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The recent Vice Presidential debate between Vice President Joe Biden and Congressman Paul Ryan was a contest that many in the media declared a draw. As with most debates, however, supporters of the Left thought that Joe Biden handily defeated Paul Ryan and supporters of the Right thought Paul Ryan did a good job of defending Mitt Romney and his record.

The most discussed part of the debate in the coverage has been Joe Biden's numerous facial expressions and audible laughs while Paul Ryan was talking. Many people, especially those on the Right, thought that it was excessive, over the top, and borderline arrogant. This reaction is similar to the 2000 Bush/Gore debate where Al Gore audibly sighed on numerous occasions while George Bush was speaking. People thought that Gore was being arrogant and putting himself on a pedestal, and his performance in that debate is believed to be one of the large factors that led to his electoral college defeat. However, the VP candidates are given much more leniency in debates as they are used as attack dogs for the campaign, and don't need to necessarily appear "presidential."

In addition to his numerous expressions, Joe Biden also interrupted Paul Ryan on multiple occasions to fact check his policies. The most memorable being when Paul Ryan attacked the stimulus package, and Joe Biden quipped that he had received letters from Congressman Ryan asking for millions of dollars of the stimulus money.

Again, the perspective is very important. The Left thought that Biden did an excellent job, while the Right thought that Biden was out of control and rude.

The most important *outcome* of this debate, I believe, is the rejuvenation of the Democratic base after a lackluster performance from President Obama in his first debate. The Left readily admitted the President lost the last debate, though criticized Romney for shifting many of his major policies, so this fired up performance by the Veep has brought energy back to the Democrats.

The most important *factor*, however, is how the undecided voters viewed the debate. I believe most people would've expected Joe Biden to be more professional, more serious, and not laugh as much as he did. Independent voters may view his actions similar to how Republicans viewed them: arrogant and over the top.

But, at the end of the day, this was only a Vice Presidential debate. Veep debates have only once ever impacted a race, in 1992 when Ross Perot's running mate Admiral Stockdale famously asked, "Who am I? Why am I here?" and proceeded to do a poor job in the debate, and essentially eliminating Perot's strong poll numbers in the following weeks. Like I said, I believe the most important outcome of this debate will be the rejuvenation of the Democratic base after President Obama's losing debate a week earlier.