

Document 1671

[21671001]

Democracy can be cruel to politicians : Sometimes it forces them to make choices .

[21671002]

Now that the Supreme Court opened the door on the subject of abortion , politicians are squinting under the glare of democratic choice .

[21671003]

Their discomfort is a healthy sign for the rest of us .

[21671004]

Republicans are squinting most painfully , at least at first , which is only fair because they've been shielded the most .

[21671005]

So long as abortion was a question for litigation , not legislation , Republicans could find political security in absolutism .

[21671006]

They could attract one-issue voters by adopting the right-to-life movement's strongest position , even as pro-choice Republicans knew this mattered little on an issue monopolized by the court .

[21671007]

Now it matters .

[21671008]

Much of Washington thought it detected George Bush in a characteristic waffle on abortion the past week .

[21671009]

Only a month ago he'd warned Congress not to pass legislation to pay for abortions in cases of rape or incest .

[21671010]

Last Friday , after Congress passed it anyway , he hinted he was looking for compromise .

[21671011]

Was the man who once was pro-choice , but later pro-life , converting again ?

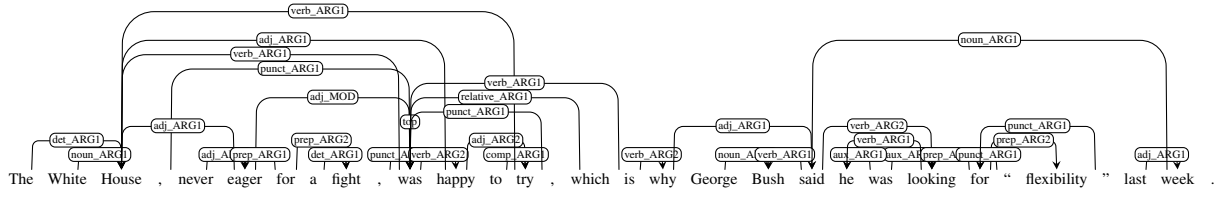
[21671013]

Pro-life advocates say the White House never wavered over the veto .

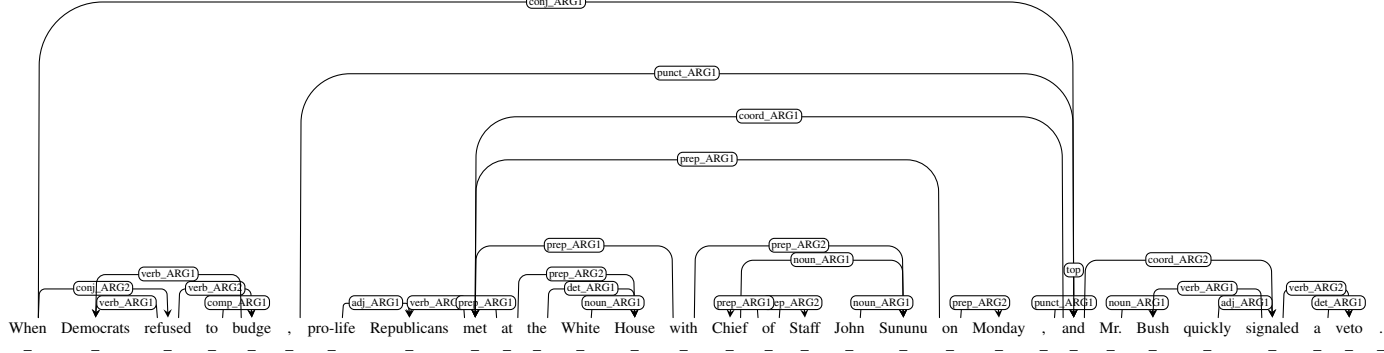
[21671014]

Christopher Smith (R , N.J.) , a pro-life leader in the House , suggested a compromise that would have adapted restrictive language from rape and incest exceptions in the states .

