

theater 
IN ASYLUM

presents

***THE
DEBATES***

An adaptation of the
2016 Presidential Debates

Created by Theater in Asylum

The Debates - General Election Performance Script

Based on the 2016 Presidential Debates Last edit: 11/3/16

“Deliberation and debate is the way you stir the soul of our democracy.”

- Jesse Jackson

“Politics is a way of ruling divided societies without undue violence.”

- Bernard Crick

“The worst illiterate is the political illiterate. He hears nothing, sees nothing, takes no part in political life. He doesn't seem to know that the cost of living, the price of beans, of flour, of rent, of medicines, all depend on political decisions. He even prides himself on his political ignorance, sticks out his chest and says he hates politics. He doesn't know, the imbecile, that from his political non-participation comes the prostitute, the abandoned child, the robber and, worst of all, corrupt officials, the lackeys of exploitative multinational corporations.”

- Bertolt Brecht

"We can never be resigned. I think the feeling of resignation, of being unable to care, is the end stage of depression, perhaps of shock. I'm not sure, even though I've coursed through every emotional stage there is. But resignation is unacceptable. Resignation is that calm people are alleged to feel right before they freeze to death or drown. It is a giving up, and the act of giving up is decidedly anti-human. We do not give up. We can wail and we can joke and we can cry, but we have to do something. When the world appears to be most insane, we can't go inside and hide and let the jackals eat up the orchards. We have to respond as humans, which is to say with kindness and wit and caring. We do not--ever--give up.

So pull yourself together and get back to work. "

- Tennessee Williams

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Our Intentions

Presidential campaigns, like theater, initiate a soul-searching. Our understanding of our individual and societal identities, and the possibilities of whom we might become, broaden. Bernie's call for revolution and Trump's call to make America "great" again, while absurd before this election began, have been real possibilities to be contemplated for our country. Presidential campaigns, like theater, push us to ask, "Is this who we are right now? Is this who we want to be?" As artists and activists, we believe our mission is to engage more people in the process of forming identity. We hope this debate will help you do just that: "make unabashedly," as Hillary Clinton said in 1969, "an attempt to forge an identity in this particular age."

A Note

Please enjoy this script. Peruse our research and let us know what you think. If you are interested in mounting your own production of *The Debates* or bringing ours to you, please just let us know! All inquiries, comments, and concerns may be sent to Kathryn Appleton at kathryn@theaterinasyllum.com.

A Disclaimer

All expenditures for *The Debates* are paid for by Theater in Asylum. No actions, script lines, voting guides, or events are authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Theater in Asylum does not endorse any candidate in this race. We simply want more people, people like you, to engage and participate. While many moments in our shows are mimicked alongside video, our way of quoting, others are departures meant to serve only as parody and satire. No copyright infringement, defamation, libel, or slander is intended. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email us at info@theaterinasyllum.com. Please don't sue us!

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Credits

Conceived and directed by Paul Bedard

Choreographed by Katie Palmer

Dramaturgical Team lead by and Script Footnoting by Samantha Keogh

Assistant Directed and Video Designed by Jake Beckhard and Julia Levine

Lighting Designed and Production Managed by Dan Stearns

Sound Design and Original Compositions by Adrian Bridges

Production Designed by Yonit Friedman

Marketing Imagery by Ran Xia

Stage Management by Ariella Axelbank

Performed and created by Adrian Bridges, Kayla Catan, Farrah Crane, Tony Curtis, Calandra Daby, Lawrence Dreyfuss, Sarah Eismann, Amanda Ghosh, Joe Marx, Camara McLaughlin, Blake Sugarman, and Kelly Webb

Dramaturgical Support by Jessie Atkinson, Raffaella Gualtieri, and Luke Taylor

Special Thanks

The League of Independent Theater; The NY Alliance of Resident Theatres, Quin Chia and City Center, Playgarden; Mike Breskin and The 12th Street Ale House; Erez Ziv and The Horse Trade, Rahel Biru, Jeevan D'Souza, Frank Llewellyn, Maria Svart and everyone in the NYC Democratic Socialists of America; Jennifer Yanko and the Hartford Carriage House Theater; Tom DiNardo, Natalie Midiri and everyone in the Philadelphia DSA, Butler University, Muhlenberg College

Thank you to the Hangar Theatre Lab Company 2015 actors who generated the earliest experiments of this project: Dara Brown, Jeanfranco Cardentey, Brandon Dial, Chris Isolano, Kristina Kastrinelis, Paulina Kurtz, Maya Musial, Trevor Nalepka

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Production History

The Debates has performed in many versions over the past two years.

Kennedy / Nixon Debate

Based on the September 26, 1960 Presidential Debate

Performed August 2015 at The Hangar Theatre, Ithaca, NY

Bernie Sanders Experiment

Based on a Bernie Sanders' speech on August 19, 2015

Performed Monday, September 21 at the headquarters for the Communications Workers of America Local 1180, NYC on September 21, 2015

The Debates: Debate #1

Based on the October 13, 2015 Democratic Primary Debate

Performed at City Center, NYC on November 5, 2015

The Debates: Debate #2

Based on the November 14, 2015 Democratic Primary Debate

Performed December 12, 2015 at City Center, NYC

The Debates: Debate #4

Based on the January 17, 2016 Democratic Primary Debate

Performed February 9, 2016 at The Kraine Theatre, NYC

Butler University Workshop

Based on the nine 2015-2016 Democratic Primary Debates

Performed April 15, 2016 at Butler University

College Workshops

Based on the nine 2015-2016 Democratic Primary Debates

Performed April 24, 2016 at Muhlenberg College

Compilation Primary Performance

Based on the nine 2015-2016 Democratic Primary Debates

Performed April 18-19, 2016 at the Kraine Theatre, NYC

Performed April 21, 2016 at the William Way LGBT Center, Philadelphia, PA

Performed April 25, 2016 at The Hartford Carriage House Theater, Hartford, CT

General Election Performance

Based on the 2016 General Election Presidential Debates

Performed November 6-7, 2016 at The Under St. Marks Theatre, NYC

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Opening

[All lines in this script are audio recordings while the cast sets up the stage.]

HILLARY CLINTON: Everyday Americans need a champion. And I want to be that champion.¹

DONALD TRUMP: And we will make America great again! Thank you, thank you very much.²

BERNIE SANDERS: And that is that the American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails!³

DONALD TRUMP: They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists.⁴

HILLARY CLINTON: I'm a progressive... but I'm a progressive who likes to get things done.⁵

STERLING ARTHUR WILKINS (YOUTUBER): My question for the candidates is, do black lives matter or do all lives matter?⁶

DONALD TRUMP: You know, you could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever.⁷

HILLARY CLINTON: Uh, because ultimately, I think the president's job is to do everything possible—everything she can do—to lift up the people of this country.⁸

¹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton, "Getting Started/Hillary Clinton," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uY7gLZDmn4), 12 Apr 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uY7gLZDmn4>>.

² Line taken from: Donald J. Trump for President, "Donald Trump Presidential Announcement Full Speech 6/16/15 | Donald J. Trump For President," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_q61B-DyPk), 16 Jun. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_q61B-DyPk>.

³ Line taken from: Bernie 2016, "Your Damn Emails/Bernie Sanders," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOOfwN0iYxM), 13 Oct. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOOfwN0iYxM>>.

⁴ Line taken directly: CNN, "Donald Trump's Best Lines During His 2016 Speech," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0UB06v7yLY), 16 Jun. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0UB06v7yLY>>.

⁵ Line taken from: CNN, "(Democratic Debate) Hillary Clinton: I'm a progressive who likes to get ...," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB_j3TyLmDg), 13 Oct. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB_j3TyLmDg>.

⁶ Line taken from: CNN, "(Democratic Debate) Bernie Sanders: Why Black lives matter," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3mybxexA1UA), 13 Oct. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3mybxexA1UA>>.

⁷ Line taken from: Team Trump Comms, "Donald Trump on Megyn Kelly: 'There Was Blood Coming Out of Her Wherever,'" [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M28z9y4yT6Y), 7 Aug. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M28z9y4yT6Y>>.

⁸ Line taken from: CBSN, "Dem Debate Part 6 - Crisis management and closing statements," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNUErh0CG0c&index=6&list=PLmnVWR5T9_dicB3MgsQ0EBt31T7q2bBRz), 14 Nov. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNUErh0CG0c&index=6&list=PLmnVWR5T9_dicB3MgsQ0EBt31T7q2bBRz>.

