

Pre debate: This debate is very important because this is the first time Kamala Harris has debated former President Trump. It will be very important as both candidates try to define Kamala, who has not been in the national spotlight for nearly the amount that Trump has been in.

Economy: Trump attacked bidenomics and blamed Biden and Harris for the increases in inflation/cost of living. Harris responded by saying that Trump handed Biden a terrible economy. In terms of substance from both candidates, there was very little actually talk about policies. Trump brought up his plan for tariffs and Harris brought her plan for child tax credits.

Abortion: Harris attacked Trump on his position on abortion. Trump said he got Roe v Wade overturned and that a majority of people didn't like Roe. Kamala attacked him and blamed him for women not having access to abortions.

Border: Trump constantly blamed Harris for the border, and brought other discussion topics to this one issue. He claims that "migrant crime" is skyrocketing under Harris. Harris blames Trump for torpedoing the bipartisan border bill because he wanted to keep the issue of the border as a talking point.

Foreign Policy: Trump claims that the war in Ukraine and in Gaza wouldn't have happened while he was president. Harris attacks him for being soft on Russia. Harris emphasizes an end to the war in Gaza and a two state solution.

Others: Harris repeatedly brought up Trump's comments about service men and John McCain. Relatively little talk about J6 although Harris did mention it when it was brought up and stressed that it was Trump's fault.

Tone and messaging: Harris seemed to be more about hope and the future. Trump's messaging seemed to be more about how bad the past four years have been in his opinion. Trump also seemed to come across as very angry.