

PRESIDENT OBAMA:

Which brings me to my final point – our democracy is threatened whenever we take it for granted. All of us,

S - passive voice

A - descriptive

R - diff. forms of same word

S - metaphor

R - structure D - arranging series

[regardless of party], should throw ourselves into the task of rebuilding our democratic institutions. When

→ 1

voting rates are some of the lowest among advanced democracies, we should make it easier, not harder, to

→ 1B

←

vote. When trust in our institutions is low, we should

→ 2

→ 2B

R - diff. forms of same word

reduce the corrosive influence of money in our politics,

and insist on the principles of transparency and ethics

O - "We should"

in public service. When Congress is dysfunctional, we

→ 3

→ 3B

should draw our districts to encourage politicians to

cater to common sense and not rigid extremes.

D - arranging contrast

[And] all of this depends on our participation; [on each

of us accepting the responsibility of citizenship,

regardless of which way the pendulum of power

swings.]

A - conjunction

A - elaboration

S - metaphor

Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But

it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power

on its own. We, [the people], give it power [with our

participation, and the choices we make. Whether or

not we stand up for our freedoms. Whether or not we

D - arranging contrast

R - word

A - identifying

A - explanatory

R - phrase & structure

O - "The choice of"

O - "The choice of"

respect and enforce the rule of law. America is no

fragile thing. But the gains of our long journey to freedom are not assured.

D-arranging contrast
S-metaphor
R-word
S-passive voice

In his own farewell address, George Washington wrote that self-government is the underpinning of our safety, prosperity, and liberty, but "from different causes and from different quarters much pains will be taken... to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth;" that we should preserve it with "jealous anxiety;" that we should reject "the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties" that make us one.

D-arranging series

We weaken those ties when we allow our political dialogue to become so corrosive that people of good character are turned off from public service; so coarse with rancor that Americans with whom we disagree are not just misguided, but somehow malevolent. We weaken those ties when we define some of us as more American than others; when we write off the whole system as inevitably corrupt, and blame the leaders we elect without examining our own role in electing them.

R-phrase

R-word (from Washington)
D-arranging series

It falls to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this

D-arranging comparison
R-sounds ("c-r")

D-arranging contrast
R-phrase

D-arranging contrast
R-diff phrase of word

D-arranging series
R-words (from Washington)
O-"it falls to us"
S-passive voice
A-emphatic

great nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we all share the same proud title: Citizen.

Ultimately, that's what our democracy demands. It needs you. Not just when there's an election, not just when your own narrow interest is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try to talk with one in real life. If something needs fixing, lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself. Show up. Dive in. Persevere. Sometimes you'll win. Sometimes you'll lose. Presuming a reservoir of goodness in others can be a risk, and there will be times when the process disappoints you. But for those of us fortunate enough to have been a part of this work, to see it up close, let me tell you, it can energize and inspire. And more often than not, your faith in America and in Americans will be confirmed.

None sure has been. Over the course of these eight years, I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I've mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and found

D-arranging contrast
A-emphatic
R-word S-personification
D-arranging series
D-arranging contrast
D-arranging series
R-structure

D-arranging series
D-arranging series
R-structure
R-word

D-arranging contrast
R-word
A-elaboration
A-extraneous
A-conjunction
R-word in diff. forms

A-emphatic
S-passive voice
O-"yain"
D-arranging contrast
R-structure

grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our scientists

help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch, and

our wounded warriors walk again. I've seen our

doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and

stop pandemics in their tracks. I've seen the youngest

of children remind us of our obligations to care for

refugees, to work in peace, and above all to look out

for each other.

That faith I placed all those years ago, [not far from

here] in the power of ordinary Americans to bring

about change - that faith has been rewarded in ways I

couldn't possibly have imagined. I hope yours has,

too. Some of you here tonight or watching at home

were there with us in 2004, in 2008, in 2012 - and

maybe you still can't believe we pulled this whole thing

off.

You're not the only ones. [Michelle] - [for the past 25

years] you've been not only my wife and mother of my

children, but my best friend. You took on a role you

didn't ask for and made it your own [with grace and grit

and style and good humor] You made the White

House a place that belongs to everybody. [And] a new

generation sets its sights higher because it has you as a

R - words + structure

D - arranging a series

A - emphasis

A - elaboration

R - phrase

D - arranging series

A - address

A - explanatory

D - arranging contrast

D - arranging series

A - descriptive

O - "you"

R - word

A - conjunction

S - metaphor

role model. You've made me proud. You've made the
country proud.