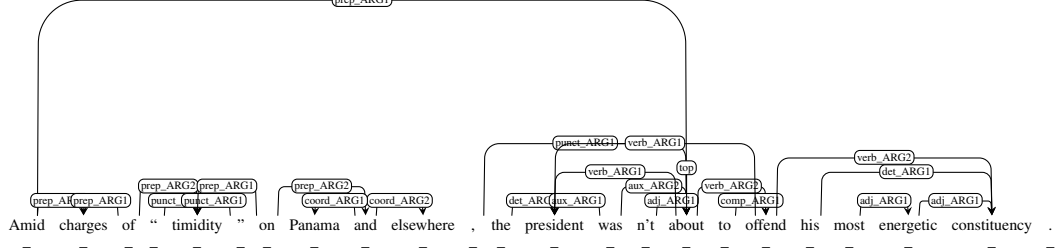
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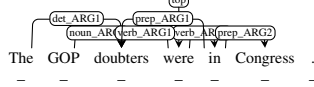
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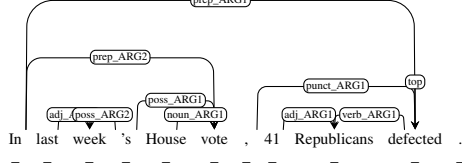
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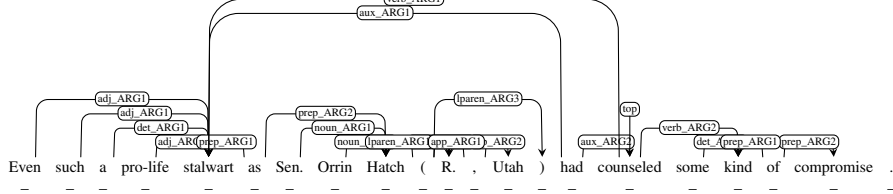
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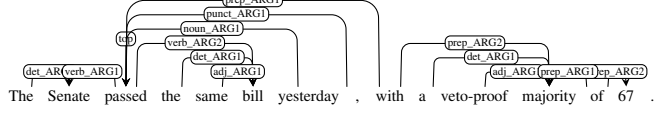
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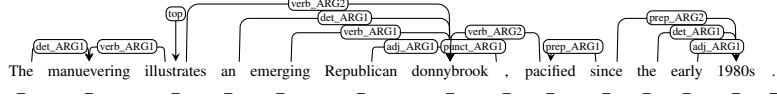
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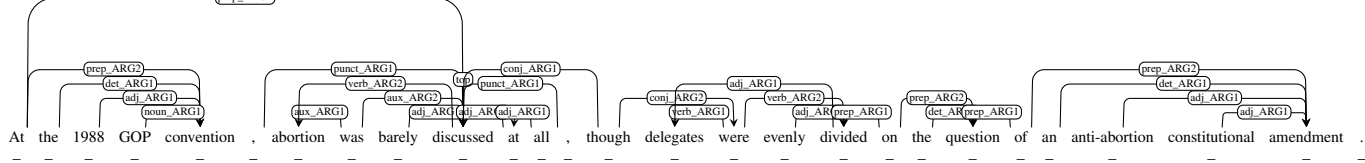
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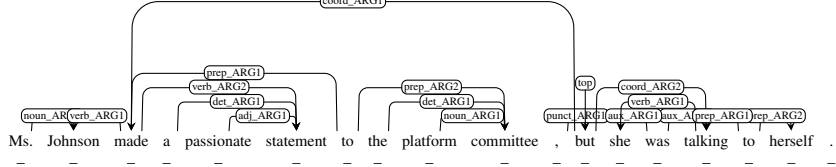
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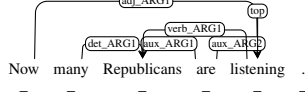
