

SARADA PERI

sarada.peri@gmail.com

saradaperi.com

• SUMMARY

Seasoned speechwriter and communicator with over two decades of experience working across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. I help leaders – including Fortune 100 CEOs, top philanthropists, and elected officials – inspire and persuade audiences. As a writer and political strategist, I publish op-eds and essays in a variety of publications, and offer political commentary in the media.

EXPERIENCE

PERI COMMUNICATIONS LLC

Founder & CEO

Silver Spring, MD

Feb 2017 - present

- Launched and run a communications and speechwriting consulting practice.
- Advise, train, and write for political, philanthropic, corporate, government, and nonprofit leaders including developing speeches, op-eds, narratives, and strategy. Sample clients include the 2020 Biden-Harris campaign, the head of a leading VC firm, a top tech company, an organization empowering Israeli and Palestinian officials, a top fashion designer and brand founder, and a Grammy winning artist.
- Deliver workshops in speechwriting and messaging to communications professionals, executives, government officials, and students.
- Frequently guest lecture in graduate and undergraduate classes, including at Harvard Kennedy School, University of Virginia, Tufts University, George Washington University, and American University.

OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

Lead Scriptwriter

Chicago, IL

Nov 2018 - present

- Serve as the lead scriptwriter for the Obama presidential museum, scheduled to open in 2025.
- Oversee all content descriptions for the museum. Develop, write, and edit the museum script outlines, film and media descriptions, and all content briefs used to build the museum's core exhibits and multimedia presentations that tell the story of Barack Obama and his presidency.
- Facilitated a comprehensive content review, coordinating and incorporating feedback with administration alumni, senior leaders, policy experts, historians, and fact checkers.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Special Assistant to the President & Senior Presidential Speechwriter

Senior Presidential Speechwriter

Washington, DC

Feb 2016 - Jan 2017

Sep 2014 - Feb 2016

- Served as a senior member of President Barack Obama's domestic speechwriting team.
- Wrote and edited speeches, op-eds, articles, and social media posts on a range of topics.
- Managed the process of shepherding speeches among dozens of government stakeholders, from conception to delivery.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Writer's Room Co-manager

Speechwriter

Virtual; Philadelphia, PA; Charlotte, NC

2024

2020, 2016, 2012

- Managed the speechwriting operation at the 2024 DNC, overseeing a team of 15 writers and shepherding over 200 speeches from conception to delivery.
- Served as a member of the speechwriting teams at three national political conventions.
- Wrote, edited, and managed speeches for elected officials, celebrities, and everyday Americans.
- Conducted rehearsals and on-site coaching to prepare speakers for speech delivery.

WEST WING WRITERS

Washington, DC

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Principal

Mar 2012 - Aug 2014

Senior Writer

Mar 2010 - Mar 2012

- Wrote speeches, op-eds, books, reports, event scripts, and strategy for clients including Fortune 50 CEOs, leading philanthropists, political candidates, and elected officials.
- Developed new business and managed client relationships.
- Managed junior staff, guiding them in the development, writing, and editing of drafts.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Washington, DC

Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, Department of Government

Aug 2012 - Dec 2012

- Designed and taught political speechwriting course for undergraduate students.

UNITED STATES SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU

Washington, DC

Legislative Assistant

Aug 2007 - Mar 2010

- Developed and executed Senator's policy agenda for education, health, child welfare, and adoption, including serving as her lead staffer on major legislation such as the Affordable Care Act.
- Drafted bills and amendments; analyzed pending legislation; wrote memos, testimony, and op-eds.
- Managed relationships with constituents, interest groups and government agencies.

CENTER FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Washington, DC

Policy & Communications Manager

Sep 2003 - Jun 2005

- Conducted policy research for progressive think tank serving states legislators.
- Co-wrote and edited model legislation, policy manuals and briefs, web content, and newsletters.

TEACH FOR AMERICA/MARION ABRAMSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

New Orleans, LA

Teacher & Corps Member

July 2001 - July 2003

- Selected for corps of college graduates committed to two years of teaching in underserved schools.
- Taught high school English courses and helped develop new English curriculum in New Orleans' largest high school.
- Trained 16 incoming teachers as Corps Member Advisor at TFA's Summer Institute.

EDUCATION

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

Cambridge, MA

Master in Public Policy

May 2007

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Medford, MA

Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude

May 2001

- Major: Political Science; Minor: English

MEDIA

Select Publications

- [“The Heart of Nikki Haley’s Political Problem,”](#) *Slate*, January 9, 2024
- [“Spare Me the Joe Biden-Jon Meacham Romance,”](#) *Slate*, March 2, 2023

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- ["Down With Institutionalists."](#) *The Atlantic*, June 4, 2021
- ["Trump Is Going to Cheat."](#) *The Atlantic*, February 18, 2020

Select Appearances

- ["Churchill at War."](#) *Netflix*, December 2024
- ["FDR" three-part docuseries](#), *"The History Channel"* May 2023
- ["Ask a political speechwriter."](#) *NPR The 1A*, February 8, 2023
- ["How to write a graduation speech."](#) *NPR Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me*, June 1, 2022
- ["Q&A on presidential inaugural addresses."](#) *C-SPAN*, January 17, 2021
- ["Franklin Delano Roosevelt."](#) *The Washington Post Presidential podcast*, August 6, 2016

AFFILIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Tufts University Tisch College of Civic Life

Medford, MA

Board member

- Serve on board of university-wide college that promotes the civic and political experiential learning, research and practice.

UVA Miller Center Project on a Responsible Presidency

Charlottesville, VA

Participant

October 2023 - present

- Serve as a member of a select group of practitioners, scholars, former elected officials, and journalists convened by the Miller Center in an ongoing project to share new ideas and best practices to support a more responsible and effective presidency.

The Dais

Toronto, Canada

Senior Fellow

October 2017 - present

Advisory Board Member

Nov 2023 - present

- Serve as a visiting fellow and on advisory board at leading Canadian think tank focused on bridging policy and politics to address global challenges.

Jazz workshop

Vienna, VA

Bassist

October 2021 - present

- Play upright bass in a jazz combo that studies jazz standards in a workshop setting.