

Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

SameDiff Comparison: Trump, Obama, and the Ku Klux Klan

Item Type	Interactive resource
Authors	Ahmed, Ozakh;Haley, Sydnee N.
Download date	2026-05-20 18:42:36
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/31271

A Comparison: Trump, Obama, and the Ku Klux Klan

OZAKH AHMED & SYDNEE HALEY

Purpose

To determine similarities and differences between text drawn from modern politics and 20th century Ku Klux Klan documents.

The Text

- Brownsville Documents: 20th Century documents that belonged to Ben Bridgewater, TN Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan
- Text from modern, right-wing media (i.e. Breitbart)
- Former President Obama's 2009 Inaugural Address
- President Trump's 2017 Inaugural Address

Method

Public Perception: Facebook poll asking participants to determine whether an excerpt came from modern day text or text from the Ku Klux Klan documents.

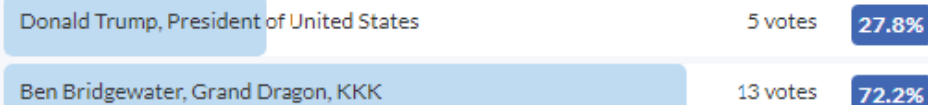
Analytic Tool: SameDiff, a Databasic tool analyzing word usage and patterns throughout multiple texts.

Poll Results

"They come to this country, not that they may contribute in any way to its growth and development, but that they may find opportunity to advance themselves and to serve their own interests."

18 answers

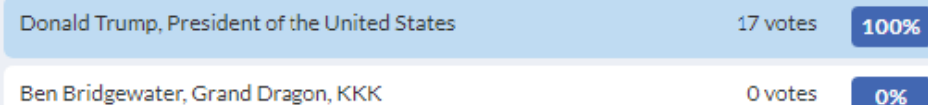
[View as pie chart](#)



"They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

17 answers

[View as pie chart](#)



"When man works, and is not idle, crime goes down. When man shoulders his own responsibility, he will be supported by society."

18 answers

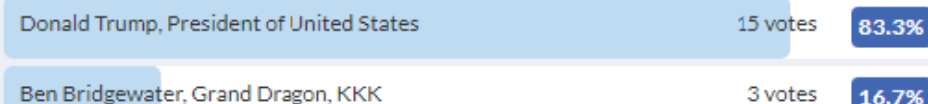
[View as pie chart](#)



"Our police are being under minded. The men who are in the front line to defend us against murder, rape, and hold-ups are on the defensive against a well organized campaign to teach the American people to hate the men who risk their lives to defend us."

18 answers

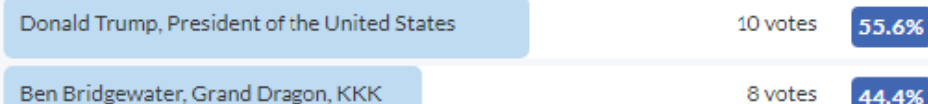
[View as pie chart](#)



"We are living in an era where our police have been subject to unfair defamation and vilification."

18 answers

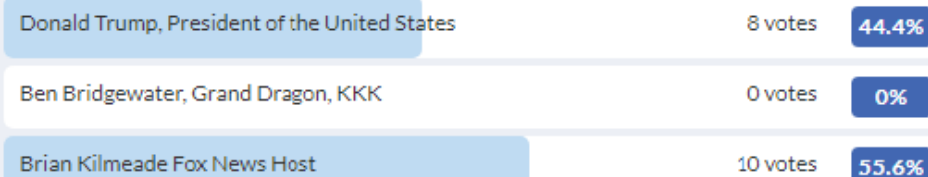
[View as pie chart](#)



You have a welfare system that takes away the incentive. It takes away the incentive from a lot of good people and great people that otherwise would be out there working."

18 answers

[View as pie chart](#)



A Closer Look...

"Our police are being under minded. The men who are in the front line to defend us against murder, rape, and hold-ups are on the defensive against a well organized campaign to teach the American people to hate the men who risk their lives to defend us."

18 answers

[View as pie chart](#)

Donald Trump, President of United States	15 votes	83.3%
--	----------	-------

Ben Bridgewater, Grand Dragon, KKK	3 votes	16.7%
------------------------------------	---------	-------

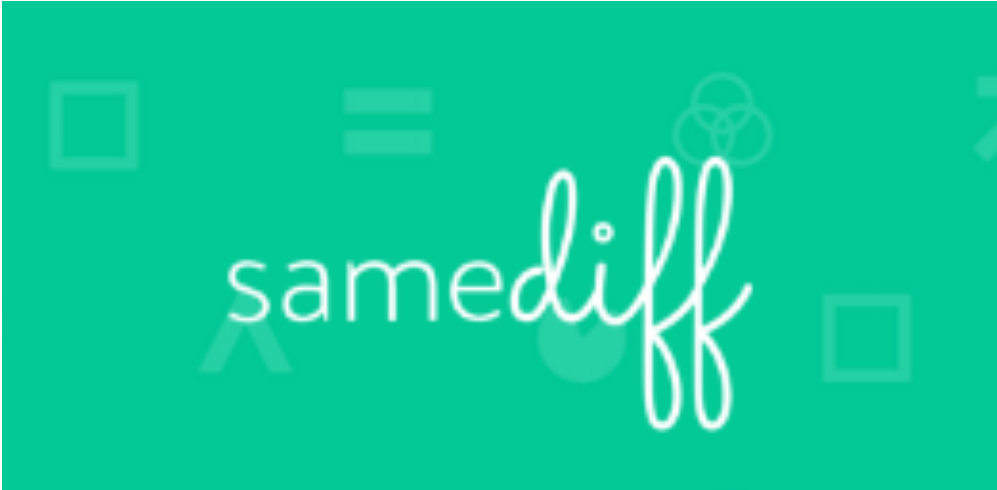
"We are living in an era where our police have been subject to unfair defamation and vilification."