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DONALD TRUMP: Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what the hell is going on!⁹

JEB BUSH: Donald, you're not going to be able to insult your way to the presidency. That's not gonna happen.¹⁰

BERNIE SANDERS: We need bold changes; we need a political revolution.¹¹

NPR REPORTER: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, perhaps the leading voice of uncompromising conservatism on the nation's highest court, died today. He was 79 years old.¹²

MARCO RUBIO: Have you seen his hands? They're like this! And you know what they say about men with small hands...¹³

BERNIE SANDERS: [You want] Everybody else to release it, well I'm your democratic opponent. Here it is! There ain't nothin'!¹⁴

JILL STEIN: It's hard to have a revolutionary campaign inside of a counter-revolutionary party.¹⁵

DONALD TRUMP: Nobody knows the system better than me... which is why I alone can fix it!¹⁶

BARACK OBAMA: Don't boo, vote.¹⁷

MICHELLE OBAMA: No, our motto is, when they go low, we go high. ¹⁸

⁹ Line taken from: iTV News, "Donald Trump vows to ban Muslims entering US," YouTube, 7 Dec. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viDffWUjcBA>>.

¹⁰ Line taken from: CNN, "Bush to Trump: You can't insult your way to presidency," YouTube, 15 Dec. 2015, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKQgrOV27X0>>.

¹¹ Line taken from: CNN, "Bernie Sanders: We need a political revolution," YouTube, 15 Jan. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbeuFczjg4U>>.

¹² Line taken from: Nina Totenberg, "Justice Antonin Scalia, Known For Biting Dissents, Dies At 79," NPR, 13 Feb. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<http://www.npr.org/2016/02/13/140647230/justice-antonin-scalia-known-for-biting-dissents-dies-at-79>>.

¹³ Line taken from: New Park, "Marco Rubio On Donald Trump You know what they say about men with Small Hands'," YouTube, 29 Feb. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkpfUj0lh8M>>.

¹⁴ Lint taken from: MOXNEWSdotcomARCHIVE, "BERNIE SANDERS vs HILLARY CLINTON Democratic Presidential Debate In Flint Michigan (FULL DEBATE)," YouTube, 6 Mar. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEfxalQNwKY>>.

¹⁵ Line taken from: Democracy Now!, "Jill Stein to Bernie Sanders: Run on the Green Party Ticket & Continue Your Political Revolution," YouTube, 9 Jun. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om_UoqEpG9M>.

¹⁶ Line taken from: rdcleaners, "Trump says no more crime and I alone can fix it," YouTube, 30 Jul. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUwnus4DulA>>.

¹⁷ Line taken from: PBS NewsHour, "President Obama: Don't boo. Vote," YouTube, 27 Jul. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeuZvGhwLiM>>.

¹⁸ Line taken from: CNN, "Michelle Obama: 'When they go low, we go high'," YouTube, 25 Jul. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mu_hCThhzWU>.

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KHIZIR KHAN: Have you even read the United States constitution?¹⁹

HILLARY CLINTON: You could put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables.²⁰

GARY JOHNSON: I guess I'm having an Aleppo moment²¹

LESTER HOLT: I wanna welcome you to the first presidential debate. Democratic nominee for president of the United States, Hillary Clinton, and Republican nominee for president of the United States, Donald J Trump.²²

CLINTON [*mimicked by KAYLA*]: Well, I would like to say to everyone watching tonight that I'm reaching out to all Americans — Democrats, Republicans, and independents — because we need everybody to help make our country what it should be, to grow the economy, to make it fairer, to make it work for everyone. We need your talents, your skills, your commitments, your energy, your ambition.²³

CLINTON [*mimicked by KELLY*]: You know, I've been privileged to see the presidency up close. And I know the awesome responsibility of protecting our country and the incredible opportunity of working to try to make life better for all of you. I have made the cause of children and families really my life's work.²⁴

CLINTON [*mimicked by JOE*]: That's what my mission will be in the presidency. I will stand up for families against powerful interests, against corporations. I will do everything that I can to make sure that you have good jobs, with rising incomes, that your kids have good educations from preschool through college. I hope you will give me a chance to serve as your president.²⁵

WALLACE: Secretary Clinton, thank you.

Mr. Trump?²⁶

¹⁹ Line taken from: ABC15 Arizona, "FULL: Khizr Khan son was 1 of 14 American Muslims who died serving - Democratic National Convention," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z7IN7nQjG0), 28 Jul. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z7IN7nQjG0>>.

²⁰ Line taken from: CNN, "Clinton: Trump supporters in 'basket of deplorables...'," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZH4JLWjNw), 9 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZH4JLWjNw>>.

²¹ Line taken from: MSNBC, "Gary Johnson: 'I'm Having An Aleppo Moment' | Hardball | MSNBC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXFb0eSYjEA), 28 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXFb0eSYjEA>>.

²² Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), "Transcript of the First Debate," [Federal News Service](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²³ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), "Transcript of the First Debate," [Federal News Service](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁴ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), "Transcript of the First Debate," [Federal News Service](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁵ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), "Transcript of the First Debate," [Federal News Service](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁶ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), "Transcript of the First Debate," [Federal News Service](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

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TRUMP: [*mimicked by ADRIAN*]: She's raising the money from the people she wants to control. Doesn't work that way. But when I started this campaign, I started it very strongly. It's called "Make America Great Again." We're going to make America great. We have a depleted military. It has to be helped, has to be fixed. We have the greatest people on Earth in our military. We don't take care of our veterans. We take care of illegal immigrants, people that come into the country illegally, better than we take care of our vets. That can't happen.²⁷

TRUMP [*mimicked by CAMARA*]: Our policemen and women are disrespected. We need law and order, but we need justice, too. Our inner cities are a disaster. You get shot walking to the store. They have no education. They have no jobs. I will do more for African-Americans and Latinos than she can ever do in 10 lifetimes.²⁸

TRUMP [*mimicked by FARRAH*]: All she's done is talk to the African-Americans and to the Latinos, but they get the vote, and then they come back, they say, we'll see you in four years. We are going to make America strong again, and we are going to make America great again, and it has to start now. We cannot take four more years of Barack Obama, and that's what you get when you get her.²⁹

²⁷ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁸ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁹ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

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Fact-Check

HOLT: And welcome to Fact-Check 2016, where nobody wins and the facts don't matter. I'm your host, Lester Holt. Let's bring out our contestants. Republican nominee Donald Trump

TRUMP: I'm going to do tremendously. I have the best facts. It's gonna be yuge.

HOLT: And Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

CLINTON: Thank you, Lester I'm so excited to be here today.

HOLT: Please put your hands together for our judges!

NYTIMES: As the paper of record³⁰, the New York Times is happy to be here this evening.

WALL ST JOURNAL: I'm the Wall St Journal, and unless you pay for a membership, I refuse to share my facts.³¹

HOLT: Use my credit card on file.

POLITIFACT: Hi, I'm Politifact - and I've got a Truth- o - meter!³²

BREITBART (SARAH): Here to save you from the media elites³³, we're

BREITBART (BOTH): Breitbart!

NPR: This is NPR.

HOLT: Now that we've met the fact checkers -

³⁰ "The New York Times: American Newspaper," Encyclopaedia Britannica, <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-New-York-Times>>.

³¹ "Unrivaled Analysis for an Informed Decision. See past the spectacle with The Wall Street Journal. Get the trusted insights and analysis you need on the issues that matter. \$1 for 2 Months," The Wall Street Journal, 5 Nov. 2016, <https://buy.wsj.com/wsjpreelect16/?intrackingCode=aaqog99r&icid=WSJ_ON_PHP_ACQ_NA>.

³² Bill Adair and Angie Drobnic Holan, "The Principles of PolitiFact, PunditFact and the Truth-O-Meter," PolitiFact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 1 Nov. 2013, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/nov/01/principles-politifact-punditfact-and-truth-o-meter/>>.

³³ Allum Bokhari, "Meet the New Media Elites, Same as the Old Media Elites," Breitbart, 10 May 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2016/05/10/meet-new-media-elites-old-media-elites/>>.

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CLINTON: Mr Holt, Not to sound over prepared, but I have taken the liberty to bring my own fact checker this evening.³⁴ We have taken the home page of my website, HillaryClinton.com, and we've turned it into a fact-checker.³⁵

HC.com: Hi, I'm Hillary Clinton.com³⁶

HC & HC.COM air-HC-wave.

