

## Construction of Metrotvnews.com Reality: Gibran Rakabuming Raka's Electability Resistance in the Second Debate of 2024 Presidential Candidate and Vice President

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### Abstract

The 2024 presidential election in Indonesia is a pivotal event in the political dynamic that will democratically choose the country's highest leader. According to a survey conducted by Data Indonesia in 2023, Gibran Rakabuming Raka earned a significantly greater level of support, with 56.2%, compared to Muhaimin Iskandar, who only obtained 12.3%. Additionally, Gibran Rakabuming Raka was assessed to have a favorable appearance in the second debate. Although the media's response to the candidates' performance varies, multiple media, such as [Metrotvnews.com] (<http://metrotvnews.com/>), expressed an unfavorable opinion towards their debate performances. The objective of this research is to reveal the resistance posed by Metrotvnews.com towards the growing popularity of Gibran Rakabuming Raka during the second 2024 Presidential Election debate. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative approach under the constructivist paradigm. The data acquired from news articles published by Metrotvnews.com indicates unfavorable sentiments towards Gibran Rakabuming Raka. The data evaluated utilizing Robert N. Entman's concept of framing analysis consists of four aspects: defining problems, diagnosing causes, making moral judgments, and treatment recommendations. The result of this research indicates that Metrotvnews.com favors Muhaimin Iskandar over Gibran Rakabuming Raka by presenting him negatively. Metrotvnews.com uses expert and practitioner opinions to sway public opinion and conceal its impartiality. Furthermore, it seems that Metrotvnews.com supports Muhaimin Iskandar by creating comparisons between their characters.

**Keywords:** Media empowerment, media framing, presidential election.

### INTRODUCTION

After the end of President Joko Widodo's term, the Indonesian people are in a position to welcome a new leader who will bring new challenges and opportunities to Indonesia's development. The presidential election system in Indonesia itself is implemented by means of elections. The 2024 Presidential Election in Indonesia is a very important moment in the political dynamics of this country. The presidential election is a crucial moment that will determine the direction of the nation's life in the future. The 2024 presidential election is expected to be a quality democratic event, where the process of selecting presidential and vice-presidential candidates is carried out with transparency and integrity.

In order to realize quality democracy, the KPU as an institution that has responsibility for organizing elections makes a series of agendas in the presidential election campaign, one of which is the agenda for the presidential and vice-presidential debates which are used as a platform to broadly and openly convey their vision, mission, programs, and commitments in order to create a good understanding of the community. In the 2024 Presidential Election, there are five debates divided into three Presidential Candidate debates

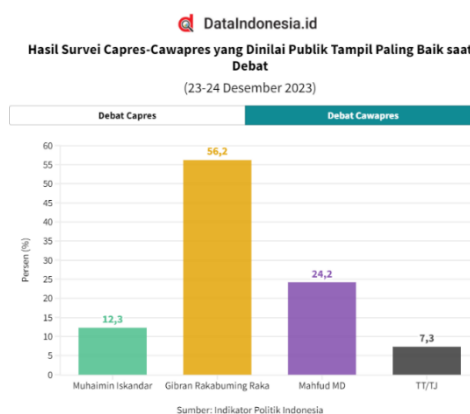
and two Vice President debates. The following is the schedule and theme of the 2024 presidential and vice-presidential debates.



**Figure 1.** Schedule, Theme, Format of the 2024 Presidential Debate.  
 Sumber:www.liputan6.com.

There was something interesting in the second debate (the first Vice President Debate) with the themes Economic Economy (People's Economy and Digital Economy), Finance, Investment, Taxes, Trade, Management of APBN-APBD, and Infrastructure and Urban. The second debate was heated, where the vice presidents competed with each other to win the debate, as in one of the moments where the vice presidents were asked to ask each other questions, Gibran gave a question containing the abbreviation SGIE which stands for *State of the Global Islamic Economy* then vice president number 1 Muhaimin Iskandar did not know it and could not give an answer, the moment became a trending topic on social media so that there was a lot of negative sentiment towards Muhaimin Iskandar.

