# 2024

## *Donald Trump vs Kamala Harris*

A 105-minute lesson on the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Includes lesson plan, DBQ pairing, student worksheet, answer key, and discussion prompts.

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| ERA<br>Modern Polarization | ELECTORAL VOTES<br>538 total |
| WINNER<br>Donald Trump (Republican) · 312 EV | RUNNER-UP<br>Kamala Harris (Democratic) · 226 EV |
| KEY ISSUE<br>Inflation and cost of living; immigration; democracy concerns; Biden's age and competence | TURNOUT<br>64.1% |

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# 2024: Donald Trump vs Kamala Harris

## AP framework alignment

AP US History · Period varies by cycle · Reasoning skills: contextualization, comparison, causation, sourcing. CCSS · CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 (central ideas), RH.11-12.6 (point of view), RH.11-12.7 (multiple sources). NCSS · D2.His.5.9-12, D2.His.14.9-12, D2.His.16.9-12.

## Timing

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| **5 min** | **Warm-up** | Identify two structural conditions in 2021-24 America that would produce a Trump 2024 victory. For each identify the specific 2021-24 development most responsible. |
| **15 min** | **Reading + vocab** | 2024 election was 60th U.S. presidential election. Trump 312 EV / Harris 226. Trump 49.8% popular vote. Margin 2,284,872 votes - smallest popular vote margin since 2000. Trump first former president since Grover Cleveland 1893 to win non-consecutive terms.<br><br>Biden first term: January 2021 inauguration; March 2021 ARP; November 2021 Infrastructure; August 2021 Afghanistan; August 2022 IRA; June 2022 Dobbs; February 2022 Ukraine; October 2023 Israel-Gaza; inflation 9.1% June 2022.<br><br>Republican primary: Trump emerged with 4 indictments + 91 charges + May 30, 2024 NY felony conviction. Iowa January 15 Trump 51%. NH January 23 Trump 54%. Trump secured March 12.<br><br>June 27 first debate Atlanta. Biden devastating. July 13 Trump Butler PA assassination attempt. July 15-18 Republican Convention Milwaukee. Trump nominated. JD Vance VP. July 21 Biden withdrawal + Harris endorsement. August 6 Harris selected Walz VP. August 19-22 Democratic Convention Chicago. September 10 ABC debate.<br><br>Election Day November 5, 2024: Trump 312 / Harris 226. Trump 77.3M (49.8%) / Harris 75.0M (48.3%). Trump won all 7 battleground states.<br><br>Demographic: Trump improved across nearly every group. Trump 46% Latino vote (highest Republican Latino share in modern era).<br><br>Trump second term 2025-present: January 20, 2025 inauguration; executive orders + January 6 pardons; cabinet; February 2025 tariffs; DOGE; Ukraine peace talks.<br><br>2024 structural significance: First president-elect with felony conviction. First non-consecutive term since Cleveland 1893. Trump improved in nearly every demographic. Latino voter realignment. Biden withdrawal demonstrated Democratic adaptive capacity. Trump 2024 ended Democratic-coastal-coalition framework dominating |

2008-2020.

The 2024 Trump victory completed post-2008 working-class realignment + Latino voter realignment that began 2016 + accelerated 2020 + completed 2024. Mechanisms: economic populism; cultural backlash; anti-establishment framework; identity-disaggregation; Trump charismatic-authoritarian framework.

The 2024 election's structural Democratic implications: Coalition realignment; Industrial Midwest losses; Sunbelt losses; demographic decoupling; strategic adaptation needed.