[The judges awkwardly shift over to make room]

HOLT: Let's begin with Round 1. Mr. Trump³⁷ Stop-and-frisk was ruled unconstitutional in New York, because it largely singled out black and Hispanic young men.³⁸

TRUMP: No, you're wrong. It went before a judge, who was a very against-police judge. It was taken away from her. And our mayor, our new mayor, refused to go forward with the case. They would have won an appeal. If you look at it, throughout the country, there are many places where it's allowed.³⁹

HOLT: The argument is that it's a form of racial profiling.⁴⁰ Let's hear what our fact checkers have to--⁴¹

(Trump cuts off Holt)

TRUMP: No, the argument is that we have to take the guns away from these people that have them and they are bad people that shouldn't have them.⁴²

HOLT: Mr Trump, let's see what our judges have to say. NPR?⁴³

NPR: Lester Holt was right, New York's Stop & Frisk policy was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge.⁴⁴

³⁴ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³⁵ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

³⁶ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

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³⁸ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

³⁹ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁴⁰ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁴¹ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁴² Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁴³ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁴⁴ Line taken from: Scott Horsley, "Fact Check: First Presidential Debate," NPR, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.npr.org/2016/09/27/495576599/fact-check-first-presidential-debate>>.

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NYTIMES: Although, mayor Michael R. Bloomberg appealed the ruling. After Bloomberg left office, new mayor Bill de Blasio dropped the litigation and repudiated the policy, mooting the further resolution of the issue by a higher court.⁴⁵

HOLT: Alright, moving on to round 2 -

HC.COM: If I could just cut in...

HOLT: Yes, HillaryClinton.com?

(HC.com holds up a red X)

HC.COM: Trump is wrong.^{46 47 48}

HOLT: All right. Let's take a look at TPP, otherwise known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Mr. Trump?⁴⁹

TRUMP: You want to approve Trans-Pacific Partnership. You were totally in favor of it. Then you heard what I was saying, how bad it is, and you said, I can't win that debate. But you know that if you did win, you would approve that, and that will be almost as bad as NAFTA. Nothing will ever top NAFTA.⁵⁰

CLINTON: Well, that is just not accurate.⁵¹

TRUMP: You called it the gold standard. You said it's the finest deal you've ever seen.⁵²

CLINTON: No.⁵³

⁴⁵ Line repurposed from: Charlie Savage, "Our Fact Checks of the First Debate," The New York Times, 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/fact-check-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁴⁶ Note: Unfortunately hillaryclinton.com did not keep their fact checker up permanently. The following two sources we see as sufficient representation for this line.

⁴⁷ Hillary Clinton, "So we have taken the home page of my website, HillaryClinton.com, and we've turned it into a fact-checker."

The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁴⁸ "The Briefing: Factchecks," 2016 Hillary for America, 4 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factchecks/2016/09/28/independent-fact-checkers-debunk-trumps-false-statements-during-mondays-debate/>>.

⁴⁹ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁵⁰ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁵¹ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁵² Line condensed from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁵³ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

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TRUMP: And then you heard what I said about it, and all of a sudden you were against it.⁵⁴

CLINTON: Well, Donald, I know you live in your own reality, but that is not the facts. The facts are -- I did say I *hoped* it would be a good deal, but when it was negotiated...

TRUMP: Not.

CLINTON: ... which I was not responsible for, I concluded it wasn't.⁵⁵

LESTER: Fact checkers?⁵⁶

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Mrs. Clinton did not add that caveat in a 2012 speech in Australia when she was secretary of state. She said at the time that "TPP sets the gold standard in trade agreements"⁵⁷

LESTER HOLT: She said that TPP "sets the gold standard?" not that she *hoped* it would set the gold standard?

WALL STREET JOURNAL: That's correct.⁵⁸

NYTIMES: In fact, the New York Times reports that Mrs. Clinton spoke more than 40 times in favor of the trade deal.⁵⁹

NPR: NPR agrees with the Times.⁶⁰

POLITIFACT: It's worth noting that at this point the deal was still under negotiation and because that was done behind closed doors, there's no way to know how much it changed.⁶¹

BREITBART (BOTH): Trump is right.

⁵⁴ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁵⁵ Above lines taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁵⁶ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁵⁷ Line taken from: Beth Reinhard, "Fact Check of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump's First Presidential Debate," The Wall Street Journal, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fact-check-of-hillary-clinton-and-donald-trumps-first-presidential-debate-1474953377>>.

⁵⁸ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁵⁹ Line repurposed from: Mark Landler, "Our Fact Checks of the First Debate," The New York Times, 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/fact-check-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁶⁰ Line interpreted from: Domenico Montanaro, "Fact Check: First Presidential Debate," NPR, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.npr.org/2016/09/27/495576599/fact-check-first-presidential-debate>>.

⁶¹ Line taken from: Linda Qiu, "Trump, Clinton debate fact-checks (a running collection)," Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#>>.

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BREITBART (KELLY): Clinton flip-flopped on TPP. CNN (!) counted 45 times Clinton pushed the deal.⁶²

HOLT: Next. Dare I bring up your tax returns, Mr. Trump?⁶³

TRUMP: You will learn more about Donald Trump by going down to the federal elections, where I filed a 104-page essentially financial statement of sorts, the forms that they have.⁶⁴ I don't mind releasing — I'm under a routine audit. And it'll be released. And — as soon as the audit's finished, it will be released.⁶⁵

HOLT: The IRS says an audit...

TRUMP: Excuse me.

HOLT: ... of your taxes — you're perfectly free to release your taxes during an audit. And so the question, does the public's right to know outweigh your personal...⁶⁶

CLINTON: So you've got to ask yourself, why won't he release his tax returns? And I think there may be a couple of reasons. First, maybe he's not as rich as—⁶⁷

WSJ: Excuse, I'd like to interrupt. This speculation. We can't fact-check hypotheticals^{68, 69}

CLINTON: Or maybe he's paid nothing in federal taxes, because—⁷⁰

TRUMP: That makes me smart.⁷¹

HOLT: Candidates—⁷²

⁶² Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, "Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate," *Breitbart*, 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

⁶³ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁶⁴ Line taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁶⁵ Line taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁶⁶ Above lines taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁶⁷ Line taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁶⁸ Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary, "Hypothetical," *Merriam-Webster since 1828*, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hypothetical>>.

⁶⁹ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁷⁰ Line repurposed from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁷¹ Line taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁷² Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

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CLINTON: So if he's paid zero, that means zero for troops, zero for vets, zero for—⁷³

TRUMP: I will release my tax returns⁷⁴ — when she releases her 33,000 e-mails that have been deleted—⁷⁵

HOLT: Candidates, candidates please. Judges?⁷⁶

POLITIFACT: Clinton says “He’s paid nothing in federal taxes”...⁷⁷[Records] show Trump didn’t pay income taxes in 1978 and 1979. But he did in 1975, 1976, and 1977.⁷⁸ We found little evidence to support Trump’s argument that [his referenced] financial disclosure [form] allows observers to ‘learn more’ than they would from a tax form.⁷⁹

BREITBART (SARAH): Holt says nothing about Clinton’s missing emails. [They’re not bothering] to fact-check Hillary Clinton’s false rebuttal, which is that she made a “mistake” (which she originally claimed was a mistake of using only one phone,⁸⁰

BREITBART (BOTH): when she in fact had 13!”⁸¹

HOLT: Well, this concludes—⁸²

BREITBART (SARAH): One more thing! Holt’s political affiliation has been a part of the pre-debate controversy.⁸³

⁷³ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), “Transcript of the First Debate,” [Federal News Service](http://www.federalnews.com), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁷⁴ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), “Transcript of the First Debate,” [Federal News Service](http://www.federalnews.com), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁷⁵ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0), “Transcript of the First Debate,” [Federal News Service](http://www.federalnews.com), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

⁷⁶ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁷⁷ Line taken from: Line taken from: Linda Qiu, “Trump, Clinton debate fact-checks (a running collection),” [Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#>>.

⁷⁸ Line taken from: Linda Qiu, “Trump, Clinton debate fact-checks (a running collection),” [Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#>>.

⁷⁹ Line repurposed from: Linda Qiu, “Trump, Clinton debate fact-checks (a running collection),” [Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize](http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#), 27 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/27/trump-clinton-first-debate-fact-checks/#>>.

