

Erik Wemple • Opinion

Comparison: Trump strong on joint news conferences, weak on solo news conferences

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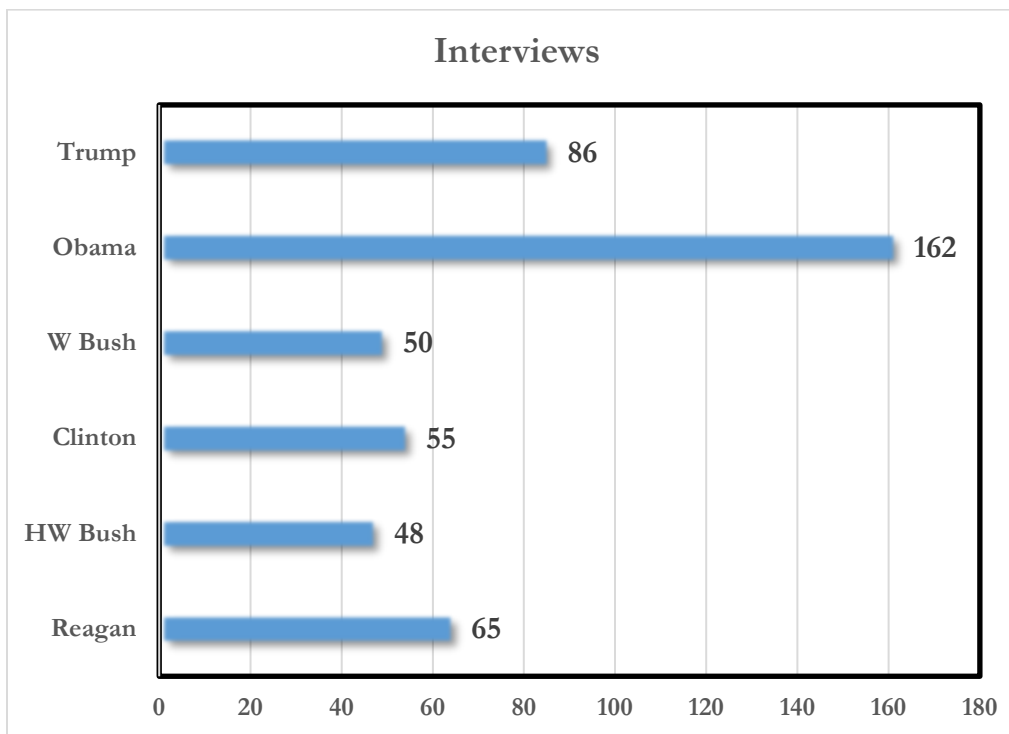
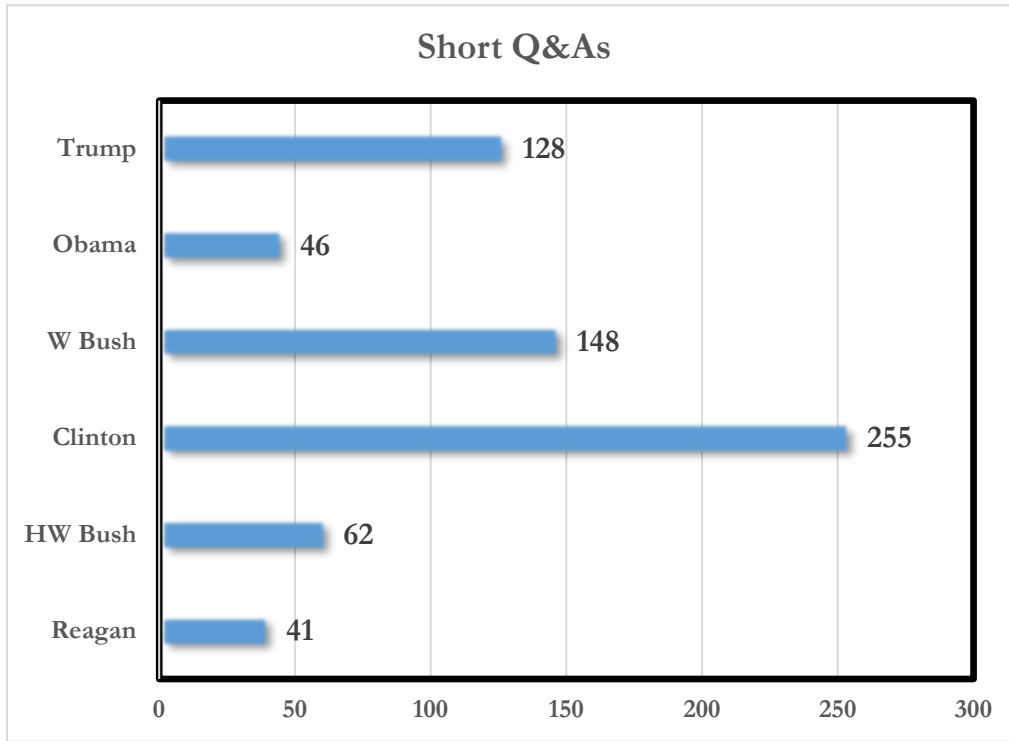


President Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel participate in a joint news conference in the White House in Washington on March 17. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

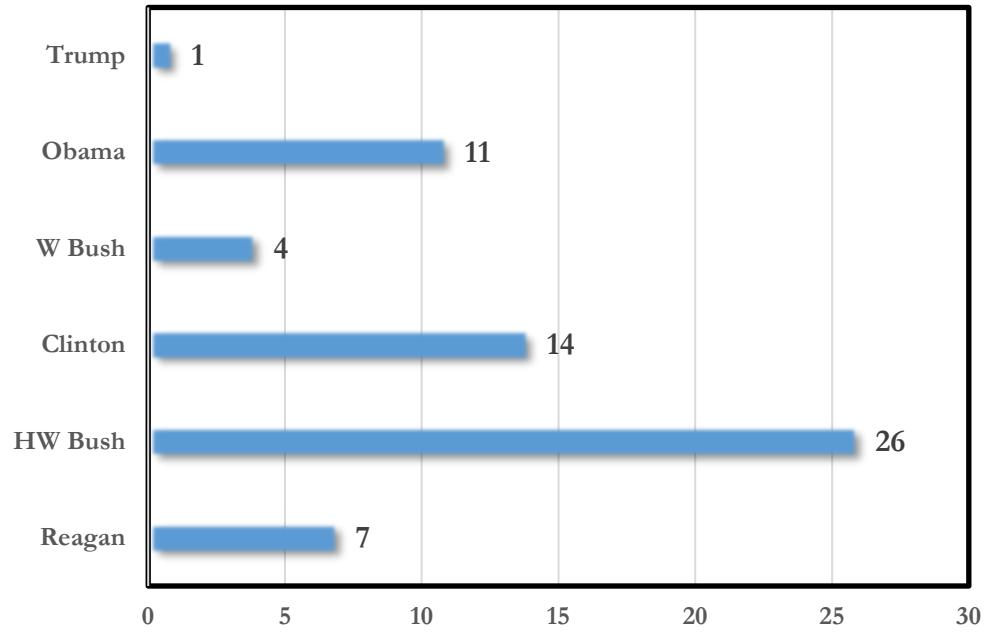
Do you get the feeling that you saw President Trump quite frequently in 2017 taking questions alongside some foreign leader? Yes, you do, because Trump used that format 20 times over his first calendar year in office, according to statistics compiled by Martha Joynt Kumar, [director of the White House Transition Project and retired professor of political science at Towson University](#). In those very carefully managed settings, Trump customarily alternates with the dignitary, with each taking a paltry two questions.

Less impressive has been Trump's tally of solo news conferences: He's done one of them — that famous, rambling affair in February 2017.

Kumar assembles other metrics as well. Have a look:



Solo Press Conferences



Joint Press Conferences