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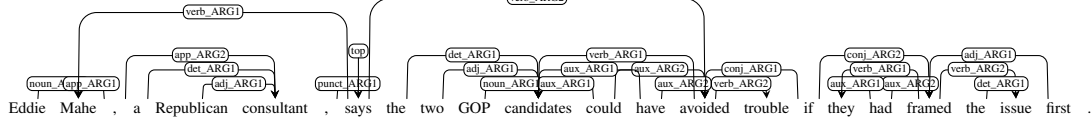
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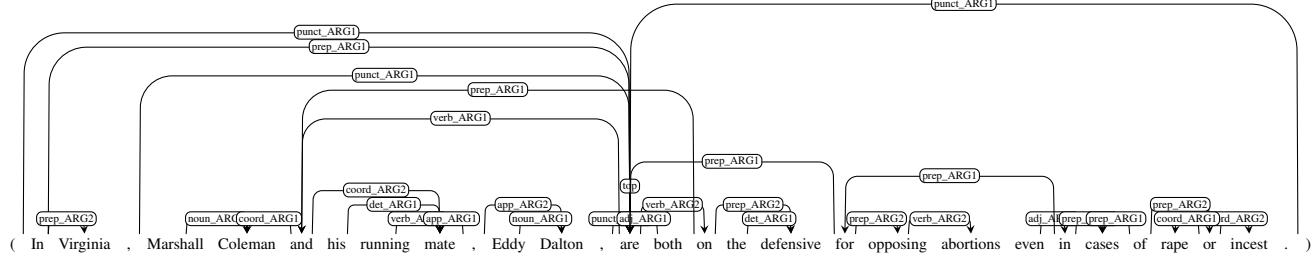
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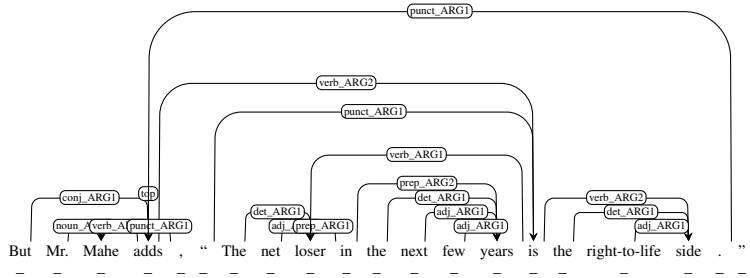
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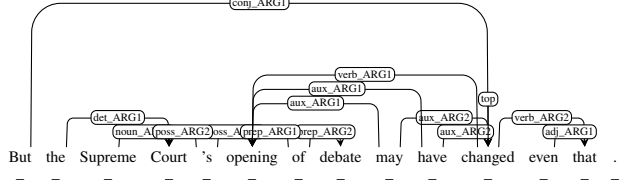
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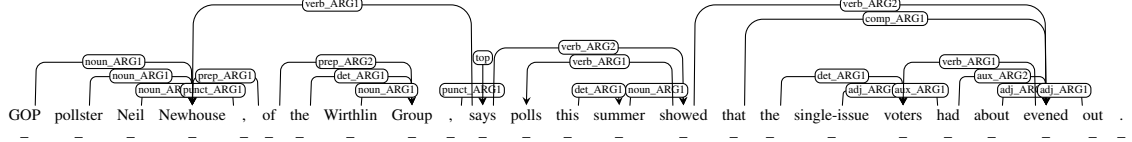
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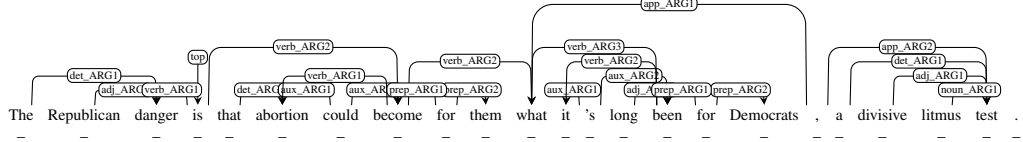
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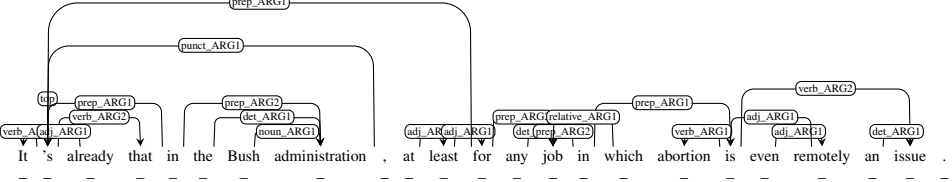
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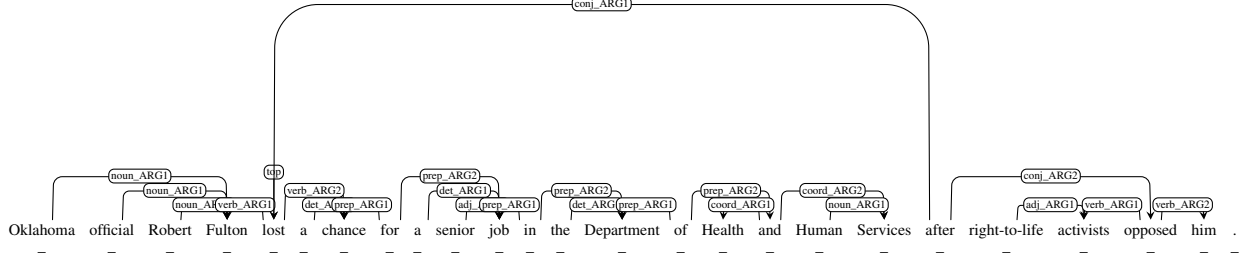
