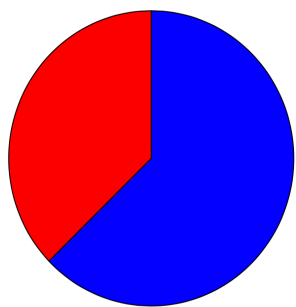


What's Your Opinion?

Who do you think "won" the vice presidential debate on Oct. 3?

Out of 51 responses:
Tim Walz -- 32
JD Vance -- 19



• Tim Walz • JD Vance

Next Poll:

SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTS

Do you think social media has an overall negative impact on kids?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

Take notes America, this is how all debates should be

ELIJAH TEMPLETON

LIFE EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a senior English major from Jonesboro.

The vice presidential debate was a welcome sight in our often absurd and divisive political landscape. And I believe that future debates should strive to emulate it for the benefit of the candidates and the nation.

In recent years, national debates have gone from two candidates who differ on policy and positions but share the common goal of making the country better. Debates now have become filled with personal attacks and divisive rhetoric where supporters fan the flames on both sides of the aisle.

But, it has not always been this way. Even as recently when Senator John McCain was the Republican nominee for president against Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election, McCain made it a point to stamp out personal

attacks against his opponent and kept discussions focused solely on policy that would impact Americans, not allegations that would create headlines.

This political shift from mutual respect between candidates who differ on the best way forward for the country towards two enemy sides who will do nothing to help the other picked up steam during former President Trump's 2016 campaign.

Since then, America has become increasingly divided, with the focus now more on 'beating' the other side than doing what is considered best for the country.

This strategy of ensuring that every negative thing that happens in the country is blamed on the other party worked wonders for Trump, winning him an election, but the damage it caused is still being felt almost a decade later.

That is why the vice presidential debate was such a surprise.

JD Vance and Tim Walz engaged in good faith discourse centered on policy and platforms – engaging in almost no personal attacks against each other. The two even agreed with each other multiple times and shared some truly humanizing moments of decency that have not been seen in politics for what feels like a lifetime.

It felt like a turning point in our political landscape compared with the presidential debate between Trump and Vice President Harris a month before.

We saw the example of two opposing political candidates making the conscious effort to admit when the other side makes sense and show a real willingness to work together, even if it is just for the cameras.

The optics are everything in politics. How a person looks, sounds and presents themselves to the public plays a massive role in their perception before they even open their mouths.

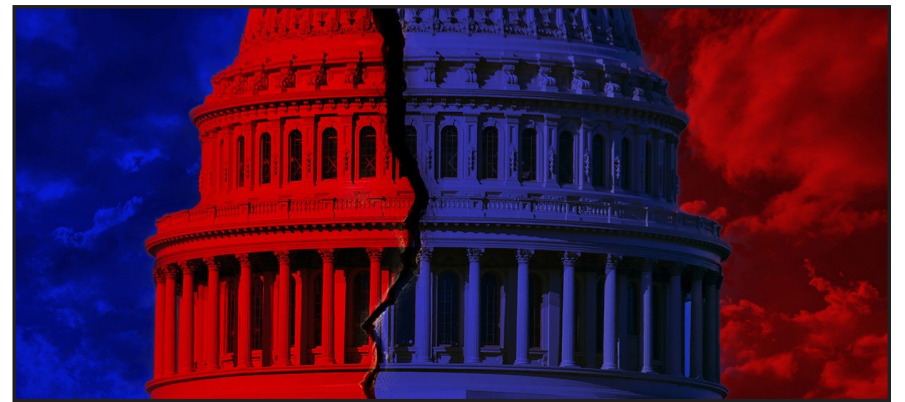
The optics of American politics for the last decade have been nothing short of a circus. Personal attacks, insults, indictments, scandals and online beef

have become the new norm and we are straying further away from the country that we desire to become as a result.

Vance and Walz have their supporters and their detractors but the way that they conducted themselves in this debate was so refreshing to see. Presenting themselves as two adults with clear ideas for the future who don't stoop to schoolyard antics in order to make their points.