⁸⁰ Line repurposed from: Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, “Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate,” [Breitbart](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/), 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

⁸¹ Line taken from: Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, “Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate,” [Breitbart](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/), 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

⁸² Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁸³ Line taken from: Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, “Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate,” [Breitbart](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/), 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

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TRUMP: Thank you!⁸⁴

BREITBART (SARAH): Trump called Holt a Democrat; he is actually a registered Republican.⁸⁵

TRUMP: What?⁸⁶

BREITBART (KELLY): And fun fact: Fox News' Chris Wallace is apparently a registered Democrat.⁸⁷

HOLT: Well I'm glad that's cleared up. This concludes FactCheck 2016, where nobody wins and the facts don't matter. See you in four years, assuming our country's still here in four years. I'm Lester Holt, goodnight.⁸⁸

[The scene fades on all the fact checkers arguing]

⁸⁴ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁸⁵ Line taken from: Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, "Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate," Breitbart, 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

⁸⁶ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

⁸⁷ Line taken from: Above lines taken from: Joel B. Pollack, "Fact Wreck: Fact-Checking the Fact-Checkers at First Debate," Breitbart, 26 Sep. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/26/fact-wreck-fact-checking-fact-checkers-first-debate/>>.

⁸⁸ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

VP Debate Tweets

[CNN Panel vid clip]

DONALD TRUMP: Wow, @CNN is so negative. Their panel is a joke, biased and very dumb. I'm turning to @FoxNews where we get a fair shake! Mike will do great⁸⁹

KAINE: Elaine, thank you for being here tonight, and, Governor Pence, welcome. I am so proud to be running with another strong, history-making woman.⁹⁰

HILLARY CLINTON: RT to let @TimKaine know you've got his back tonight. #VPDebate⁹¹

PENCE: Well, first off, thank you, Elaine, and thank you to — thank you to Norwood University for their wonderful hospitality. And, Senator Kaine, it's an honor to be here with you, as well. I also want to thank Donald Trump for making that call and inviting us to be a part of this ticket.⁹²

DONALD TRUMP: Both are looking good! Now we begin!⁹³

PENCE: For the last seven-and-a-half years, we've seen America's place in the world weakened.⁹⁴

HILLARY CLINTON: Thanks for the kind words, Mike.⁹⁵

⁸⁹ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "Wow, @CNN is so negative. Their panel is a joke, biased and very dumb. I'm turning to @FoxNews where we get a fair shake! Mike will do great," 4 Oct. 2016, 5:12PM, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783459936361512960), 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783459936361512960>>.

⁹⁰ Line condensed from: [The New York Times](#), "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," [Federal News Service](#), 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

⁹¹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "RT to let @TimKaine know you've got his back tonight. #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 5:48PM, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783468914487492609), 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783468914487492609>>.

⁹² Line condensed from: [The New York Times](#), "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," [Federal News Service](#), 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

⁹³ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "Both are looking good! Now we begin!," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:05PM, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783473247694102528), 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783473247694102528>>.

⁹⁴ Line taken from: [The New York Times](#), "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," [Federal News Service](#), 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

⁹⁵ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "Thanks for the kind words, Mike. #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:08PM, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783473957617954820), 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783473957617954820>>.

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KAINE: We have a son deployed overseas in the Marine Corps right now. We trust Hillary Clinton as president and commander-in-chief, but the thought of Donald Trump as commander-in-chief scares us to death.⁹⁶

DONALD TRUMP: "@RoadkingL: @mike_pence Wow, Kaine couldn't go 12 seconds without a lie. Marines and military are scared of the liar running. #bengazi"⁹⁷

HILLARY CLINTON: "I can't imagine how Governor Pence can defend the insult-driven, selfish, me-first style of Donald Trump." —@TimKaine #VPDebate⁹⁸

DONALD TRUMP: "@Susiesentinel: #pence is so much more likeable than Kaine #cbsnews @realDonaldTrump"⁹⁹

HILLARY CLINTON: Reminder: Donald Trump may not have paid any federal income taxes for 18 years, but wants to give his family a \$4 billion tax cut. #VPDebate¹⁰⁰

DONALD TRUMP: "@Jnelson52722: @realDonaldTrump @Susiesentinel Kaine looks like an evil crook out of the Batman movies"¹⁰¹

DONALD TRUMP: @mike_pence is doing a great job - so far, no contest!¹⁰²

KAINE: Hillary and I have a plan that's on the table that's a "you're hired" plan. The Trump plan is a different plan. It's a "you're fired" plan.¹⁰³

⁹⁶ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

⁹⁷ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "'@RoadkingL: @mike_pence Wow, Kaine couldn't go 12 seconds without a lie. Marines and military are scared of the liar running. #bengazi'," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:12PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783474976842059777>>.

⁹⁸ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "'I can't imagine how Governor Pence can defend the insult-driven, selfish, me-first style of Donald Trump.' —@TimKaine #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:12PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783474948845305856>>.

⁹⁹ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "'@Susiesentinel: #pence is so much more likeable than Kaine #cbsnews @realDonaldTrump'," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:16PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783475795238858752>>.

¹⁰⁰ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "Reminder: Donald Trump may not have paid any federal income taxes for 18 years, but wants to give his family a \$4 billion tax cut. #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:24PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783477911085080576>>.

¹⁰¹ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "'@Jnelson52722: @realDonaldTrump @Susiesentinel Kaine looks like an evil crook out of the Batman movies'," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:28PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783478918087004160>>.

¹⁰² Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "'@mike_pence is doing a great job - so far, no contest!'," 4 Oct. 2016, 6:30PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783479483873583105>>.

¹⁰³ Line condensed from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

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PENCE: Well, first, let me say, I appreciated the “you’re hired,” “you’re fired” thing, Senator. You use that a whole lot.¹⁰⁴

DONALD TRUMP: “@ARSenMissyIrvn: I want a “you're fired” president with people in Govt who are WASTING my tax \$'s. @realDonaldTrump”¹⁰⁵

HILLARY CLINTON: Yes, Trump and Pence are running an insult-driven campaign. Donald's literally doing it right now. #VPDebate.¹⁰⁶ Podium Emoji.

PENCE: Law enforcement in this country is a force for good. They are the — they truly are people that put their lives on the line every single day.¹⁰⁷

DONALD TRUMP: I agree Mike - thank you to all of our law enforcement officers! #VPDebate. Podium Emoji.¹⁰⁸

HILLARY CLINTON: Wonder if Trump has shown Pence his “secret plan” to defeat ISIS. We’re still waiting. #VPDebate¹⁰⁹

DONALD TRUMP: CLINTON’S FLAILING SYRIA POLICY WAS JUDGED A FAILURE:
<http://bit.ly/2ddb08P> #VPDebate¹¹⁰

HILLARY CLINTON: Mike Pence claiming that Trump supports our troops and veterans when he insults them and probably doesn't pay taxes is laughable. #VPDebate¹¹¹

¹⁰⁴ Line taken from: The New York Times, “Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates,” Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016,

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0.

¹⁰⁵ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), “@ARSenMissyIrvn: I want a “you're fired” president with people in Govt who are WASTING my tax \$'s. @realDonaldTrump,” 4 Oct. 2016, 6:33PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783480144614658048>.

¹⁰⁶ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), “Yes, Trump and Pence are running an insult-driven campaign. Donald's literally doing it right now. #VPDebate,” 4 Oct. 2016, 6:42PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783482536701915136>.

¹⁰⁷ Line taken from: The New York Times, “Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates,” Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016,

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0.

¹⁰⁸ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), “I agree Mike - thank you to all of our law enforcement officers! #VPDebate,” 4 Oct. 2016, 6:50PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016,

<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783484550861037568>.

¹⁰⁹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), “Wonder if Trump has shown Pence his “secret plan” to defeat ISIS. We’re still waiting. #VPDebate,” 4 Oct. 2016, 6:53PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016,

<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783485209807298560>.

¹¹⁰ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), “CLINTON’S FLAILING SYRIA POLICY WAS JUDGED A FAILURE: <http://bit.ly/2ddb08P> #VPDebate,” 4 Oct. 2016, 7:05PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016,

<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783488370110451712>.

¹¹¹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), “Mike Pence claiming that Trump supports our troops and veterans when he insults them and probably doesn't pay taxes is laughable. #VPDebate,” 4 Oct. 2016, 7:07PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783488663585972224>.

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DONALD TRUMP: ICYMI: PENCE: I RAN A STATE THAT WORKED; KAINE RAN A STATE THAT FAILED. <http://bit.ly/2dHIYSr>¹¹²

DONALD TRUMP: Sanctions Relief From Clinton-Obama Iran Nuclear Deal Likely Go to Terrorists <http://bit.ly/2dqaJVp> #BigLeagueTruth #VPDebate¹¹³

DONALD TRUMP: CLINTON'S CLOSE TIES TO PUTIN DESERVE SCRUTINY: <http://bit.ly/2dvfUPV> #VPDebate¹¹⁴

KAINE: You both have said — you both have said Vladimir Putin is a better leader than the president.¹¹⁵

PENCE: Well...¹¹⁶

HILLARY CLINTON: Actually, @mike_pence, your running mate did say that. <http://hrc.io/2dD2pQ9> #VPDebate¹¹⁷

DONALD TRUMP: "@AnyoneTennis: @timkaine Cannot believe how often the moderator interrupts #Pence vs the other guy...so obvious @FoxNews" So true!¹¹⁸

HILLARY CLINTON: "We trust American women." Thank you, @TimKaine. #VPDebate¹¹⁹

¹¹² Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "ICYMI: PENCE: I RAN A STATE THAT WORKED; KAINE RAN A STATE THAT FAILED. <http://bit.ly/2dHIYSr>," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:12PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/783489985718517760>>.