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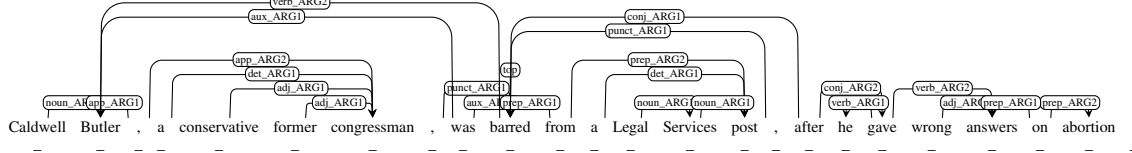
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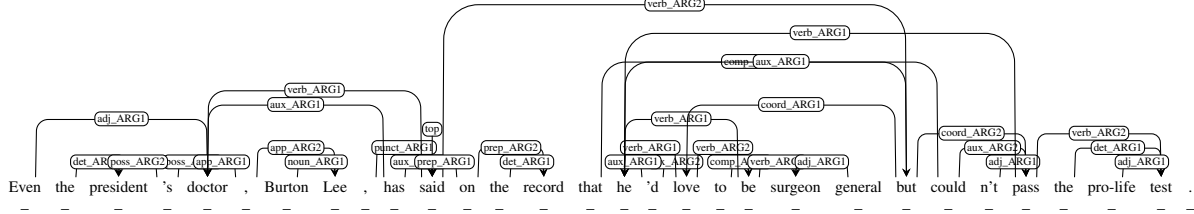
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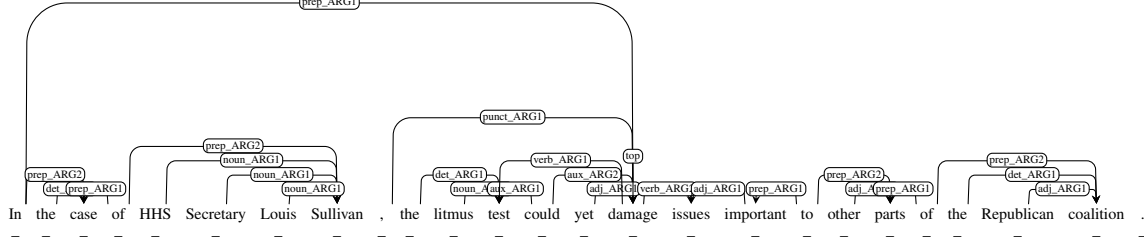
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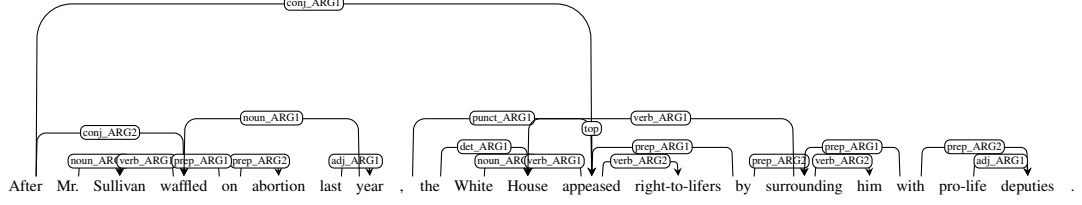
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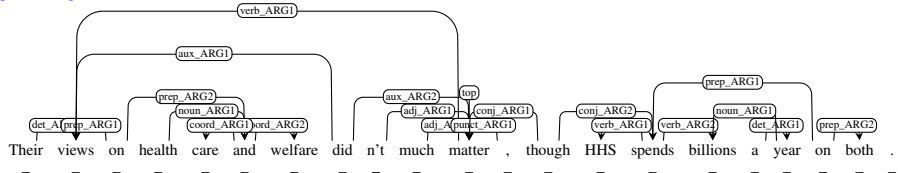
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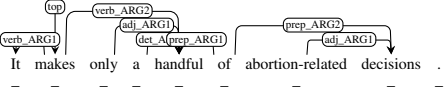
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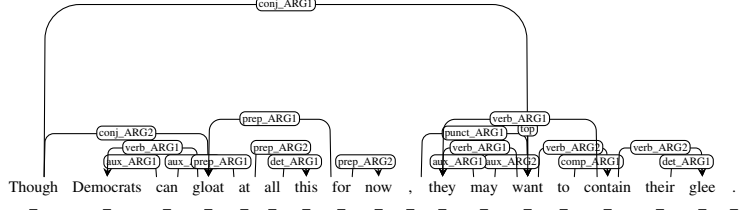
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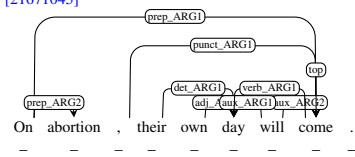
