



THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

RACHEL RUDD | NEWS EDITOR

EPIC RAP BATTLES OF HISTORY



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

Epic Rap Battles of History is a YouTube series that sees current, historical and fictional figures duke it out in rap battles. While it is mostly a silly series of videos, every election year it features the presidential battles, where the Democratic and Republican nominees fight each other in a four minutes of wits and rhymes.

I highly recommend giving these a watch this midterm season, not only to relive some childhood nostalgia, but also to look at modern democracy in a satirical light.

2012: Barack Obama vs. Mitt Romney:

The battle has a nice beat playing throughout and the overlaying music sounds like something a politician would play before their campaign speech. I love how Romney leads with "I'm not going to let this battle be dictated by facts," which feels incredibly reflective of modern politics, no matter a candidate's political leaning.

While Romney has better flow, I'm giving the win to Obama here, as his phrases like "so rich and white it's like I'm running against a cheesecake," and "got their hands so far up your rear, call you Mitt," had me absolutely rolling.

I love the ending, as both candidates are reduced to basically squabbling toddlers (and isn't that how many modern political debates go?). Abraham Lincoln flies in on a giant eagle and tells them to shut up and actually be politicians. Makes you wish the real Lincoln would talk some sense into our candidates. Winner: Barack Obama

2016: Donald Trump vs. Hillary Clinton:

Let me just say that the actors beautifully capture the essence of the candidates. Clinton's verses have good flow and she has some truly solid burns and Trump has some solid rebuttals. Most of his phrasing is rather offensive and provoking, so it feels in line with the real Trump. Toward the end of the fight, he has the entire media cheering him on, which is weirdly reflective of how Trump's campaign panned out. I want to point out a moment of pure gold during the battle, where Trump, who has had his eyes shut the entire time, opens them with glee when talking about building the wall.

However, I'm giving the win to Lincoln, who once again shows up on his eagle and verbally assaults both candidates. He does not pull his punches when screaming at Trump or Clinton and his comment to Trump "don't get your fans stirred up in some sort of Twitter civil war" has got to be some of the sickest foreshadowing known to man. I am once again wishing Lincoln could have flown in on a big eagle during a presidential debate between these two, but hey, you can't always win. Winner: Abraham Lincoln

2020: Donald Trump vs. Joe Biden:

While this fight pokes fun and has some serious burns toward both candidates, this battle just seems kind of boring compared to the other two. Trump lacks his usual pizzazz and seems more dull this time around. While Biden certainly has some killer lines, his delivery sounds a little too much like an old man and greatly affects his flow. I did find it really funny that while Biden is rapping, Trump just butts in with a single "Wrong!"

I also loved the detail of a fly landing on Biden's head about halfway through his second verse (although in real life that happened with former Vice President Mike Pence), as well as his "what is this malarkey," line.

My biggest gripe with this battle, however, is that Lincoln doesn't show up to slap some sense into the candidates, which is what really brings out the laughs and pokes some extra fun at both sides. Sadly, I cannot declare a winner, as satirized Trump isn't at his best, Biden's flow is near awful and there is no Lincoln. Winner: No one

Thinking of vandalizing a political sign?

Think again

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

All around Jonesboro, campaign signs can be seen supporting certain candidates or issues that will be on the ballot for the upcoming midterm election. It is illegal to vandalize or steal campaign signs and getting caught could result in jail time.

While Arkansas does not have a specific law against the theft of campaign signs, it does fall under vandalism as a misdemeanor.

"Vandalism of any kind is going to most likely fall under the criminal mischief statute," said Carol Duncan, the city attorney for Jonesboro. When vandalism results in damage of less than \$1,000, it is considered a Class A misdemeanor under the criminal mischief statute. Vandalizing a large sign that cost more than \$1,000 is considered a felony.

When signs are stolen, it can be punishable as theft of property, which is also a Class A misdemeanor. Vandalism or theft of campaign signs could also result in a charge of criminal trespass if the sign is on private property.

Someone caught committing a Class A misdemeanor by the police, would be arrested and given a court date. They could receive up to a year of jail time



Photo by Jessica McMillan | Photo Editor

Political signs promoting U.S. Sen. John Boozman (R), U.S. House Rep. Rick Crawford (R) and gubernatorial candidate Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R).

depending on the details of the situation. Additionally, someone who catches this on camera could fill out a criminal affidavit through the city attorney's office.

In addition to legal repercussions, vandalizing or stealing campaign signs violates First Amendment rights of free speech.

"In a functioning democracy, people should respect each other's political preferences. We're supposed to be able to say what we want politically and advertise and support who we want," said Cameron Wimpy Ph.D., interim

director of political science. Vandalism or theft of campaign signs happens more often during presidential elections than midterms.

"It does seem with increasing polarization in the country that it's going to be a continual problem," Wimpy said.

Jonesboro has not seen any issues of tampering with campaign signs during this election cycle.

"I'm just very proud that, so far this year, Jonesboro's being very respectful of the (political) process," Duncan said.

★ HOROSCOPES ★

- Aquarius** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You've been wanting to make a change in your life. Now is the time to go for it.
- Pisces** (Feb. 19 - March 21)
You have been overexerting yourself. Take time to relax this week.
- Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)
Your strength has been tested lately. Learn to let go.
- Cancer** (June 21 - July 22)
You will be rewarded for your hardwork. Be ready for a pleasant surprise.
- Leo** (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Big changes are in store for you. Be ready to take some chances.
- Virgo** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You have been focusing on others. Take some time for yourself.
- Libra** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
You will face important decisions. Be confident and trust yourself.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
All your hardwork is going to be recognized by your peers.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You are spending time focusing on the past when you should be looking to the future.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You will be very creative this week. Take this time to work on any special projects.
- Aries** (March 22 - April 19)
You will be receiving some unexpected good news.
- Taurus** (April 20 - May 20)
Take a break, and spend time with friends. You will have a surge in strength this week.

What does voting mean to you? ARKAN

To see more A-State students and faculty answers go to page 4B.



Monique George is a senior general studies major from Forrest City.