According to a survey obtained from the performance of the second debate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka received good sentiment and was felt to have the best performance with a score of 56.2%, far above Muhaimin Iskandar with the lowest score of 12.3%.(Indonesia Data, 2023)



**Figure 2.** Survey of Candidate-Vice President Debate Performance. Source: Data Indonesia, 2023.

The media's response after the debate between the two candidates and vice presidents also varied on the performance of each vice president, but it is undeniable that there were media that wrote negative sentiments about Gibran Rakabuming Raka's performance in the second debate, as done by Metrotvnews.com in a news article entitled "Read Text Ask

SGIE, Gibran Considered Ununderstood" in the article [Metrotvnews.com](https://www.metrotvnews.com) quoted opinions from political analysts who stated that there were indications Gibran did not understand his own question and had to reopen the notes before asking, and the article also highlights that Muhaimin had the ability to answer the question, but there was a lack of understanding of the context of the question posed by Gibran. The political relationship between media owners and managers and candidates can have an impact on how the media presents news through framing. In the article can also be seen the media's partiality towards one of the paslons where [Metrotvnews.com](https://www.metrotvnews.com) defended the attack carried out by Gibran against Muhaimin Iskandar, this is certainly not a coincidence. Media [Metrotvnews.com](https://www.metrotvnews.com) is part of the Media Group company which is owned by Surya Paloh. Surya Paloh himself is the founder and chairman of the Nasdem party, which in the 2024 presidential election puts support for the pair of Anies Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar. The case is not new, in the 2014 presidential election in research conducted by found that political party figures in South Sulawesi felt a high level of preference from TV One and Metro TV during the 2014 presidential election. This is thought to be due to pragmatic ownership that might "force" the media to use practical political logic to improve the candidate's image. Sudibyo in arguing that mass media can be considered as one of the parties that can be "blamed" for various events because it has a great role and responsibility in siding with certain candidates. The mass media is not neutral, but tends to take sides. (Belekubun et al., 2015) (Sari, 2018)



**Figure 3.** Schedule, Theme, Format of the 2024 Presidential Debate.  
Sumber: [www.liputan6.com](http://www.liputan6.com)

Mass media becomes a forum for political competition. Political figures who declare themselves through candidacy in the general election are currently vying to build publicity or fame through the existing media. Mass media plays an important role in shaping perceived views through reporting. This understanding of reality can be interpreted as an attempt to describe interpretations of certain events, situations, and topics, including in a political context. The reality presented by the mass media certainly influences people's views and opinions to view a political phenomenon. McComb and Shaw argue that audiences not only access news and other information through mass media, but also to find out how much meaning is given by the media in giving emphasis to a particular issue or topic. argues that the influence of the media in setting public attention depends on the center of power; If the media has close ties to the elite class in society, it is likely to influence the media's agenda as well as society's agenda. (2014:418). (Anggoro, 2014) (Silviana & Martanto, 2019) (McQuail & Windahl, 1993) Littlejohn & Foss

Pawito (2015) argues that in the current political context, mass media is not only an important part of politics, but also has a very crucial role in the political arena. The relationship between the mass media and the political elite in providing support to one of the candidate pairs can indirectly weaken one of the main functions of mass media, namely social control. The relationship between the two sides occurs because not only journalists need politicians as sources of information, but also politicians need the media to communicate their ideas, including policies that will be implemented in the interest of society. The media is used as a tool to achieve one's political goals by increasing power and strengthening his position in the political world. Each media ruler develops various strategies to compete for the highest position in leadership, and the mass media serves as a means to convey their messages to the public (Saputra in . (Fermana, 2022) Rahman et al., 2018)

The role of the media as a source of information accessed by the public should be to present information in a balanced manner. KPI Decree No.45 of 2014 concerning Implementation Guidelines Related to Public Interest Protection, Journalistic Broadcasting, Advertising and General Elections, in article 5 paragraph (2) states that journalistic broadcast programs involving owners and / or groups must pay attention to the principles of fair, balanced, impartial, not in bad faith and guided by the journalistic code of ethics. Basically, the function of the media in the practice of journalism requires the adoption of mass media facilities, the principle of independence, and neutrality. The importance of neutrality is very important to maintain, because the essence of mass media activity is freedom in applying the principles of journalism in the field, and holding a neutral attitude that results in balanced information, a high level of accuracy, and shows no preference except prioritizing the public interest in general or the wider community. The process of delivering news involves editorial decisions from the media that can form a certain point of view on a news. In this context, the media needs to ensure objectivity in providing news information or providing coverage to both points of view involved. However, often online media tend to be supportive of one of the objects of their news in their news. (Ardiyanti, 2014) (Wibawa, 2020) (Azwar et al., 2021)