The 2024 election's structural Republican implications: (1) Coalition assembly. Trump 2024 coalition: working-class multi-racial + rural + small-town + male + non-college + cultural-conservative + economic-populist. Republican coalition structurally transformed from post-Reagan Bush-era coalition (Southern realignment + Mountain West + religious conservatives + suburban whites). (2) Working-class realignment durability. The 2024 realignment may persist or recede depending on Trump second-term performance + economic conditions + cultural dynamics. (3) Multi-racial Republican framework. Republican Latino + Black + Asian voter outreach previously rejected by Trump 2016 framework + Bannon-Trump populist-nationalist framework. 2024 Republican framework operationalized multi-racial working-class outreach successfully. (4) Anti-establishment durability. Trump anti-establishment + anti-media + anti-academia + anti-professional-class framework structurally appeals to working-class voters but limits cross-coalition expansion. (5) Post-Trump succession. JD Vance + Donald Trump Jr. + Marco Rubio + Ron DeSantis + Greg Abbott + other Republican figures positioned for 2028 + post-Trump succession.

The 2024-2028 political trajectory uncertainty: Trump second term will operationalize through 2025-29. Major political-economic developments: tariff framework impact on inflation + supply chains + international trade; DOGE federal workforce reductions impact on government operations; Ukraine peace talks + NATO recalibration impact on European security; cabinet appointments operationalization; January 6 pardons + retribution framework impact on rule-of-law framework; abortion + reproductive rights state-level developments; AI + technology regulation; Supreme Court appointments (potentially 1-3 new justices if Sotomayor + Thomas + Alito retire); border + immigration enforcement. The 2026 midterm + 2028 presidential election will operationalize through these structural developments.

The 2024 election's historical context: 1893 Grover Cleveland non-consecutive term victory had occurred during structural political-economic crisis (Panic of 1893). 2024 Trump non-consecutive term victory occurred during structural political-economic transition (post-COVID + post-Ukraine + post-Israel-Gaza + post-Dobbs). The structural parallel: non-consecutive term victories may indicate structural political-economic crisis + voter desire for change + incumbent coalition collapse. The 2024 election was structural realignment moment + structural test of American democratic

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| | | institutions (post-January-6 + post-felony-conviction + post-indictment framework) + structural test of presidential succession framework (Biden withdrawal mid-campaign). |
| **20 min** | **Source A** | Read aloud once; students annotate individually for tone, evidence, and audience. |
| **20 min** | **Source B** | Compare/contrast against Source A. Pair-share on the DBQ comparison question. |
| **20 min** | **Worksheet** | Eight questions: 5 short-answer, 2 stimulus-based MCQ, 1 long-essay framing. |
| **20 min** | **LEQ planning** | Students sketch a thesis + outline for the LEQ comparison prompt. Submit for next-day full essay. |
| **5 min** | **Closure** | Exit ticket: one sentence summarizing the comparison. |

# Background

Before the worksheet, review the key terms below and then read the primary source carefully. The two source-analysis questions on the worksheet (questions 6 and 7) ask you to quote from the excerpt.

## Key terms

**Donald Trump**
45th + 47th U.S. president.

**July 13, 2024 Trump assassination attempt**
Butler PA rally. Thomas Crooks (20) fired 8 rounds.

**Dobbs**
June 24, 2022 Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade.

**Tim Walz**
MN Governor. Harris 2024 VP pick.

**"Eating the pets"**
False claim Trump invoked September 10, 2024 ABC debate that Haitian immigrants were eating pets in Springfield OH. Claim fabricated + repeatedly debunked by Springfield officials. Became cultural mockery.

**Kamala Harris**
2024 Democratic nominee.

**July 21, 2024 Biden withdrawal**
First major-party incumbent withdrawal since LBJ 1968.

**JD Vance**
OH Senator. Trump 2024 VP pick. "Hillbilly Elegy" author.

**May 30, 2024 NY hush-money felony conviction**
NY Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg case. Trump convicted on all 34 counts of falsifying business records related to 2016 Stormy Daniels hush-money payments. First former president felony conviction.

## Inaugural Address

**DONALD TRUMP, JANUARY 20, 2025**

*Trump delivered this inaugural address from inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on January 20, 2025 - moved indoors due to cold weather.*

> *"The golden age of America begins right now. From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first. Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent, and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and our government will end. And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous and free."*

**Trump, "Inaugural Address" (Washington DC, January 20, 2025). Public domain.**

# Document-based question

Source A is on the Background page; Source B is below. Use both as evidence for the worksheet's source-analysis questions and the LEQ.

