

## NARRATIVE CHARACTERIZATION: ACTORS, FACTORS, AND MECHANISMS

When characterizing a narrative in terms of actor, factor, and mechanism (AFM) involves identifying the main participants (actor), the contributing elements or circumstances (factors), and the processes or actions taken (mechanisms). In the context of a knowledge graph, the nodes represent actors, factors, and mechanisms. At the same time, the edges show the relationships on how actors use mechanisms to interact with factors (actions taken by actors), such as “upheld the redistricting,” “criticized the decision,” and “benefited from redistricting.” Actors can range from governmental bodies to grassroots movements, each playing a distinct role in the narrative construction. Factors encompass the various elements influencing the narrative, such as values, interests, and divergences among stakeholders. Conversely, mechanisms delve into the actors’ actions, strategies, and processes to advance their narratives and agendas. By mapping out these components in a knowledge graph, one can visualize the intricate web of relationships and connections that underpin the storytelling in politics and policymaking.

For instance, we have the following narrative: *President Joe Biden criticized the Supreme Court’s decision on the redistricting of the South Carolina district by issuing a public statement highlighting concerns about racial discrimination.* To identify what the AFMs are from the text, it could be: “**President Joe Biden** (actor) criticized the **Supreme Court’s decision** (factor) on the **redistricting of the South Carolina district** (factor) by issuing a **public statement** (mechanism), highlighting concerns about **racial discrimination** (factor).”

To identify the AFMs from the narrative, large language models (LLMs) can be used for extraction. The advance of LLMs has enabled the automatization of this process. By prompting the LLM (gpt-4o), we can obtain: 1) the characterization of the narrative and 2) extract the nodes and edges for the visualization.

### 1 NARRATIVE CHARACTERIZATION

Prompt: I want you to characterize the following text into actors, factors, and mechanisms. Actors can range from governmental bodies to grassroots movements, each playing a distinct role in the narrative construction. Factors encompass the various elements influencing the narrative, such as values, interests, and divergences among stakeholders. Conversely, mechanisms delve into the actors’ actions, strategies, and processes to advance their narratives and agendas.

Text: President Joe Biden criticized the Supreme Court’s decision on the redistricting of the South Carolina district by issuing a public statement highlighting concerns about racial discrimination.

Output: Here’s a characterization of the provided text into actors, factors, and mechanisms:

#### Actors

1. **President Joe Biden:** The primary actor who is reacting to the Supreme Court’s decision.
2. **Supreme Court:** The governmental body whose decision is being criticized.
3. **South Carolina district:** The specific geographical and political entity affected by the decision.

#### Factors

1. **Racial Discrimination:** A key element influencing the narrative, as highlighted by President Biden.
2. **Values and Interests:** President Biden's emphasis on equity and justice, as opposed to the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the law.
3. **Divergences among Stakeholders:** The differing viewpoints between the President and the Supreme Court on the implications of the redistricting decision.

#### Mechanisms

1. **Public Statement:** President Biden’s strategy to issue a public statement as a means of voicing his concerns and influencing public opinion.

2. **Highlighting Concerns:** The process by which President Biden brings attention to the issue of racial discrimination, aiming to sway public and political discourse.
3. **Criticism:** The direct action taken by President Biden to challenge and criticize the Supreme Court's decision, which serves as a tactic to oppose and potentially seek a reversal or amendment of the decision.

## 2 EXTRACT NODES AND EDGES FOR THE VISUALIZATION

**Prompt:** Make a visual representation of the narrative characterization. Consider that the nodes represent actors, factors, and mechanisms in the context of a knowledge graph. At the same time, the edges show the relationships on how actors use mechanisms to interact with factors (actions taken by actors), such as “upheld the redistricting,” “criticized the decision,” and “benefited from redistricting.”

**Output:** Here is the visual representation of the narrative characterization as a knowledge graph. The nodes represent actors, factors, and mechanisms, while the edges show the relationships and how actors use mechanisms to interact with factors. The colors differentiate between actors (skyblue), factors (lightgreen), and mechanisms (lightcoral).