18 answers

[View as pie chart](#)

Donald Trump, President of the United States	10 votes	55.6%
--	----------	-------

Ben Bridgewater, Grand Dragon, KKK	8 votes	44.4%
------------------------------------	---------	-------



These results will expire in 54 days.

These two documents are pretty different. They have a cosine similarity[?] score of 0.35
The documents are of different lengths so to compare them fairly you should keep normalization[?] on.

cwf_text.txt:	<div style="width: 90%;"></div>	3,399 words
obama.docx:	<div style="width: 75%;"></div>	2,401 words

Normalization[?] ON OFF

Words that are only in cwf_text.txt

white organization right
klans wallace party klan
poverty order laws ku klux
flag maintain knights kind
forefathers crime constitution
christian allegiance states racial
principle preservation members
institutions illegible highest
democratic cold write welfare
want times teach supremacy social
protestant problems practice person
patriotic parties nixon national mind
means interested george freedoms
established development days
congressman complete community
color christianity certain area wrest

Words that are in cwf_text.txt and obama.docx

american america
country nation life
people united stand
new today government
do time men great way
shall man liberty ideals
god freedom believe
world work violence let
blood true know force
come citizens use spirit
seek say race power long
americans state society law

Words that are only in obama.docx

common generation words
women peace meet hard greater
far end crisis small short question
prosperity nations journey jobs
generations future forward father
economy children carried year
workers winter willingness west wealth
waters war virtue understood understand
traveled task success storms remember
prosperous promise play planet passed
mutual minds met meaning market lower
longer lines icy hours health grows
greatness given gift friend founding forth
feed fear false fail faced face extend era
enduring earned did

Your *samediff* Report

These results will expire in 54 days.

These two documents are pretty different. They have a cosine similarity [?] score of 0.45
The documents are of different lengths so to compare them fairly you should keep normalization [?] on.

cwf_text.txt:	<div style="width: 330px; height: 15px; background-color: #ccc;"></div>	3,399 words
Welcome to all of you deplorables.docx:	<div style="width: 140px; height: 15px; background-color: #ccc;"></div>	1,453 words

Normalization [?] ON OFF

Words that are only in cwf_text.txt

organizationklans believe
wallaceviolenceiberty
shall man klan ideals
freedomtrue race order laws
ku klux usestate society
maintain knights kind
forefathersforcecontrol
constitutionchristian say
rights racial principle
preservationpoliticalmembers
join institutionsillegiblehighest
find doesdestroydemocratic
coldcitizenshipwrite timesteach
supremacysocialservicereal

Words that are in cwf_text.txt and Welcome to all of you deplorables.docx

americanamerica
countrywhite people
life great united nation
right stand government
waytodaygod citizens
men party new do world
time make bloodamericans
presidentpowerpoverty
flag allegiancestates law
crime seeknational long like
land heart handsfamiliesday
comework welfarewant thank
take shareoldmadelet

Words that are only in Welcome to all of you deplorables.docx

back protecteddreamswealth
ve jobs bring obamanations
millionsleft factoriescountries
capital bordersworkers women
winning washingtonvictories
triumphs trillions transferring talk
successtrength stopsmall shine safe
righteouspain oceanmountain
military longer industry forward
forgottenfollowfaceexists destiny
children breath blessbelongsaction
youngyes words wonderfulwindswept
wealthywatchingvision urban unstoppable
unrealizedunlockunity unite understanding
understandtunnels trapped transition trade
totally total tombstoneshrive thought
terrorism

What does it mean?

Similarity Scores

OBAMA VS. KKK

0.35

TRUMP VS. KKK

0.45

Common Words

OBAMA VS. KKK

Words that are in cwf_text.txt and obama.docx

american america
country nation life
people united stand
new today government
do time men great way
shall man liberty ideals
god freedom believe
world work violence let
blood true know force
come citizens use spirit
seek say race power long
americans state society law
find day control things take
service rights political old
make like just join hands earth
does destroy citizenship taken
schools real principles part oath
moment land hope history
heritage give free

TRUMP VS. KKK

Words that are in cwf_text.txt and Welcome to all of you deplorables.docx

american america
country white people
life great united nation
right stand government
way today god citizens
men party new do world
time make blood americans
president power poverty
flag allegiance states law
crime seek national long like
land heart hands families day
come work welfare want thank
take share old made let
freedom foreign effort earth
years wisdom two system strong
spirit school re public protection
politicians patriotism part office
oath movement moment loyalty
look

Words Unique to Speaker

OBAMA

Words that are only in obama.docx

common generation words
women peace meet hard greater
far end crisis small short question
prosperity nations journey jobs
generations future forward father
economy children carried year
workers winter willingness west wealth
waters war virtue understood understand
traveled task success storms remember
prosperous promise play planet passed
mutual minds met meaning market lower
longer lines icy hours health grows
greatness given gift friend founding forth
feed fear false fail faced face extend era
enduring earned did

TRUMP

Words that are only in Welcome to all of
you deplorables.docx

back protected dreams wealth
ve jobs bring obama nations
millions left factories countries
capital borders workers women
winning washington victories
triumphs trillions transferring talk
success strength stop small shine safe
righteous pain ocean mountain
military longer industry forward
forgotten follow face exists destiny
children breath bless belongs action
young yes words wonderful wind swept
wealthy watching vision urban unstoppable
unrealized unlock unity unite understanding
understand tunnels trapped transition trade
totally total tombstone thrive thought
terrorism

Further Research

Further research should take a more thematic approach by using a database such as NVIVO in order to determine similarities and differences in each time period's narrative.