Media newsrooms (television, radio, newspapers, websites, new media) should be sterile of any interest when producing news. But in reality, public or political elites often have control over the media, which influences the determination of the news agenda and makes it a tool to shape the perception of the general public. Schlosberg argues that " (Susanto, 2021) *The potential for powerful voices to shape 'perceptions, cognitions and preferences' has always been at the root of media ownership concerns. But historically these concerns tended to invoke a kind of power that is visible and vested in the hands of wealthy proprietors, who used their media assets openly for political leverage* (Schlosberg, 2017) ". When media companies have control, media editorial policies are often tied to the interests of media owner elites, resulting in a conflict between the interests of media owners and the editorial obligation to maintain media neutrality and independence. As a result, news becomes the main focus in the formation of reality. News about presidential candidates is full of political parties' interests in framing the presidential candidate carried. The framing of news in the media can also determine the ideology in the political alignment of a media through the construction of reality in the news. Suryawati & Agustiar (in arguing that the determination of Suryawati & Ulfa, 2020) *headlines*, themes, sentences, and words in a news article delivered by the media to the audience is not completely value-free. The editor's official policy towards an event is not only reflected in editorials or opinions, but also in the selection of *headlines* to direct the content of the news. Therefore, the choice of vocabulary

in *headlines*, for example, can reflect how journalists construct narratives in a story. It can portray different perspectives on who or what those media consider important.

Based on the explanation above, researchers have an interest in examining how Metrotvnews.com in "constructing reality" in framing the news of the debate between the two presidential candidates and vice-presidential candidates in the 2024 presidential election which is then presented to its readers. This study aims to uncover the resistance carried out by metrotvnews.com in an effort to counter the popularity of Gibran Rakabuming in the second presidential and vice-presidential debate. Various studies that have been conducted in analyzing the news of presidential candidates and vice-presidential candidates include research entitled *Construction of Online Media Reality on Candidate Debate News in the 2019 Presidential Election* (Wibowo, 2019). The results showed that the framing of news coverage on IDN Times.com tended to benefit Jokowi and Ma'ruf Amin's candidates by highlighting optimism for Indonesia's future. Unlike IDN Times.com, Detik.com more clearly showed his support for Jokowi-Ma'ruf by displaying optimistic content about Indonesia's future and the achievements Jokowi has made during his presidency. On the other hand, content related to Prabowo Subianto tends to be sarcastic and pessimistic.

The next study is titled *Media Framing of Identity Politics through Prejudice and Stereotype Towards the 2024 Election* (Akihary et al., 2023). The results showed that Mediaindonesia.com news content sought to provide normative justification as well as maintain the reputation of the Nasdem Party as a "movement of change" by rejecting negative stigma and intolerant attitudes related to identity politics issues related to presidential candidates supported by the party. On the other hand, Detik.com are more open in identifying polarizing social categories around identity politics. The use of source citations and certain rhetoric highlights the divisions and differences between the two sides. Meanwhile, Kompas.com tend to be more neutral by focusing on electability and maintaining a balance between tolerance and intolerance.

The description in the introduction should contain a general (structured) background, problems, a review of previous literature as the basis of the scientific novelty statement of the article, a statement of scientific novelty, the purpose and problem of the research or hypothesis. At the end of the introduction should be written the purpose of the study of the article. In a scientific article, the format is not allowed for literature review nor in research reports, but is stated in previous literature reviews to show the scientific novelty of the article and can be written conceptually based on previous research studies.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses the constructivism paradigm as a lens to see that the media is not only an organization that produces information but the media is also an agent that constructs reality. According to Guba in (1994) Paradigm is Denzin *The basic beliefs or worldview that guides the investigator, not only in choices of method but in ontologically & epistemologically*, Paradigm is assumed as (a) *a set of assumptions* and (b) *belliefe concurring*. Eriyanto argues that the media is not only a passive media, but also an actor that helps shape reality by bringing certain views, biases, and tendencies. In a constructionist perspective, the media is seen as an agent that plays a role in shaping social reality. The media actively creates and interprets reality to the general audience, the reality that actually occurs is sometimes different from the reality produced by the media or can be called media reality. In a constructionist perspective, news is similar to a drama performance, not merely

reflecting reality, but is a picture of conflict between various parties involved in an event. (Eriyanto, 2015). Shoemaker and Reese (in discussing the hierarchical theory of influence on media content which includes aspects of media content that affect it. The hierarchical theory model of influence on media content according to Shoemaker-Reese is, (1) the influence of individuals or media workers (2) the influence of media routines (3) organizational influences (4) influences from outside the organization (5) ideological influences. (Eriyanto, 2015) Krisdinanto, 2014)

This study used a descriptive qualitative approach. The qualitative method is based on the philosophy of postpositivism which views that a reality is holistic/whole, complex, dynamic, meaningful, and the relationship of symptoms is interactive. The reality of qualitative research is twofold, whole, dynamic and subjective. Qualitative research views that reality is in every head (subjective), in qualitative research the researcher is a research instrument and can determine the value of the reality studied. A descriptive qualitative approach helps in understanding how and why things happen, as well as providing an in-depth understanding of individual experiences and perceptions.

