SHORT PAPER #1 – "How Congress Talked About the Environment"

● Published ⋮

What's exciting about this challenge: holding members of Congress responsible for what they said is an important approach for strengthening democracy.

The challenge in a nutshell: Using your skills at looking things up to investigate how one of the key speakers -- Dana Rohrabacher, representative for California (1989–2019), or John Duncan, representative for Tennessee (1988–2018) -- used phrases like "extreme environmentalists" in the period 1980-2008.[1] You should read all of their speeches and summarize the major themes of the speeches. Take particular note of any contemporary events they describe as relevant, how they portray recent historical events, and how their speech evolves. Extra challenge: take note of phrases that this speaker uses routinely to refer to the problem of the environment that aren't part of the data visualization.

Tools you need: the code for exporting Keyword-in-Context (KWIC) views of how a single speaker uses a keyword or phrase (code included in notebook to be distributed)

Length and format: 3-5 pages, double-spaced, excluding visualizations. Embed tables in word document. Label the table (Table 1 with a description of its contents) and refer to it in the prose. (See Guldi, The Dangerous Art of Text Mining, Ch 12 in Perusall for an example). In the paper's body, detailed descriptions should both quote *and* summarize all the speeches from one speaker, in a series of well-structured paragraphs whose introduction and conclusion sentences draw insight from the speeches. All quotations should be cited in Turabian format, giving the location in the original primary sources of the quotation. Illustrate your paper with 2-3 KWIC tables, each less than half a page in length, excerpting the most important passages from your discussion, with key words and phrases bolded. The paper's conclusion should include observations about the speaker's contribution to American politics, including how the speaker's orientation changed over time. Pages should be numbered.

[1] OR investigate all three of the minor speakers: Walter Herger of California, Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, and Orrin Hatch of Utah.

Points	10
Submitting	a file upload
File Types	doc and pdf

Due	For	Available from	Until
Feb 4	Everyone	-	-

First Short Essay

Criteria	Ratings				Pts
prose style Text is formed into sentences and paragraphs which are well structured and well punctuated. Paragraphs have introductory and conclusion sentences that state arguments, in between which are factual observations that refer to the original text, the data analysis, and the visualization. There is a brief introduction and conclusion that make an argument about why this analysis is important and what you learned from looking at the data.	**2 pts** **Full Marks**	**1.2 pts** **ok** missing one feature of the criterion	**1 pts** **wanting** missing more than one feature of the criterion	**0 pts** **No Marks** Serious wanting in this category	2 pts
An argument is made about change over time. An argument should be made about how the speaker's use of the keyword changed over time.	**2 pts** **Full Marks**	**1.2 pts** **ok**	**1 pts** **ok 2** missing more than one feature of the criterion	**0 pts** **No Marks**	2 pts
Information shown in table is integrated into essay Details from the tables should be explicitly referred to in such detail that an individual reading the essay can easily follow along. Words and short passages should be quoted in the process of making an argument about how the speaker's use of the keyword changed over time.	**1 pts** **Full Marks**	**0.6 pts** **ok**	**0.5 pts** **ok 2** missing more than one feature of the criterion	**0 pts** **No Marks**	1 pts
All historical facts and quotations are properly cited	**1 pts**	**0.6 pts**	**0.5 pts**	**0 pts**	

Every historical fact and quotation needs a footnote citation in Chicago Turabian "notes" style explaining where the word first appeared, who said it, where, and when, so that a skeptical reader could look up your argument and become themselves convinced that the facts are true.	**Full Marks**	**ok**	**ok 2** missing more than one feature of the criterion	**No Marks**	1 pts
Two to three well-formatted tables condense information about how the keywords are used at two to three important points in each speaker's career 2-3 tables, each referring to a period in the speaker's career, should be made available to reader of a word document: embedded in the document, labeled "Table 1" etc., given a title that explains where the data is from, and referred to by name in the prose. The keyword should be bolded. Each line of the table should contain one sentence or two showing how the keyword was used. The point of the table is to provide skeptical readers with an easy, visual demonstration that the analyst isn't just reading numbers and making arguments. The table shows that the analyst knows how the keyword was actually used in context.	**2 pts Full Marks**	**1.2 pts ok**	**0.8 pts ok 2** missing more than one feature of the criterion	**0 pts No Marks**	2 pts
Strong Support is Given to Each Argument in the Form of Facts The argument about change over time should be supported by detailed facts. The facts will come from carefully reading the full speeches from the 2-3 points in time you have chosen. Your facts should include each of the following: - summaries of speeches -- what was the speaker arguing? why did he use the keyword in this argument? - explanations of the speech's historical context, for instance, what bill or scandal motivated this speech. - short, quoted passages where the speaker powerfully gives the thrust of their argument in language that is worth repeating (for instance, if the speaker explains that environmentalists have been "deeply irresponsible," this language is powerful enough to quote). Do not include	**2 pts Full Marks**	**1.3 pts ok**	**0.8 pts ok 2**	**0 pts No Marks**	2 pts

long quotations in a short paper.					
				Total Points: 10	