SOURCE A

## Inaugural Address

**DONALD TRUMP, JANUARY 20, 2025**

*“The golden age of America begins right now. From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first. Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent, and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and our government will end. And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous and free.”*

Trump, "Inaugural Address" (Washington DC, January 20, 2025). Public domain.

SOURCE B

## Acceptance Address at Democratic National Convention

**KAMALA HARRIS, AUGUST 22, 2024**

*“And let me say, I know there are people of various political views watching tonight, and I want you to know I promise to be a president for all Americans. You can always trust me to put country above party and self, to hold sacred America's fundamental principles, from the rule of law to free and fair elections, to the peaceful transfer of power. I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations. A president who leads, and listens, who is realistic, practical, and has common sense, and always fights for the American people. With this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past, a chance to chart a new way forward, not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans.”*

Harris, "Acceptance Address at Democratic National Convention" (Chicago, August 22, 2024). Fair use under 17 USC §107 — educational excerpt of public political speech, ɗ150 words.

# The 2024 Election

Answer the eight questions below. Source A is on the Background page; Source B is on the DBQ Pair page.

**QUESTION 1 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Identify the key phrase in Source A (Trump 2025 inaugural) articulating redemptive-restoration framing. Quote it verbatim.

**QUESTION 2 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Identify the key phrase in Source B (Harris 2024 acceptance) articulating freedom-vs-chaos framing. Quote it verbatim.

**QUESTION 3 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Both sources frame 2024 election in different terms. Identify the specific political function each source performs.

**QUESTION 4 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Harris's "I promise to be a president for all Americans" articulates structural counter-stereotyping. What rhetorical purpose does this serve?

**QUESTION 5 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Identify three specific 2021-24 Biden-era developments that contributed to Trump 2024 victory.

**QUESTION 6 · MULTIPLE-CHOICE**

How many counts did the May 30, 2024 NY hush-money conviction include?

( ) A. 7 counts
( ) B. 14 counts
( ) C. 34 counts
( ) D. 91 counts

**QUESTION 7 · MULTIPLE-CHOICE**

When was the last non-consecutive presidential term victory before Trump 2024?

( ) A. Theodore Roosevelt 1912
( ) B. Grover Cleveland 1893
( ) C. James Madison 1813
( ) D. No prior example

**QUESTION 8 · SHORT-ANSWER**

Sketch your thesis sentence for the LEQ (next page). State your position: was the 2024 election about realignment, Biden-era reaction, or Trump framework operationalization? Identify one piece of evidence from each source you will use.

# Long-essay-question

**LEQ PROMPT**

Trump's January 20, 2025 inaugural address (Source A) framed 2024 victory as redemptive-restoration through "golden age" + "America First" + "sovereignty reclaimed" + "scales of justice will be rebalanced." Harris's August 22, 2024 acceptance (Source B) framed 2024 election as freedom-vs-chaos through "country above party" + "rule of law" + "free and fair elections" + "peaceful transfer of power." Using BOTH sources and your knowledge of the 2008-2024 period, evaluate the extent to which the 2024 Trump victory represented (a) completion of post-2008 working-class realignment + Latino voter realignment, (b) reaction to specific 2021-24 Biden-era developments (inflation + immigration + Afghanistan + Israel-Gaza), or (c) Trump's charismatic-authoritarian framework operationalization (assassination attempt + felony conviction + anti-establishment framing + media bypass). Defend a clear thesis.

