

Ronald Reagan



The Question: In the election of 1980, who should be President: Carter or Reagan?

My Life: (Sell the optimism with humor. You are also a movie star so maybe offer autographs).

- My fellow Americans, as a seasoned film actor I am glad you invited me to perform here.
- Before I entered politics, I made a name for myself as a movie star.
- I am well known for playing cowboys and sheriffs in westerns, but my most famous role is *Bedtime for Bonzo* where I played a professor trying to raise a monkey as a human.
- But don't let my Hollywood history distract you from my proven political track record.
- I served the State of California as Governor from 1967 to 1975.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am an upper class white male with a conservative point of view.
- I am mostly supported by a group called **the moral majority**: an evangelical group that believes the free love ideals of the counterculture have ruined America.
 - They want America to return "family values" and "Biblical living."
- I'm not as religious as they are. Actually, I'm a *Star Wars* fan. In fact, I once called the Soviet Union "the Evil Empire" in one of my speeches. It was a joke.

My Platform: Why Should You Vote for Me? Because it's Morning in America:

- For the last several years, Americans have been depressed. Pessimists look at the scars of Watergate and say that America's best days are behind her.
 - I say they're wrong. **It's morning in America!** That means America's best days are yet to come! Vote for me and we'll become a superpower once again!
- We need to face off against America's enemies like an old west showdown at high noon. We need to use the military to strike down enemies anywhere there's communists, we directly confront Latin American communists (because they don't have nukes).
- But since the Soviets HAVE nukes, I vote we enter an arms race with them. We build a Strategic Defense Initiative (*Star Wars*) which puts satellites in the sky that shoot lasers. We can never be nuked if the missile never hit us. Even if the program doesn't work, it doesn't matter. They still lose money they don't have and will go bankrupt. Then, we win.

Speaking of money, I propose a relaxed domestic policy:

- My friends, our country is in trouble. Economists say we're in **stagflation** for the last fifteen years. That's where you have high prices for good and high unemployment.
- If you've been keeping track, fifteen years ago in this election is when Johnson started his Great Society programs where he expanded the government into places it shouldn't.
- The worst kind of government spending is using hard working American dollars to prop up welfare programs for the lazy poor. I vote for **trickle down economics** where we cut taxes for the wealthy and they will take that money to make more jobs.

(SAVE FOR ACT 2) (To Carter) Don't lecture me on foreign policy. Your handling of the Iranian hostage crisis is a disgrace. Americans are held at gunpoint, you decide to use your words like a wuss. When you finally used the military, **Desert One** was a colossal mess. Helicopters sent to rescue the hostages crashed in the middle of an empty desert. How does that even happen? (To his response) Your human rights diplomacy has caused the world to laugh at us. Economic stagflation which happened on your watch is making Americans laugh at you! That's a tragedy! We're America! **We are a city on a hill! The whole world should follow our example! And they will when I'm President!** We will be leaders in the world, we'll be prosperous, WE WILL WIN!