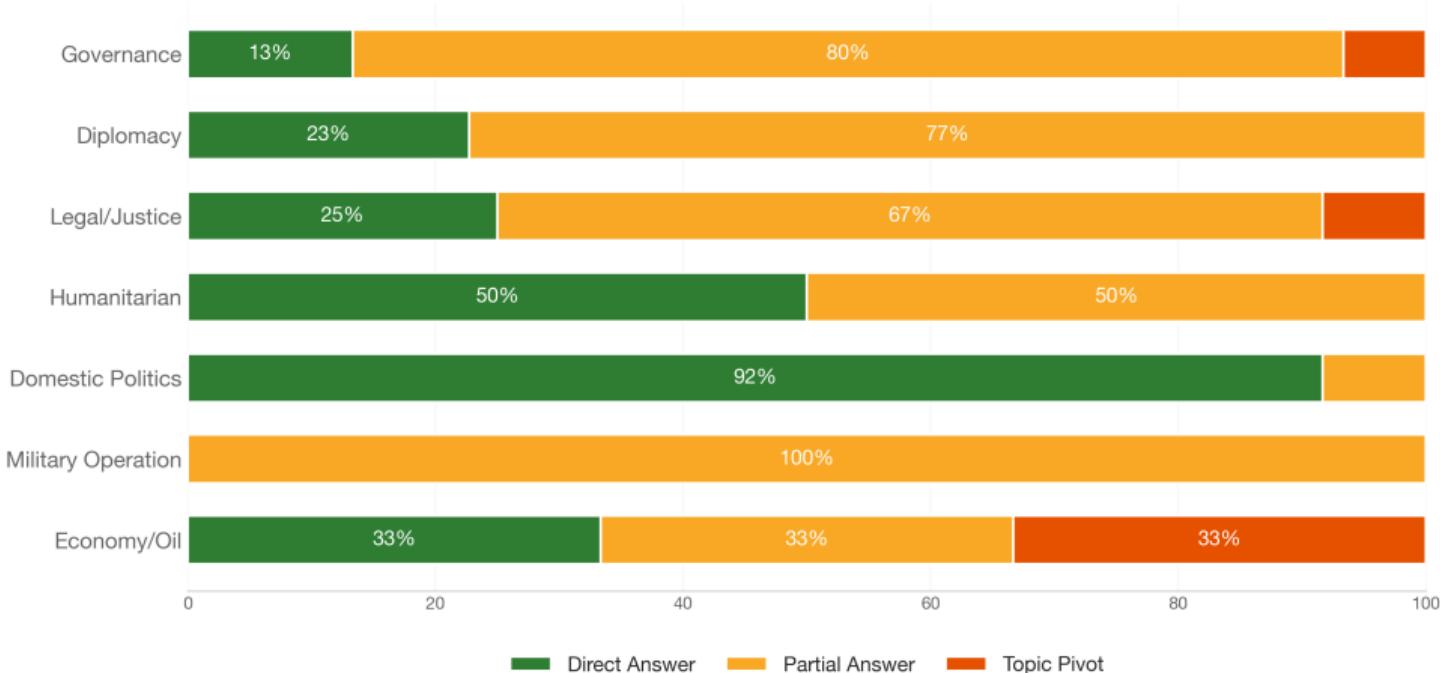
Trump answers

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.

Clear imperialism

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

Oil above all

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

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

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

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