Media and Politics: Past Campaign Ads

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The Role of Media in Elections: Helping Students Understand Media's Influence

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(Workshops available; contact me)

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Where to Locate Current & Past Presidential Campaign Ads

Snap Political Ads Library



SnapChats Political Ad Library





Ad Watch





The Living Room Candidate

Political Communication Lab





Real Clear Politics

Political Ads On YouTube





Steve Forbes wasn't the first presidential wannabe to make effective use of the airwaves. With roots going back to Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson's 1952 contest, politics and TV advertising are inextricably linked in the modern era.



Who can forget George Bush's "Willie Horton" ads, which played to racial fears and portrayed Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis as soft on crime? Or "Flarry and Louise," who, seated at their kitchen table, expresse their fears about President Bill Clinton's national health care plan.

Humor, immendo, sentiment, drama, and brazen attack are all part of political ads, and those elements have remained remarkably constant over the years. But tap into AllPolitics' growing archive of TV ads and judge for yourself.

- Adlai Stevenson: Music Man 1.5 MB
 In 1952, Adlai Stevenson responded to Eisenhower's ads with some pretty creative ones of his own, such as this musical tribute to his political skills.
- Dwight Eisenhower: The Man From Abilene 2 MB
 Eisenhower, the all-American hero from the heartland! Another classic from the

New Republic Magazine CNN's Presidential Political Ad Archives

Historic Campaign Ads (CSPAN)

The Art of the Negative Ad

Political Ads: A Look Back At Eye-Catching Campaign Spots (Slideshow)

1964 The Daisy Ad	1984 Morning In America	1988 The Willy Horton Ad
Sponsor: Lyndon Johnson	Sponsor: Ronald Reagan	Sponsor: George Bush
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