¹¹³ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "Sanctions Relief From Clinton-Obama Iran Nuclear Deal Likely Go to Terrorists: <http://bit.ly/2dqaJVp> #BigLeagueTruth #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:15PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783490731964981248>>.

¹¹⁴ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "CLINTON'S CLOSE TIES TO PUTIN DESERVE SCRUTINY: <http://bit.ly/2dvfUPV> #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:16PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783490959027732484>>.

¹¹⁵ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

¹¹⁶ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the 2016 Debate Between the Running Mates," Federal News Service, 5 Oct. 2016, 1 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/06/us/politics/vice-president-transcript.html?_r=0>.

¹¹⁷ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "Actually, @mike_pence, your running mate did say that. <http://hrc.io/2dD2pQ9> #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:18PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783491578736283649>>.

¹¹⁸ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "'@AnyoneTennis: @timkaine Cannot believe how often the moderator interrupts #Pence vs the other guy...so obvious @FoxNews' So true!," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:28PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783494014276218884>>.

¹¹⁹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton), "'We trust American women.' Thank you, @TimKaine. #VPDebate," 4 Oct. 2016, 7:30PM, Twitter, 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/hillaryclinton/status/783494516363890688>>.

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DONALD TRUMP: “Mike Pence won big. We should all be proud of Mike!”¹²⁰

[DONALD TRUMP and HILLARY CLINTON drop invisible mics. We hear the tweet sound.]

¹²⁰ Line taken from: Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), “Mike Pence won big. We should all be proud of Mike!” 4 Oct. 2016, 7:36PM, [Twitter](https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783495937708527616), 1 Nov. 2016, <<https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/783495937708527616>>.

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In My Day¹²¹

[George H.W. Bush is on stage. Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter enter.]

BILL CLINTON: Hiya!

CARTER: How ya doin' George

BUSH41: Bill! Jimmy! I'm so glad you could make it.

BILL CLINTON: There was a long line at the beer store.

CARTER: They were outta peanuts.¹²²

(George W. Bush enters.)

BUSH41: W! I didn't know you were coming tonight!

BUSH43: I know Dad. I had promised Jeb I'd watch the debate with him tonight, but I bailed. Just too sad.

BILL CLINTON: Settle down y'all. The debate's going to start any minute.

BUSH41: If you can even call it a debate. They don't even talk about anything any more.

CARTER: Yeah... Nothing like the good old days... Not that we were saints all the time...

[The song begins]

CARTER: In '76, ties to Watergate got Ford nixed¹²³

BUSH41: And in '88, Dukakis made a fool of himself in a tank^{124 125}

CLINTON: In '92, Perot made mince meat out of you¹²⁶

BUSH43: I still don't know how I got here^{127 128}

¹²¹ Following scene written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team. Special credit for song lyrics goes to composer Andrian Bridges.

¹²² Alisha's Art, "Jimmy Carter's Speech at the Peanut Festival in Plains, Georgia 2016," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxAJ0IA2C2o), 24 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxAJ0IA2C2o>>.

¹²³ "Watergate, Gerald Ford and the Nixon Pardon," [The White House Historical Association](https://www.whitehousehistory.org/teacher-resources/watergate-gerald-ford-and-the-nixon-pardon), 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/teacher-resources/watergate-gerald-ford-and-the-nixon-pardon>>.

¹²⁴ Bob Drogin, "How Presidential Race Was Won-and Lost : Michael S. Dukakis," [Los Angeles Times](http://articles.latimes.com/1988-11-10/news/mn-299_1_dukakis-lost-reelection), 10 Nov. 1988, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://articles.latimes.com/1988-11-10/news/mn-299_1_dukakis-lost-reelection>.

¹²⁵ FiveThirtyEight, "Film: How To Destroy A Presidential Candidate," [FiveThirtyEight](http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/film-how-to-destroy-a-presidential-candidate/), 10 Aug. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/film-how-to-destroy-a-presidential-candidate/>>.

¹²⁶ Paul F. Horvitz, "Perot Wins A Fresh Look From Voters," [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/1992/10/13/news/13iht-camp_1.html), 13 Oct. 1992, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/1992/10/13/news/13iht-camp_1.html>.

¹²⁷ Wade Payson-Denney, "So, who really won? What the Bush v. Gore studies showed," [CNN politics](http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/31/politics/bush-gore-2000-election-results-studies/), 31 Oct. 2015, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/31/politics/bush-gore-2000-election-results-studies/>>.

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BUSH41: (spoken) It's all right son. I'm still proud of you.¹²⁹

(Sung): Because at least you debated on

ALL: Substantive issues

CLINTON: We used to talk about transportation¹³⁰

BUSH41: We both agreed it would speed up our nation¹³¹

BOTH: At least that's how I remember it back in my day

CARTER: We debated new technology in energy¹³²

BUSH43: Clean coal^{133 134}, ethanol, and fusion^{135 136 137} add diversity¹³⁸

BOTH: Just one of the issues that I took on back in my day

BUSH41: Enough with all the salacious crap

CARTER: All I hear about these days is who lied more on this or that

CLINTON: Whatever happened to discussion of privacy

BUSH43: Versus my right to keep you safe from all our enemies¹³⁹

BOTH: At least that was a conversation we used to have back in my day

¹²⁸ Patrick Healy, "Debate: What Al Gore's First Debate Against George W. Bush Can Teach Hillary Clinton," The New York Times, 25 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/25/us/politics/george-w-bush-al-gore-2000-presidential-debate.html?_r=2>.

¹²⁹ Frank Bruni, "THE INAUGURATION: THE FAMILY; Proud Father and Son Bask in History's Glow," The New York Times, 21 Jan. 2001, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/01/21/us/the-inauguration-the-family-proud-father-and-son-bask-in-history-s-glow.html>>.

¹³⁰ Associated Press, "Clinton Signs Transportation Spending Bill," Los Angeles Times, 10 Oct. 1999, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://articles.latimes.com/1999/oct/10/news/mn-20970>>.

¹³¹ "October 15, 1992 First Half Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=october-15-1992-first-half-debate-transcript>>.

¹³² "Carter-Ford Presidential Debates: on Energy & Oil," OnTheIssues.org, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/Carter-Ford_Energy + Oil.htm>.

¹³³ "History of Climate Change in Presidential Debates," Climate Silence, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://climatesilence.org/data/debates/#.WB-RVy0rLct>>.

¹³⁴ "October 11, 2000 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://debates.org/index.php?page=october-11-2000-debate-transcript>>.

¹³⁵ "Energy for America's Future," The White House: President George W. Bush, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/infocus/energy/>>.

¹³⁶ msnbc.com, "Bush v. Kerry at a glance: How Republican, Democrat stand on key issues," Politics on NBCNEWS.com, 22 Sep. 2004, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nbcnews.com/id/4448630/ns/politics/t/bush-vs-kerry-glance/#.WB-SoS0rLct>>.

¹³⁷ "October 8, 2004 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=october-8-2004-debate-transcript>>.

¹³⁸ Michael T. Klare, "The Bush/Cheney Energy Strategy: Implications for U.S. Foreign and Military Policy," Information Clearing House: News You Won't Find on CNN, 26-17 May 2003, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article4458.htm>>.

¹³⁹ "October 8, 2004 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=october-8-2004-debate-transcript>>.

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BUSH41: And who could forget about the war on drugs¹⁴⁰

CLINTON: Or the censorship of songs^{141 142 143} promoting lives of thugs¹⁴⁴

CARTER: Church and state¹⁴⁵¹⁴⁶

BUSH43: And prayer in schools^{147 148} were issues discussed

ALL: back in my day

CARTER: What happened to our democracy?

