Comprehensive Campaign Messaging Guide Template

INTRODUCTION

Campaign Vision

[Use this section to state your overall vision or purpose. Lead with shared values, a unifying goal, and an aspirational tone.]

CORE NARRATIVE

Values \rightarrow Problem \rightarrow Solution \rightarrow Action

Values

[State widely shared values—what matters most to your audience.]

Problem

[Describe the issue or challenge in clear, relatable terms.]

Solution

[Explain the proposed fix in a way that aligns with your values.]

Action

[Offer a clear, compelling call to action.]

MESSAGE THEME GRID

Category	Message Theme	Sample Language	Why It Works
[Insert Theme]	[Insert Headline Message]	[Insert Sample Line]	[Explain strategic value]

(Repeat as needed to show 4–6 themes.)

AUDIENCE SEGMENTATION & STRATEGY

Segment	Approach	Rationale
Base	[e.g., Mobilize and amplify]	[Why they matter]
Persuadables	[e.g., Inform and align]	[What they need to hear]
Opposition	[e.g., Neutralize or ignore]	[Why not the focus]
Decision Makers	[e.g., Reinforce and support]	[How they're influenced]
Influencers	[e.g., Seed language and echo]	[Why their voice matters]

MESSAGE BOX

Quadrant	Content
Us on Us (Our values and vision)	[What we stand for. Start here in all messaging.]
Us on Them (Their threats or failings)	[What they're doing wrong; contrast with our vision.]
Them on Us (Their criticisms)	[Anticipated attacks and preemptive responses.]
Them on Them (Their self-image)	[How they frame themselves—and where it falls apart.]

COUNTER-MESSAGING PLAYBOOK

Opposition Message	Counter Message	Why It Works
[Insert opposition frame]	[Insert response that reframes]	[Strategic rationale]

(Repeat for 6–8 common objections.)

MESSAGE DISCIPLINE DOS & DON'TS

V DO:

Principle Sample Practice

Lead with values [Begin with a moral or aspirational frame]

Use real people [Ground arguments in lived experience]

Focus on solutions [Make the fix as clear as the problem]

Repeat effective lines [Echo language across platforms]

ODON'T:

Mistake Why to Avoid

Repeat opposition frames [Reinforces their narrative]

Rely on pity or charity [Undermines power]

Lead with data [Values drive attention; stats support later]

Overcomplicate [Keep it simple and sticky]

VALIDATOR MAPPING

Validator Type	Role	Why They Matter
[Type 1]	[e.g., Speak from lived experience]	[Example impact]
[Type 2]	[e.g., Provide cross-ideological cover]	[Strategic utility]
[Type 3]	[e.g., Add expert credibility]	[Source authority or data]

CHANNEL STRATEGY GUIDE

Channel	Use Case	Execution Tips
Op-Eds	[Frame narrative publicly]	[Lead with values; use validators]
Social Media	[Repetition and engagement]	[Use strong quotes and real voices]

Public Testimony	[Direct influence on decision makers]	[Tight, values-based messages]
Briefings	[Influence internal stakeholders]	[Equip trusted messengers]

EVALUATION & ADAPTATION PLAN

Citations, Not Clicks

[Track meaningful use of your language or frames in media, public remarks, and official documents.]

Message Penetration Indicators

- Messaging repeated by unaffiliated validators
- Framing echoed in news stories or editorials
- Core language used in legislation or official remarks

Adaptation Triggers

- Drop in validator engagement
- Shift in media narrative
- Opposition frames gaining traction

[When detected, re-anchor to top-performing values and messages.]