



WINNING NARRATIVE DEBATES

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What are narrative debates?

- **Narrative** – a message/idea/norm that exists in a society
- What types of narrative motions we will discuss:
 - **General** or **Dominant** narratives (THO the narrative that we should stay productive during lockdown)
 - **Glorification/idealization/romanticization** (THR the glorification of parenthood)
 - **Social movements** (THBT the feminist movement should advocate for the abolition of marriage)

How do we approach basic narratives?

- THO the x narrative or „dominant narrative x”
- **CHARACTERIZATION!!** – building blocks for argumentation
 - How does the **interpretation** of the narrative look like, what are the words, the pictures, the sentences you hear and how often
 - How is this narrative communicated: who are the „**carriers**”: friends, family, social media, celebrities, politicians
 - How the narrative influences expectations, meaning how do actors „**internalize**” it, to what value is the narrative tied, what trade-offs is the actor willing to make for it (combined with incentives!)
 - How does the narrative impact **behaviour** (logical extension of the first 3 steps)
 - What are the **other narratives and incentives** that might empower or mitigate this narrative (We don't exist in a vacuum!)

Mini exercise time!

Let's put these rules into context!

THR the dominant narrative that **romantic love is the primary source of fulfillment in life**

Take 5 minutes and go over the rules and apply them to characterize this dominant narrative!

How, Who, Why > action + other

Glorification/idealization/romanticization

- What do these mean and how they manifest?!
 - Glorification – lifting a narrative or x on a „pedestal” – THR the **glorification of motherhood**
 - Idealization – an image of a narrative or x being „perfect” or „ideal”, most people „should” enjoy – THR the modern **idealization of Civil Rights leaders** as moderate, pacifist, and respectable
 - Romanticization – a narrative, way of life or x being „aesthetically” preferable – THO the **romanticization of the „starving artist”** narrative
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- 1) Why do we **NEED** these – what are all the obstacles that couldn’t be crossed without us having this narrative, to fully enjoy or grasp the benefits people **NEED TO BELIEVE** this is worth it
 - 2) Coercion clash – to what extent are these specifically coercive bc they „make people believe”

Mini exercise time!

TH regrets the glorification of immediate post-colonial leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa

Take 3 mins to think about what this **glorification** looks like and why you think it was **needed!**

Spicy rules to keep in mind

- 1) THR - **Counterfactual** – ask yourself what the most likely or reasonable alternative would be
This House Regrets the narrative that the process of overcoming illnesses (e.g. cancer) is a "**fight**".
What benefits do you want to keep and what do you want to avoid (burden pushing)?
- 2) Narratives can be harmful even if people don't „buy into” them – **ACCESSIBILITY**
THO the narrative that we should stay productive during lockdown
Or maximize productivity in general
- 3) **We're not in a vacuum** – based on our own incentives why do we need this
- 4) What **benefits** can you accrue from narratives – policy, support

Social movements

Who **buys into the social movement** already, who is the demographic?

Is this narrative **aligned** with the principles of the movement?

To what extent does it **impact its followers** based on other messages and incentives?

How will it **impact the movement**?

THBT the feminist movement should advocate for the abolition of the traditional family unit

Where to find me:

<https://www.facebook.com/olja.bosnjak>

Hadar's workshop:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iq247G>

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