

# Top political buzz words of 2010

By Leslie Savan, *The Nation*

For decades now, there's been a gap between the left's and the right's ability to talk populist. Liberals tend to trip over their own subtlety, uncertainty and/or ambivalence (an example of which you maybe just read), while the right produces categorical words that stick: media elite, death tax, and of course Democrat as an adjective, emphasis on rat.

And 2010 was no different. Not all of this year's top political buzzwords were born in 2010, but this is the year they've been popularized. And when it comes to rhetoric that evokes strong imagery, rouses emotion, and can roll over inconvenient facts and memories, the Red State words (many elevated into a kind of American sign language by Sarah Palin) tend to outshout the Blue ones.

**Read the whole story**