This study used Robert N. Entman's model framing analysis. Framing is a way of presenting information that affects how the audience perceives an issue or event. In his work, Entman makes significant contributions in understanding how the media influences people's perceptions of various political and social issues. Basically, framing is a method to see how to tell media stories about events (Eriyanto, 2015). Here's Entman's framing analysis model:

**Table 1.** Elemen Framing Model Robert N. Entman

<i>Define Problems</i>	How a Issues or events interpreted? As a matter of what or as What problem?
<i>Diagnose Causes</i> (Estimating the Problem or Source of the Problem)	What caused the event to happen? What is considered the cause of an issue? Who is considered responsible Answer as the perpetrator of the problem?
<i>Make Moral Judgment</i>	What moral values will be used to explain the issue? What moral values are used to give legitimacy or consider a action?
<i>Treatment Recommendation</i> (Emphasizing Completion)	What solutions are proposed to solve the problem? What steps should be taken to solve the problem?

The object of this study is the reporting of the debate between the two presidents and vice presidents in the 2024 presidential election. This study used a data collection method in

the form of documentation to obtain the main data source. Based on news documentation at the second presidential and vice-presidential debates on December 22, 2023, 63 news stories about the Second Debate published by [Metrotvnews.com](http://Metrotvnews.com) with a time period of December 22, 2023 to January 3, 2024. The news analyzed is news that is assumed to have negative sentiments directed at one vice-presidential candidate, namely Gibran rakabuming Raka who is in direct contact with Muhaimin Iskandar. 6 news were found that fit the criteria of this study so that analysis will be carried out on 3 news representing the 6 news using Robert N. Entman's framing model analysis technique.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 2.** Framing Analysis on News Headlines: Presidential Debates to Test Ideas, Not Most Applause (Nordiansyah, 2023)

<i>Define Problems</i>	The debate between the two presidential candidates and vice presidents was less than ideal, the debate should be used to debate and test ideas.
<i>Diagnose Causes (Estimating the Problem or Source of the Problem)</i>	<a href="http://Metrotvnews.com">Metrotvnews.com</a> views that the Second Debate of Presidential Candidates and Vice Presidents which should be able to accommodate the vice presidents cannot be witnessed by candidate number 2 Gibran Rakabuming who is considered to be only looking for euphoria rather than testing each other's ideas
<i>Make Moral Judgment</i>	<a href="http://Metrotvnews.com">Metrotvnews.com</a> gave the point of view of one of the members of the board of trustees of Perludem (Association for Elections and Democracy) Titi Anggraini who argued that ideally the debate was held to realize the test of ideas unlike that done by Gibran Rakabuming who was caught making a movement to compromise his supporters to seek applause like a football match. In addition, <a href="http://Metrotvnews.com">Metrotvnews.com</a> also highlighted Gibran's question which was considered more intended to give a trap to Muhaimin Iskandar through abbreviation questions rather than giving questions that led to the substance of the debate.
<i>Treatment Recommendation (Emphasizing Completion)</i>	<a href="http://Metrotvnews.com">Metrotvnews.com</a> hopes there will be encouragement for the KPU to draw up strict rules for debate. Especially in the setting of question-and-answer sessions between candidates, which require presidential and vice-presidential candidates to ask questions that are clear, unambiguous, and cannot be interpreted variously.

**Analysis:** Through the framing approach above, it can be seen that [Metrotvnews.com](http://Metrotvnews.com) directed the news that Gibran Rakabuming presented a debate show that was not good for the community because it gave insubstantial questions and was a trap that harmed Muhaimin Iskandar as the recipient of the question. In addition, at the end of the article,

Metrotvnews.com also emphasized to the readers to be able to give an assessment of Gibran's performance which is considered more like a rote intelligence than a debate that should contain ideas, ideas, and values.