**GRADING RUBRIC**

Thesis (1 pt): must take a defensible position on the realignment-vs-Biden-era-reaction-vs-Trump-framework axis. Contextualization (1 pt): mention at least two of the 2008 financial crisis, the 2016 Trump victory, the 2020 Trump loss, the January 6, 2021 Capitol attack, the Dobbs ruling, the 2022 Russia-Ukraine invasion, the 2023 Hamas attack, the inflation surge, the Biden withdrawal. Evidence (2 pts): must quote at least one phrase from each source. Analysis (1 pt): must explicitly evaluate the extent rather than treating the three framings as equivalent. Total 5 points.

# Answer key

**QUESTION 1**

Accept any of: "The golden age of America begins right now", "Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced", "I will, very simply, put America first". The "golden age begins right now" phrase is the most distinctive redemptive-restoration framing.

Trump's framing emphasized redemptive-temporal-rupture framework.

**QUESTION 2**

Accept any of: "I promise to be a president for all Americans", "to hold sacred America's fundamental principles, from the rule of law to free and fair elections, to the peaceful transfer of power", "move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past". The "rule of law to free and fair elections, to the peaceful transfer of power" phrase is the most distinctive freedom-vs-chaos framing.

Harris's framing emphasized institutional-democratic framework.

**QUESTION 3**

Source A is Trump's 2025 inaugural address - articulated as victorious returning president to legitimize 2024 victory + frame second-term policy framework + structural delegitimation of post-2020 legal-political framework that prosecuted Trump. The function is to operationalize "golden age" framework + executive-action implementation. Source B is Harris's 2024 convention acceptance - articulated as Vice President + 32-day nominee to introduce herself to American voters + frame 2024 election as freedom-vs-chaos choice + mobilize Democratic base + persuade swing voters. The function is to provide credible alternative to Trump framework. Together the sources reveal the structural 2024 electoral choice: redemptive-restoration framing (Trump) vs institutional-democratic framing (Harris). Trump's approach won 312-226 EV; Harris's approach lost. The structural lesson: redemptive-restoration framing combined with executive-action implementation framework can defeat institutional-democratic framing when underlying conditions (inflation + immigration + cultural dynamics) favor incumbent-party rejection.

AP students should be able to articulate the structural framework.

**QUESTION 4**

Harris's "I promise to be a president for all Americans" articulates structural counter-stereotyping through five rhetorical strategies: (1) Unity framing. By positioning herself as president for all Americans regardless of political views, Harris counters partisan stereotypes. (2) Institutional-democratic framing. The framing emphasizes presidential duty to American institutions rather than partisan loyalty. (3) Counter-Trump-framing. Democratic 2024 campaign framed Trump as threat to democracy + January 6 + 91 criminal charges. Harris's "country above party and self" + "rule of law" + "free and fair elections" + "peaceful transfer of power" explicitly counter Trump's January 6-era political framework. (4) Personal-credibility framing. The framing positions Harris as institutionally-respectful + procedurally-disciplined + democratically-committed. (5) Cross-partisan-appeal framing. The framing appeals to disaffected Republicans + independent voters + swing voters. The rhetorical purpose: position Harris as restorer of democratic-institutional framework after Trump-era disruption + structural alternative to Trump's charismatic-authoritarian framework. The framing was structurally limited by: (a) Trump's "weaponization" framework counter-narrative that prosecutions against him were political; (b) voter prioritization of economic + immigration issues over democracy issue; (c) Harris's incumbent-Vice-President identification with Biden-era developments that voters rejected. The structural lesson: institutional-democratic framing can be politically successful in framing-rhetoric but doesn't necessarily produce electoral victory when voters prioritize other issues.

AP students should be able to articulate the rhetorical strategy.