CLINTON: You know my wife would be great talking policy¹⁴⁹

BUSH43: I swear that was a prerequisite for the presidency

BUSH41: So let's get back to talking education¹⁵⁰

CARTER: Inflation¹⁵¹, segregation¹⁵², or a new space station¹⁵³

¹⁴⁰ "The Presidential Debate; Transcript of the First TV Debate Between Bush and Dukakis," The New York Times, 26 Sep. 1988, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/1988/09/26/us/presidential-debate-transcript-first-tv-debate-between-bush-dukakis.html?pagewanted=all>>.

¹⁴¹ Rolf Potts, "The Great Rap Censorship Scare of 1990: The Geto Boys rattled America's cultural gatekeepers, making N.W.A and 2 Live Crew look like a society luncheon," cuepoint, 25 May 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://medium.com/cuepoint/the-great-rap-censorship-scare-of-1990-115edc69a62f#.8qc1trlgz>>.

¹⁴² Nick Gillespie, "Remembering the Gores and the PMRC," Hit & Run Blog through reasons.com, 11 Jul. 2007, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://reason.com/blog/2007/07/11/remembering-the-gores-and-the>>.

¹⁴³ Zach Schonfeld, "Parental Advisory Forever: An Oral History of the PMRC's War on Dirty Lyrics," Newsweek, 19 Sep. 2015, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.newsweek.com/2015/10/09/oral-history-tipper-gores-war-explicit-rock-lyrics-dee-snider-373103.html>>.

¹⁴⁴ Michael P. Jeffries, *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip-Hop*, University of Chicago Press through Google: Books, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://books.google.com/books?id=a3bllG3lrswC&pg=PA151&lpg=PA151&dq=tipper+gore+thug&source=bl&ots=YtMCzOdUmx&sig=hL12VKeDNMlkRTOk3ViqvgCYFPg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiL5Ly5sI3QAhWkgVQKHjgA6IQ6AEIVzAK#v=onepage&q=tipper%20gore%20thug&f=false>>.

¹⁴⁵ "October 16, 1996 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=october-16-1996-debate-transcript>>.

¹⁴⁶ "September 21, 1980 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=september-21-1980-debate-transcript>>.

¹⁴⁷ "Al Gore on Education," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/Celeb/Al_Gore_Education.htm>.

¹⁴⁸ "U.S. Political Parties on Public School Prayer," ReligiousTolerance.org: Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.religioustolerance.org/ps_pra4.htm>.

¹⁴⁹ Danielle Kurtzleben, "Bill Clinton Counters The Greatest Criticisms Of His Wife In DNC Speech," NPR, 27 Jul. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.npr.org/2016/07/27/487607402/bill-clinton-counters-the-greatest-criticisms-of-his-wife-in-dnc-speech>>.

¹⁵⁰ "October 11, 2000 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://debates.org/index.php?page=october-11-2000-debate-transcript>>.

¹⁵¹ "1976 Presidential Debates," All Politics: CNN TIME on The Debates '96, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://edition.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1996/debates/history/1976/index.shtml>>.

¹⁵² "The Carter-Ford Presidential Debates, Sept.-Oct. 1976," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.ontheissues.org/Carter-Ford.htm>>.

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CLINTON: Affirmative action¹⁵⁴ was a real discussion

ALL: In my day

BUSH43: I had a way to fix social security¹⁵⁵

BUSH41: I won a debate on the death penalty¹⁵⁶

CLINTON: Israel¹⁵⁷

CARTER and Palestine¹⁵⁸

ALL: Were issues back in my day

ALL: In my day

BUSH41: There was decorum

ALL: In my day

CLINTON: An open forum

ALL: In my day

We used to get shit done

CARTER: We talked about passing constitutional amendments¹⁵⁹

BUSH43: Or at least new laws to help our country's continued ascendance

OBAMA (strolls in): Even though I could just blame the whole mess on you¹⁶⁰

Hope and change included some policy too¹⁶¹

ALL: Remember the way we used to talk back in my day.

¹⁵³ John M. Logsdon, "Ten Presidents and NASA," NASA, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.nasa.gov/50th/50th_magazine/10presidents.html>.

¹⁵⁴ "October 16, 1996 Debate Transcript," Commission on Presidential Debates, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.debates.org/index.php?page=october-16-1996-debate-transcript>>.

¹⁵⁵ sept 11vids, "Presidential Debate 2004," YouTube, 4 Nov. 2006, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxQAoKL7EBY>>.

¹⁵⁶ Roger Simon, "Questions that kill candidates' careers," Politico, 20 Apr. 2007, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politico.com/story/2007/04/questions-that-kill-candidates-careers-003617>>.

¹⁵⁷ Oslo Accord, "Shattered Dreams of Peace: The Negotiations," PBS: Frontline, 13 Sept. 1993, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/oslo/negotiations/>>.

¹⁵⁸ Scott McConnell, "The history of the Camp David Accords reveals that even a sympathetic president could not stand up for the Palestinians," Modoweiss, 6 Mar. 2011, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://mondoweiss.net/2011/03/the-history-of-the-camp-david-accords-reveals-that-the-president-is-incapable-of-standing-up-for-the-palestinians/>>.

¹⁵⁹ "1976 Presidential Debates," All Politics: CNN TIME on The Debates '96, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://edition.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1996/debates/history/1976/index.shtml>>.

¹⁶⁰ Rusty Weiss, "The Blame Game at Its Finest: 21 Times Obama Has Passed the Buck," The Political Insider, 11 Jun. 2014, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.thepoliticalinsider.com/the-blame-game-at-its-finest-21-times-obama-has-passed-the-buck/>>.

¹⁶¹ Jesse Gordon, "The Blueprint for Change: Barack Obama's Plan for America (Book Review by OnTheIssues.org)," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, Feb. 2008, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/Blueprint_Obama.htm>.

Keep you in Suspense

WALLACE: Mr. Trump, I want to ask you about one last question in this topic. You have been warning at rallies recently that this election is rigged and that Hillary Clinton is in the process of trying to steal it from you. Will absolutely accept the result of this election?¹⁶²

TRUMP: I will look at it at the time. I'm not looking at anything now. I'll look at it at the time.

What I've seen — what I've seen is so bad. First of all, the media is so dishonest and so corrupt, and the pile-on is so amazing.¹⁶³

WALLACE: But, sir, there's...¹⁶⁴

TRUMP: If you look — excuse me, Chris — if you look at your voter rolls, you will see millions of people that are registered to vote — millions, this isn't coming from me — this is coming from Pew Report and other places — millions of people that are registered to vote that shouldn't be registered to vote.¹⁶⁵

WALLACE: But...¹⁶⁶

TRUMP: Chris, she should never have been allowed to run for the presidency based on what she did with e-mails and so many other things.¹⁶⁷

WALLACE: But, sir, there is a tradition in this country — in fact, one of the prides of this country — is the peaceful transition of power and that no matter how hard-fought a campaign is, that at the end of the campaign that the loser concedes to the winner. Not saying that you're necessarily going to be the loser or the winner, but that the loser concedes to the winner and that the country comes together, in part, for the good of the country. Are you saying you're not prepared now to commit to that principle?¹⁶⁸

¹⁶² Line condensed from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶³ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶⁴ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶⁵ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶⁶ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶⁷ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁶⁸ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

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TRUMP: What I'm saying is that I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense. OK?¹⁶⁹

CLINTON: Well, Chris, let me respond to that, because that's horrifying. You know, every time Donald thinks things are not going in his direction, he claims whatever it is, is rigged against him.¹⁷⁰

He lost the Iowa caucus. He lost the Wisconsin primary. He said the Republican primary was rigged against him. Then Trump University gets sued for fraud and racketeering; he claims the court system and the federal judge is rigged against him. There was even a time when he didn't get an Emmy for his TV program three years in a row and he started tweeting that the Emmys were rigged against him.¹⁷¹

TRUMP: Should have gotten it.¹⁷²

(LAUGHTER)

CLINTON: This is — this is a mindset. This is how Donald thinks. And it's funny, but it's also really troubling.¹⁷³

[HILLARY CLINTON & WALLACE exit]

DONALD TRUMP *[Mimicked by Lawrence]*: I would like to promise and pledge to all of my voters and supporters and to all of the people of the United States that I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election, if I win.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁹ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁷⁰ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁷¹ Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁷² Line taken from: [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁷³ [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html), "Transcript of the Third Debate," [CQ Transcriptwire](http://www.cqtranscriptwire.com), 30 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/us/politics/third-debate-transcript.html>>.

¹⁷⁴ Line taken from: Jeremy Diamond, "Donald Trump: 'I will totally accept' election results 'if I win'," [CNN politics](http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/20/politics/donald-trump-i-will-totally-accept-election-results-if-i-win/), 20 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/20/politics/donald-trump-i-will-totally-accept-election-results-if-i-win/>>.