This type of politics may be going out of style with headlines and clicks becoming more important than good-faith discussion, but this brand of politics is better for both the candidates and for the country.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE HILL

Graphic depicting the divide between Republican and Democrat voters.

Campus roads and traffic are an unnecessary roadblock

ALLIE CARSON

STAFF WRITER



Allie Carson is a first-year creative media production major from Jonesboro.

As a college student, being able to navigate the campus in a timely and safe manner is important. However, the roads on and around campus aren't easily traversable.

One of the main problems is the fact that North Caraway Road isn't a full street. If I just want to drive from the North Park Deck to Sorority Row, the Fowler Center, or even the Red Wolf Center, I have to turn off onto East Johnson, one of the busiest roads in town, and turn by University Loop, an intersection that's backed up a lot of times.

This issue is made even worse when trying to drive on campus after football games.

For homecoming, I parked at the sorority houses before the game and walked to the stadium. Getting out of there afterward was insanely difficult, especially when I was just trying to go back to University Hall.

If the road connecting Aggie Road and North Caraway was still open, it would be much easier and a lot of traffic would be spread out between college students and other gameday attendees. If it's safety people are worried about, add speed bumps and make the crosswalks brighter, especially since it's Arkansas law for drivers to stop at crosswalks for pedestrians.

Other entrances need to be made as well.

Marion Berry Parkway gets extremely congested in the mornings and the afternoons, and the stoplight connecting it to East Johnson doesn't make it much better.

If I'm just wanting to get to the University Hall parking lot, I should be able to enter from the backway instead of having to deal with going down East Johnson and making what's essentially a big loop.

I'd also recommend there being another keycard entrance off of Marion Berry to get into the University/Kays Hall parking lot, namely where the

barrier is. This is another thing that would help with the congested traffic on that street.

A lot of the roads actually on campus aren't the best either.

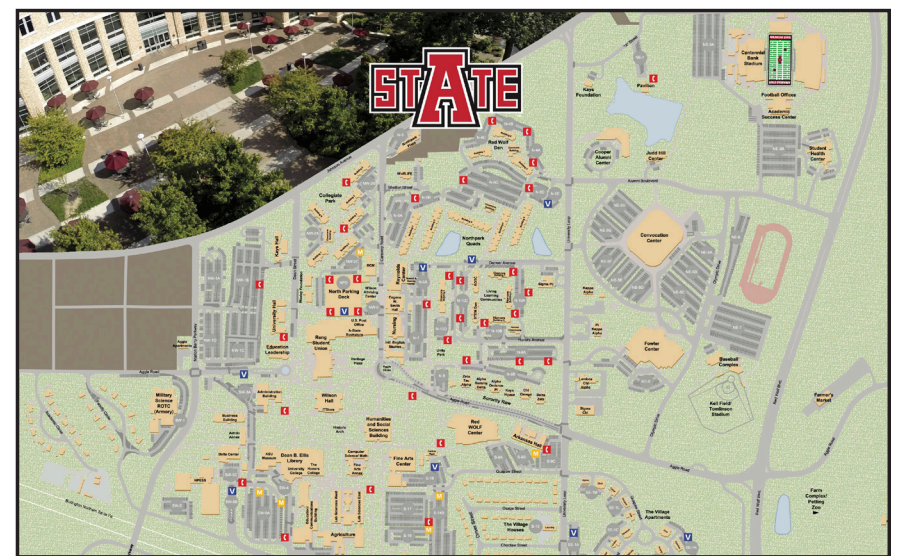
There are many potholes and other parts of the road that make driving difficult for students — this includes streetlights around campus. When it gets dark at 6:30 p.m. in October, a majority of people are still trying to get to other parts of campus for various reasons.

Whether it be Greek life events,

church events, clubs, sports or even classes, students still need to drive to parts of campus. It's not like the students can walk to the other side of campus either.

There are so many hills and the buildings are so spread out on campus that just walking to class from your dorm can wear the students out.

In short, the roads and traffic patterns on campus are some of the most flawed parts of Arkansas State, yet they're some of the most important parts of college campuses.



MAP COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Map illustrating the current A-State campus road map.

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Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to heraldnews1921@gmail.com. The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to jerry.burton@smail.astate.edu

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The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.

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