**QUESTION 5**

Three specific 2021-24 Biden-era developments that contributed to Trump 2024 victory: (1) Inflation surge 2022-23. Inflation peaked 9.1% June 2022 - 40-year high. Federal Reserve raised rates 5.25 percentage points 2022-23. By November 2024 inflation 2.6% but structural political damage from 2022-23 inflation persistent. Real wages stagnant for many low- and middle-income households despite low unemployment (4.1% October 2024). Voters who cited economy as top issue (~40% in exit polls) broke for Trump ~65-35. (2) Afghanistan withdrawal August 2021. Chaotic withdrawal. August 26, 2021 Kabul airport bombing killed 13 American military + 170 Afghans. Taliban control restored August 15, 2021. Politically devastating - Biden approval fell from ~60% to ~45% in 2-3 weeks + never recovered. Republicans framed withdrawal as humiliation + incompetence. (3) Southern border crisis 2021-24. Border encounters rose from ~458,000 FY2020 to ~3.2M FY2023. Trump 2024 framed immigration as "invasion." Republican border-state governors (Greg Abbott TX, Ron DeSantis FL) operationalized busing of migrants to Democratic-led cities (NYC, Chicago, Washington DC, Boston, Denver, Philadelphia) starting April 2022. Biden June 2024 executive order restricted asylum applications - structural too-late framework. Voters who cited immigration as top issue (~25-30% in exit polls) broke for Trump ~80-20. (4) Israel-Gaza war October 2023-2024. October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel killed 1,200 + took ~240 hostages. Israel-Hamas Gaza war killed ~40,000+ Palestinians. Biden-Harris administration's support for Israel + bipartisan U.S. military aid + Israel's October 2024 Lebanon expansion + Hezbollah conflict + October 2024 Iran missile attacks operationalized structural Democratic primary "uncommitted" votes (MI February 27, 2024: 101,000+ uncommitted votes). Arab American + Muslim American + progressive Jewish American voters in MI + key states reduced Harris support. Trump appealed to pro-Israel voters + anti-war progressive voters simultaneously through ambiguous framing. (5) Russia-Ukraine war February 2022-present. U.S. + NATO sent ~$175B military + economic aid 2022-25. Republican opposition to continued Ukraine aid (especially House Freedom Caucus). Trump 2024 framed continued Ukraine aid as wasteful + framed himself as peacemaker who would end war "on day one." (6) Cultural-political tensions. 2023-24 university campus protests over Israel-Gaza + DEI + critical race theory + gender-identity framework. Voters reacting against "woke" framework operationalized Republican cultural-conservative framework. (7) Biden age + cognitive concerns. Persistent 2022-24 concerns about Biden mental acuity. June 27, 2024 debate confirmed concerns + triggered Democratic withdrawal pressure. Harris's late entry constrained voter familiarity.

AP students should be able to articulate multiple developments.

**QUESTION 6**

34 counts. The May 30, 2024 NY hush-money case produced guilty verdict on all 34 counts of falsifying business records related to 2016 Stormy Daniels hush-money payments. Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg. Trial began April 15, 2024 in Manhattan Supreme Court before Judge Juan Merchan. Trump first former president felony conviction. Sentencing scheduled multiple times + ultimately delayed through 2024-25. Trump 2024 campaign continued through conviction + structural impact on 2024 election analyzed but appeared smaller than initially expected.

AP students should know the 34-count figure.

**QUESTION 7**

Grover Cleveland 1893. Cleveland was 24th + 22nd president (1885-89 + 1893-97). Won 1884 EV 219-182 over Republican James Blaine. Lost 1888 EV 168-233 to Republican Benjamin Harrison despite winning popular vote 48.6%-47.8%. Won 1892 EV 277-145 over Harrison (rematch). Cleveland's structural circumstances: Democratic Party splits over gold-vs-silver monetary framework + 1893 Panic + structural Republican-Democratic competition. Cleveland's 1892-93 non-consecutive term victory operationalized through economic-policy framework + Democratic Party consolidation. The 1893 Cleveland victory + 2024 Trump victory are structural parallels: non-consecutive term victories during structural political-economic transitions.

AP students should know the Cleveland 1893 reference.

**QUESTION 8**

Open-ended thesis sketch. Acceptable answers should: (1) state a clear position on the realignment-vs-Biden-era-reaction-vs-Trump-framework axis, (2) avoid treating them as equivalent, (3) signal at least one piece of evidence from each source.

The thesis sketch is preparatory.