Q - phrase

Q - word

→
[Malia and Sasha], under the strangest of circumstances,
you have become two amazing young women, [smart
and beautiful], but [more importantly], [kind and
thoughtful and full of passion]. You wore the burden
of years in the spotlight so easily. Of all that I've done
in my life, I'm most proud to be your dad.

D - shift in focus

A - address

A - descriptive

A - emphatic

D - arranging series

A - descriptive

→
[To Joe Biden], the scrappy kid from Scranton who
became Delaware's favorite son: You were the first
choice I made as a nominee, and the best. Not just
because you have been a great vice president, but
because [in the bargain], I gained a brother. We love
you and Jill like family, and your friendship has been
one of the great joys of our life.

Q - word

D - shift in focus

A - address

A - descriptive

D - arranging Contrast

O - "choice"

D - arranging Contrast

S - metaphor

A - explanatory

→
[To my remarkable staff]. For eight years [and for
some of you, a whole lot more] I've drawn from your
energy, and [tried] to reflect back what you displayed
every day: heart, and character, and idealism. I've
watched you grow up, get married, have kids, and start
incredible new journeys of your own. Even when
times got tough and frustrating, you never let
Washington get the better of you. The only thing that

D - shift in focus

A - address

A - elaboration

O - "live"

D - arranging series

D - arranging series

S - personification

makes me prouder than all the good we've done is the thought of all the remarkable things you'll achieve from here.

R - diff form of word

D - arranging contrast

D - shift in focus

A - address

D - arranging series

A - descriptive

→ [And to all of you out there] → every organizer who moved to an unfamiliar town and kind family who welcomed them in, every volunteer who knocked on doors, every young person who cast a ballot for the first time, every American who lived and breathed the hard work of change → you are the best supporters and organizers anyone could hope for, and I will forever be grateful. Because, [yes,] you changed the world.

A - emphatic

R - diff form of word

That's why I leave this stage tonight even more optimistic about this country than I was when we started. Because I know our work has not only helped so many Americans; it has inspired so many Americans - [especially so many young people out there] - to believe you can make a difference; to hitch your wagon to something bigger than yourselves. This generation coming up [unselfish, altruistic, creative, patriotic] I've seen you in every corner of the country. You believe in a fair, just, inclusive America; you know that constant change has been America's hallmark, [something not to fear but to embrace], and you are

D - arranging contrast

R - phrase

A - descriptive

S - metaphor

D - unusual syntax

D - arranging series

A - descriptive

D - arranging series

R - diff form of word

R - word

R - diff form of word

S - metaphor

A - descriptive

D - arranging contrast

willing to carry this hard work of democracy

forward. You'll soon outnumber any of us, and I

believe [as a result] that the future is in good hands.

→ [My fellow Americans], it has been the honor of my life

to serve you. I won't stop; in fact, I will be right there

with you, [as a citizen] for all my days that remain. For

now, whether you're young or young at heart, I do

have one final ask of you as your president [the same

thing I asked when you took a chance on me eight

years ago.]

I am asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring

about change – but in yours.

I am asking you to hold fast to that faith written into

our founding documents; that idea whispered by slaves

and abolitionists; that spirit sung by immigrants and

homesteaders and those who marched for justice; that

creed reaffirmed by those who planted flags from

foreign battlefields to the surface of the moon; [a creed

at the core of every American whose story is not yet

written.]

Yes We Can.

Yes We Did.

S - metaphor

R - word

A - elaboration

D - shift in focus

A - address

A - explanatory

D - arranging contrast

R - word

A - elaboration

R - diff. focus of word

R - diff. focus of word

D - arranging contrast

O - ability

D - arranging series

R - word

S - passive voice

R - structure

S - passive voice

S - passive voice

R - word

A - elaboration

S - passive voice

R - structure

Yes We Can.

R - structure + phrase

Thank you. God bless you. And may God continue

to bless the United States of America.

A - specification

R - phrase