- **Actors:**
  - President Joe Biden
  - Supreme Court
  - South Carolina district
- **Factors:**
  - Racial Discrimination
  - Values and Interests
  - Divergences among Stakeholders
- **Mechanisms:**
  - Public Statement
  - Highlighting Concerns
  - Criticism
- **Relationships:**
  - President Joe Biden uses a Public Statement to highlight Racial Discrimination.
  - President Joe Biden uses Highlighting Concerns to bring attention to Racial Discrimination.
  - President Joe Biden uses Criticism to challenge the Supreme Court.
  - The Supreme Court influences Values and Interests.
  - The South Carolina district is affected by Racial Discrimination.
  - The Supreme Court creates Divergences among Stakeholders.

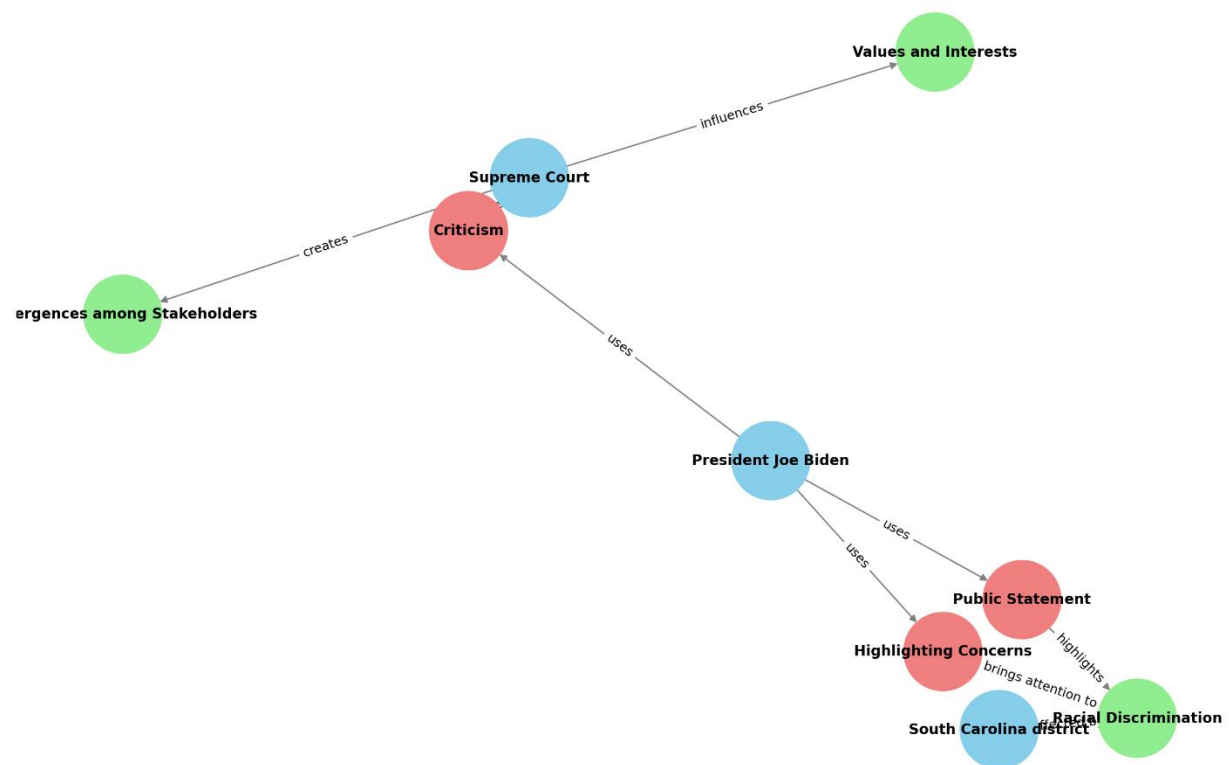


Figure 1. AFM Visual representation of the narrative