

Analyzing Election Campaign Narratives



Name:

Date:

Harris 2024: "Let's WIN this."

Kamala Harris, the first female Vice President of the United States, launched her 2024 presidential campaign with a powerful message of resilience and hope. Following President Biden's withdrawal, Harris became the Democratic nominee, promising to address key crises such as economic inequality, healthcare access, and climate change. Her campaign slogans, "Let's WIN this," "When we fight, we win," and "We're not going back," resonated with many Americans seeking stability and progress.

Throughout her campaign, Harris emphasized her expertise in law and policy, gained from her tenure as California's Attorney General and U.S. Senator. She addressed the need for national abortion protections, gun control, and federal cannabis legalization. Harris's economic platform, described as populist, included capping prescription drug costs and expanding the child tax credit.



Kamala Harris at a rally in 2024 (Source: Wikipedia)

Harris faced allegations about her past decisions as Attorney General, but she met these challenges head-on, highlighting her commitment to reform and justice. She remained focused on her vision for America's future, often contrasting her plans with those of her main opponent, Donald Trump. Harris criticized Trump's policies sharply, branding them as chaotic and divisive.

In campaign events filled with optimism, Harris promised to fight for a better America, advocating for strong border security coupled with immigration reform. She reassured her supporters that her administration would bring positive change, focusing on freedom and the future. As the election nears, Harris's message of resilience and progress continues to inspire many across the nation.



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Election Campaign Narratives are stories that politicians use to explain **why** people should **vote for them**. These stories help voters understand **who** they are and **why** they are **the best choice**. Here is a list of **five** very important and **often used narrative types**:

1. Hero Stories 🦸

A hero story is when a politician presents themselves as the **"hero" who will save the day**. They tell stories about the good things they've done or how they will help solve a big problem, like improving schools or making neighborhoods safer.

2. Crisis Narratives 🚨

A crisis narrative is used when the candidate talks about a big **problem**, or crisis, that **needs to be solved right away**. They explain how the crisis is affecting people and how they are the best person to fix it. It could be about a serious issue like bad roads or unsafe communities.

3. Issue Ownership 🎓


In an issue ownership narrative, the candidate focuses on a specific **problem** or issue **they are really good at solving**. For example, one candidate might focus on improving education, while another might be known for protecting the environment. They **"own"** that **issue** because they are seen as the **best at handling it**.

4. Negative Campaigning 🗣️

Negative campaigning is when a **candidate talks about** their **opponent in a bad way**. They might say their opponent did something wrong or isn't fit for the job.

5. Image Restoration Strategies 😊

Image restoration strategies are used when a candidate has **made a mistake** or done something people didn't like. The candidate tells a story to **explain what happened** and how they've learned from their mistakes. They **try to fix their image** so people will trust them again.

 **Task 1: Find out about the objectives that the five types of campaign narratives typically pursue by matching the five types to their objective description.**

Hero Stories

Voters may start to see the opponent in a negative light and believe the candidate speaking negatively is the better choice because they pointed out problems with the other person.

Crisis Narratives

Voters see the candidate as brave, strong, and capable of making their lives better—like a hero in a movie.

Issue Ownership

Voters might forgive the candidate and believe that they have changed or learned from their errors, giving them a second chance to lead.

Negative Campaigning

Voters see the candidate as someone who understands the problem and has the solutions to get things back to normal. They feel the candidate is the right person for the job in a tough situation.

Image Restoration Strategies

Voters associate the candidate with solving that specific problem and trust them to be the expert. For example, if you care about education, you'll think of the candidate who 'owns' that issue as the best choice.

 **Task 2: Match the statements extracted from the newspaper article to the five types of election campaign narratives.**

Harris frames her campaign as 'a choice between freedom and chaos,' 'advocating for positive change and progress.'

Harris promises to address issues like 'economic inequality, healthcare access, and climate change.'

Harris emphasizes her stances on 'national abortion protections, gun control, and federal cannabis legalization.'

Harris contrasts her vision with Donald Trump's, branding his policies as 'chaotic and divisive.'

Harris faced allegations about her past decisions as Attorney General but highlighted her 'commitment to reform and justice.'

● Crisis Narratives

● Issue Ownership

● Image Restoration Strategies

● Negative Campaigning

● Hero Stories