Third Parties

AMY GOODMAN: Good morning, I am Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! I would like to turn our attention to the first Presidential Debate.¹⁷⁵ While the Green Party's Jill Stein was escorted off the campus at Hofstra, what would it sound like if she actually participated in the debate? Well, today, as is our tradition, Democracy Now! expands the debate. Debate moderator Lester Holt will ask Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump questions. After their responses, we stop the tape to give Dr. Jill Stein a chance to answer the same question from her own podium. We invited Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson to join us, as well, but—¹⁷⁶

GARY: I can't make it.¹⁷⁷

AMY GOODMAN: —he couldn't make it.¹⁷⁸ Dr. Jill Stein, we'll start with you.¹⁷⁹

[BLAKE enters, bringing a podium for Jill Stein]

DR. JILL STEIN *[Mimicked by Blake]*: So, I'll start just by thanking Democracy Now! for holding a real debate, which the American people are clamoring for. Over 75 percent of Americans are saying they want an open debate. The two candidates of the establishment parties are the most disliked and untrusted in our history, so we owe the American people a full debate.¹⁸⁰

AMY GOODMAN: NBC News host Lester Holt, take it away.¹⁸¹

LESTER HOLT: Thank you, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: Thank YOU, Lester.

LESTER HOLD: We're not actually in the same place at the same time.

¹⁷⁵ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

¹⁷⁶ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁷⁷ Line interpreted from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁷⁸ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁷⁹ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

¹⁸⁰ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁸¹ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

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AMY GOODMAN: That's all right.¹⁸²

LESTER HOLT: We're calling this opening segment "Achieving Prosperity." And central to that is jobs. There are two economic realities in America today. Beginning with you, Secretary Clinton, why are you a better choice than your opponent to create the kinds of jobs that will put more money into the pockets of American workers?¹⁸³

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, thank you, Lester, and thanks to Hofstra for hosting us.

The central question in this election is really what kind of country we want to be and what kind of future we'll build together. First, we have to build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. That starts with raising the national minimum wage and also guarantee, finally, equal pay for women's work. How are we going to do it? We're going to do it by having the wealthy pay their fair share and close the corporate loopholes.¹⁸⁴

LESTER HOLT: Secretary Clinton, thank you. Mr. Trump, the same question to you. It's about putting money—more money into the pockets of American workers. You have up to two minutes.¹⁸⁵

DONALD TRUMP: Thank you, Lester.

Our jobs are fleeing the country. They're going to Mexico. a friend of mine who builds plants said it's the eighth wonder of the world. They're building some of the biggest plants anywhere in the world, some of the most sophisticated...¹⁸⁶

[BLAKE signals to booth to play Jill Stein. Blake mimics.]

JILL *[MIMIC]*: I think Donald Trump knows what he's talking about, about the offshoring of jobs, because, in fact, Donald Trump has offshored all of his jobs—¹⁸⁷

TRUMP: Wrong!¹⁸⁸

¹⁸² Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

¹⁸³ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁸⁴ Line condensed from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁸⁵ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁸⁶ Line condensed from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁸⁷ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁸⁸ Line interpreted from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

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JILL: –aside from his real estate. All of the products that he manufactures and markets, in fact, are produced offshore.¹⁸⁹

LESTER: Excuse me. I'm sorry, Dr. Stein, you were not actually part of the official debate as The Commission on Presidential Debates requires a 15% national polling average¹⁹⁰ for participation.

AMY: And Mr. Trump, as these debates are happening on different dates, please restrict your objections to Dr. Stein's answers to Twitter.

TRUMP: Lester, this is my two minutes.

LESTER: Yes, you're right. Please continue, Mr. Trump.¹⁹¹

TRUMP: Under my plan, I'll be reducing taxes tremendously, from 35 percent to 15 percent for companies, small and big businesses. That's going to be a job creator like we haven't seen since Ronald Reagan. It's going to be a beautiful thing to watch. Companies will come. New companies will start. And I look very, very much forward to doing it.¹⁹²

[BLAKE now becomes JILL STEIN, no video]

AMY GOODMAN: Dr. Jill Stein?¹⁹³

DR. JILL STEIN: My campaign is calling for a Green New Deal, which is an emergency jobs program that will create 20 million good-wage, living-wage jobs as part of solving the emergency of climate change. So we—we call for 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2030, in time to actually solve the climate crisis.

And in addition, 100 percent renewable energy makes wars for oil obsolete. And we call for cutting the military budget from this bloated, uh, dangerous, uh budget, in fact, which is bankrupting us, and putting our dollars into true security here at home.¹⁹⁴

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton?

¹⁸⁹ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁹⁰ "The Commission on Presidential Debates: An Overview," Commission on Presidential Debates, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://debates.org/index.php?page=overview>>.

¹⁹¹ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

¹⁹² Line condensed from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁹³ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

¹⁹⁴ Line condensed from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

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HILLARY CLINTON: Well as the only candidate here who has actually served in office-

JILL STEIN: Actually I was twice elected to town meeting in Lexington, Massachusetts.¹⁹⁵

HILLARY CLINTON: I know how to really work to get new jobs and to get exports that help to create more new jobs.¹⁹⁶

DONALD TRUMP: But you haven't done it in 30 years or 26 years, any number you want to—

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I've been a senator, Donald.

DONALD TRUMP: You haven't done it. You haven't done it.

HILLARY CLINTON: And I have been a secretary of state.

DONALD TRUMP: Excuse me.

HILLARY CLINTON: And I have done a lot—

DONALD TRUMP: Your husband signed NAFTA, which was one of the worst things that ever happened to the manufacturing industry.

CLINTON: Well, that's your opinion.¹⁹⁷

AMY GOODMAN: Jill Stein?¹⁹⁸

DR. JILL STEIN: So, clearly more heat than light coming out of much of the discussion in last night's debate.

In addition to establishing an emergency jobs program, we need to do another major initiative, and that is to end the predatory student loan debt, which has basically held an entire generation hostage, unable to actually participate in the economy and create a decent future for themselves. So we call for bailing out the students, as the Democrats and Republicans bailed out Wall Street.

[HILLARY shakes head NO]

¹⁹⁵ "Meet Jill Stein," *Jill 2016*, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.jill2016.com/about>>.

¹⁹⁶ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

¹⁹⁷ Above lines taken from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

¹⁹⁸ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," *Democracy Now!*, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

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DR JILL STEIN: After Wall Street had crashed the economy through their waste, fraud, and abuse, we say it's about time to bail out the victims of that abuse. This would be the stimulus package of our dreams.¹⁹⁹

AMY GOODMAN: Dr. Jill Stein, joining Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in Democracy Now!'s special, "Expanding the Debate," based on last night's debate at Hofstra University, the first presidential debate. This is Democracy Now! This is what democracy sounds like. Back with the debate in a minute.²⁰⁰

[TRUMP, CLINTON, and HOLT exit. Suddenly, funky music starts playing. GARY JOHNSON enters.]

AMY GOODMAN: Thank you for finally joining us! It's Gary Johnson, the nominee for the Libertarian Party.^{201 202}

[The video starts play]

GARY JOHNSON *[video, starting as a mimic, but the mimic falls away with interruption]*: Libertarians are fiscally conservative, and socially they really don't give a damn, as long as you don't force your social whatever it is on anybody else. I do not support a federal minimum wage.²⁰³

AMY GOODMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Johnson... you don't support a minimum wage at all?

AMANDA: Well, Gary believes that increasing the minimum wage means prices go up, and ultimately, consumers would pay for it. He doesn't want the government to intervene.^{204 205}

GARY JOHNSON: I do not believe in the death penalty. I absolutely support a woman's right to choose. Deporting 11 million illegal immigrants, I think, is a crazy notion. I think that we should embrace immigration. Libertarians are non-interventionist. The fact that we militarily intervene in

¹⁹⁹ Above lines taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

²⁰⁰ Line taken from: "Expanding the Debate: Jill Stein "Debates" Clinton & Trump in Democracy Now! Special - Part 1," Democracy Now!, 27 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/27/expanding_the_debate_jill_stein_debates>.

²⁰¹ "Video: Meet Gary Johnson and Bill Weld," Johnson/Weld 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.johnsonweld.com/about>>.

²⁰² Above Lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁰³ Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

²⁰⁴ HuffPost Live, "Gary Johnson: Minimum Wage Is A Non-Issue," YouTube, 29 Jan. 2014, 2 Nov. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQe_48ALjLQ>.