**Table 3.** Framing Analysis on News Headlines: Experts Call Gibran's Remarks in the Debate Much Confusing (Fazli, 2023)

<i>Define Problems</i>	Many statements were issued by Gibran Rakabuming confuses the audience.
<i>Diagnose Causes</i> (Estimating the Problem or Source of the Problem)	Metrotvnews.com views that many of Gibran Rakabuming's statements are confusing so that they are not easy for ordinary people to understand. In addition, the intonation of Gibran's speech tends to be flat so it is boring. Metrotvnews.com also highlighted Gibran's relationship to the ruling government so that he had access to data that had an impact on debate performance that seemed more like rote memorization.
<i>Make Moral Judgment</i>	Metrotvnews.com providing the point of view of forensic psychologist expert Reza Indragiri who considered that the statement conveyed by Gibran was complicated so that it could confuse ordinary people, Reza also highlighted Muhaimin Iskandar who did not have a background in economics could actually convey messages well so that they were easily understood by ordinary people.
<i>Treatment Recommendation</i> (Emphasizing Completion)	Ideally, Gibran's statements during the debate would be in a format that communicates complexity to simplicity.

**Analysis:** Through a framing approach to the news entitled "Experts Call Gibran's Statement in the Debate a Lot of Confusion (Fazli, 2023)" it can be seen that Metrotvnews.com make negative news for Gibran, ranging from the way Gibran communicates his ideas in a monotonous and complicated way to discussing the data access obtained by Gibran through active government. The article also compares the way of communication carried out by Gibran with the communication carried out by Muhaimin Iskandar which is considered more understandable by the community. The final sentence of this news article is also an invitation for the public to play back the recording of the second debate and listen carefully to see who the Vice President can communicate his ideas well.

**Table 4.** Framing Analysis on News Headlines: Read Text Ask SGIE, Gibran

## Considered Not Understanding (Hukmana, 2023)

Define Problems (Pendefinisian Masalah)	Gibran Rakabuming Reading text when asking questions judged not to understand his own question.
Diagnose Causes (Estimating the Problem or Source of the Problem)	Metrotvnews.com saw that there was a possibility that vice president number 2 Gibran Rakabuming did not understand the context of his question, so he required him to check again (nyontek) when asking questions.
Make Moral Judgment (Membuat Keputusan Moral)	Metrotvnews.com presented an opinion quote from Jamiluddin Ritonga who is an observer of political communication from Esa Unggul University, according to him there were 2 possibilities that occurred when Gibran reread his notes before asking questions. The first possibility is that Gibran understood the substance of the question but there was fear in the delivery of the question so Gibran read the text. The second possibility is that there is a tendency for Gibran not to master the substance of his question so he must read when presenting his question.
Treatment Recommendation (Emphasizing Completion)	The moment when Gibran gave a question containing the abbreviation of SGIE that was asked to Muhaimin Iskandar was considered natural if Muhaimin did not understand the substance of his question because he did not understand the abbreviation of SGIE. Metrotvnews.com highlighted Muhaimin's profile as a general chairman with religious ideology should be able to answer the question easily, it's just that there is a possibility that Muhaimin does not understand the abbreviation of the question asked.

**Analysis:** Through a framing approach to the news entitled "Read the Text Ask SGIE, Gibran is Considered Not Understanding (Hukmana, 2023)" it can be seen that there is a tendency Metrotvnews.com make perspective accompaniment in the news about Gibran Rakabuming's incomprehension of the substance of the question he asked. The news article also shows a proclamation to Muhaimin Iskandar who did not understand the substance of the question asked by Gibran due to using abbreviations, but instead at the end of the news metrotvnews.com quoted that "However, Gibran also had to 'cheat' the notes he had when explaining to Cak Imin about SGIE" the sentence was displayed to emphasize that there was a tendency for Gibran not to understand the substance of his own question.

## CONCLUSION

The news built by the Metrotvnews.com about Gibran Rakabuming Raka in the Second Debate of Presidential Candidates and Vice Presidents with the themes Economic Economy (people's economy and digital economy), Finance, Investment, Taxes, Trade, Management of APBN-APBD, and Urban Infrastructure led to negative sentiment towards Gibran Rakabuming Raka and waited for another vice president, Muhaimin Iskandar.

Metrotvnews.com uses the opinions of experts and practitioners to be able to accompany public opinion while covering up its impartiality in the news that is built. Metrotvnews.com also seemed to give support to Muhaimin Iskandar who had political relations with Metrotvnews.com through a comparison of characters in his reporting.

The emphasis of Metrotvnews.com news coverage of Gibran Rakabuming Raka in his coverage of the debate between presidential and vice-presidential candidates has the possibility to influence the political preferences of the people who consume the news.

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