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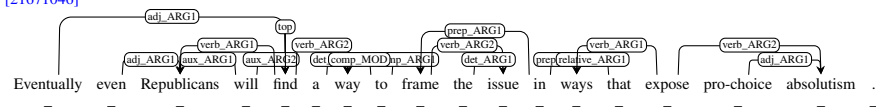
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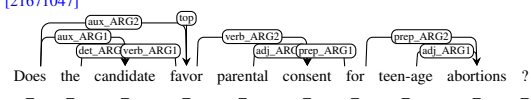
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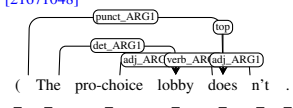
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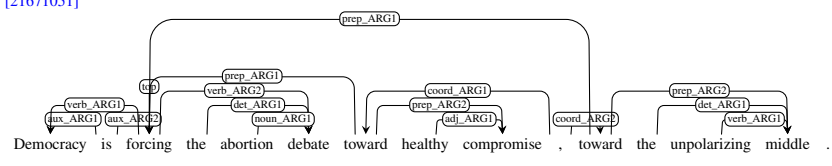
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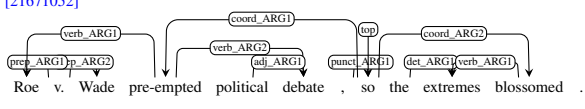
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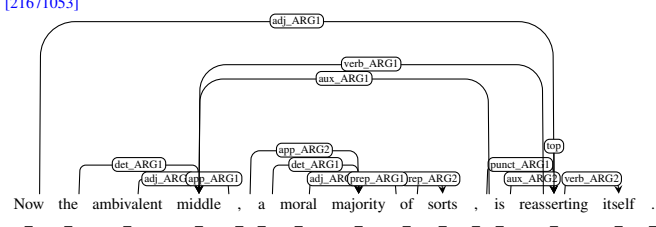
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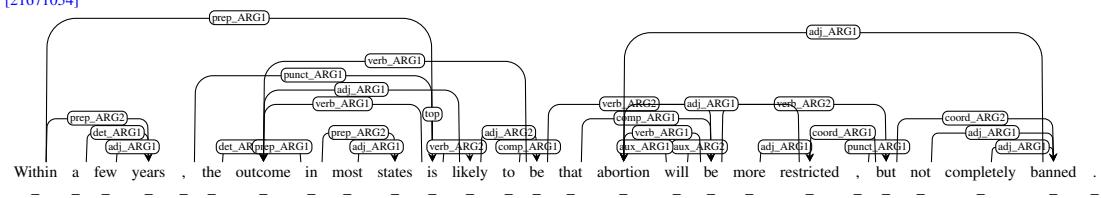
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