²⁰⁵ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

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other countries' affairs, uh, I think has the unintended consequence of making things less safe in the world.²⁰⁶

AMY GOODMAN: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Johnson. Non-interventionist? What about Syria? What about— I'm sorry— Aleppo?

AMANDA: The Aleppo moment was blown of proportion. Gary Johnson knows that there's a crisis in Syria.²⁰⁷ He feels horrible about that blunder.²⁰⁸ He believes that the United States must partner with Russia to diplomatically improve the situation there.^{209 210}

JILL STEIN: The Green Party is calling for a foreign policy that goes back to the drawing board because our current policy is based on economic and military domination. We need a foreign policy based on international law, human rights and diplomacy.²¹¹

GARY JOHNSON: Talking about marriage equality and, uh, gay rights, Libertarians have been at the forefront of this since '71, since the inception of the Libertarian party.²¹²

AMY GOODMAN: Haha, what?!

AMANDA: Libertarians hold that each individual has the right to live life in whatever manner they choose.²¹³ Now, if I may continue....²¹⁴

GARY JOHNSON: We need to end the drug war.²¹⁵

DR. JILL STEIN: It's racist!²¹⁶

[everyone looks at Jill Stein]

²⁰⁶ Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

²⁰⁷ David Wright, "Gary Johnson: 'What is Aleppo?'," CNN, 8 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/08/politics/gary-johnson-aleppo/>>.

²⁰⁸ Mark Halperin, "Gary Johnson: 'I Feel Horrible' About Aleppo Answer," YouTube, 8 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3SNLPfVGt4>>.

²⁰⁹ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²¹⁰ Eugene Scott, "Gary Johnson: Working 'hand in hand with Russia' will solve Syria crisis," CNN politics, 7 Oct. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/07/politics/gary-johnson-russia-syria-foreign-policy-address/>>.

²¹¹ Line taken from: "Jill Stein on War & Peace," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 9 May 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Jill_Stein_War + Peace.htm>.

²¹² Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

²¹³ Political Party Platforms, "Libertarian Party Platform of 1972: The Party of Principle," The American Presidency Project, 17 Jun. 1972, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=29615>>.

²¹⁴ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²¹⁵ Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

²¹⁶ "Jill Stein on Drugs," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 9 May, 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Jill_Stein_Drugs.htm>.

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JILL: I'm just agreeing that we should end the drug war. We can continue.^{217 218}

GARY JOHNSON: If I could wave a magic wand, I would eliminate income tax, I would eliminate corporate tax. I would abolish the IRS because it would no longer be needed to collect those taxes. And I would, uh, replace it all with one federal consumption tax.²¹⁹

AMY GOODMAN: WAIT! Are you high?

AMANDA: No, I mean, I think not right now, but he does support marijuana legalization.²²⁰

AMY GOODMAN: And what is a consumption tax?

AMANDA: Well a consumption tax would be a higher sales tax, on the federal level, instead of on the state level as exists now.^{221 222}

JILL STEIN: Which would disproportionately affect poor people and the middle class. Those who live paycheck to paycheck would be taxed on nearly all their income while the richest 1% who, in fact, spend only a small fraction of their income would effectively be taxed at a lower rate. That is unacceptable.^{223 224 225}

GARY JOHNSON: When you watch television, when you read the newspaper, there're only two parties running. Democrats and Republicans. Well that's not true.²²⁶

²¹⁷ "Jill Stein on Drugs," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 9 May, 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Jill_Stein_Drugs.htm>.

²¹⁸ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²¹⁹ Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

²²⁰ "Gary Johnson on Marijuana," The Politics and Elections Portal, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://2016.presidential-candidates.org/Johnson/?on=marijuana>>.

²²¹ "Gary Johnson on Tax Reform," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Gary_Johnson_Tax_Reform.htm>.

²²² Above lines written by THE DEBATED cast and creative team.

²²³ Note: This line was created by THE DEBATES cast and creative team as a tool for creating a debate that did not actually occur. Jill Stein did not say this line and we are not sure what her exact opinion would be. This is our educated guess given what she said in the Democracy Now! Debate and the following two sources.

²²⁴ "Jill Stein on Tax Reform," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Jill_Stein_Tax_Reform.htm>.

²²⁵ Mike Moffatt, "Can a National Sales Tax Replace Income Taxes in the U.S.?", About Education, 9 Jun. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://economics.about.com/cs/taxpolicy/a/fairtax_4.htm>.

²²⁶ Line taken from: CNN, "What Libertarian Gary Johnson believes in 2 minutes," YouTube, 29 Aug. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viP1WzIYPM0>>.

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DR. JILL STEIN: You know, I have to agree with Gary Johnson.²²⁷ The corporate media has kept third party candidates out of the conversation.²²⁸

AMY GOODMAN: And why is that?

GARY JOHNSON: Well Amy, when the League of Woman Voters ran the debates, any candidate on a majority of state ballots was permitted to participate.²²⁹

DR. JILL STEIN: And now it's run by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which is controlled by the Democratic and Republican Parties!^{230 231}

GARY JOHNSON: She's right. And now that they run the debates, all candidates are required to have a national polling average of 15%.²³²

AMY GOODMAN: And that's a steep threshold for a new party.

JILL STEIN: Right, 15% is steep and they should be included. But another goal of third party candidates is to reach 5% of the national popular vote so they can be classified as an official minor party so that next election cycle they qualify for federal campaign matching funds.²³³ Which would obviously give them a lot more resources.²³⁴

[music, CAMARA enters as Evan McMullin]

EVAN MCMULLIN: Gary and Jill aren't the only third party candidates! I'm Evan McMullin and our campaign could be the first campaign in 48 years to win an electoral vote outside of the two-party duopoly.²³⁵

²²⁷ Jennifer Harper, "Third party anger: Libertarian and Green candidates sue the Commission on Presidential Debates," The Washington Times, 29 Sep. 2015, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/sep/29/libertarian-and-green-parties-sue-commission-presi/>>.

²²⁸ Carla Miles, "Dr. Jill Stein Slamming 'Corporate Media'," Inquisitr: News Worthy Sharing, 25 Oct. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.inquisitr.com/3640845/dr-jill-stein-slamming-corporate-media/>>.

²²⁹ Jim Lehrer, "Debating our Destiny: Behind the Debates," PBS, 9 Sep. 2008, 2 Nov. 2016, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/debatingourdestiny/behind_the_podium.html>.

²³⁰ Phil Gailey, "Democrats and Republicans Form Panel to Hold Presidential Debates," The New York Times, 19 Feb 1987, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/02/19/us/democrats-and-republicans-form-panel-to-hold-presidential-debates.html>>.

²³¹ "The League of Women Voters and Candidate Debates: A Changing Relationship," The League of Women Voters, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://lwv.org/content/league-women-voters-and-candidate-debates-changing-relationship>>.

²³² "The Commission on Presidential Debates: An Overview," Commission on Presidential Debates, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://debates.org/index.php?page=overview>>.

²³³ "Chapter 2: General Election Funding-How General Election Funding Works," Federal Election Commission, 2 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.fec.gov/info/chtwo.htm>>.

²³⁴ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²³⁵ Joel Searby, "You'll Never Win," Evan McMullin/Mindy 2016, 6 Sep. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <https://www.evanmcmullin.com/youll_never_win>.

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AMY GOODMAN: Who are you?

CAMARA: Evan McMullin. I'm running for president and might win Utah.²³⁶

AMY GOODMAN: Well, once again. We conclude this debate.²³⁷

TrumpTown²³⁸

SENSITIVE ACADEMIC: Hey there, how's everybody doing? Can everyone take a second to check in with their neighbors? A smile, a quick handshake, we're all here, in this together. That said, we're about to go on a journey together. Into TrumpTown. Consider yourselves trigger-warned. Gender, race, sexuality, we're going there folks. And the political correctness of the material is, well... don't plan on going on a politically correct journey --

[During the next line, people take a confused SENSITIVE ACADEMIC off stage]

TRUMP *[Entering]*: "I think the big problem this country has is being politically correct. I've been challenged by so many people, and I don't frankly have time for total political correctness. And to be honest with you, this country doesn't have time either."²³⁹

ANNOUNCER: Welcome to TrumpTown, where we are making America Great Again²⁴⁰! Here in TrumpTown everything works. And it works exactly how Donald Trump says it works! We're so glad you're here.

[The actors enter into a quaint, suburban tableau. Quaint, suburban music.]

ANNOUNCER: Oh look! Here's our mayor, successful businessman Donald J Trump.²⁴¹

TRUMP: Hi folks. We did it. Trumptown is the best town. Nobody is unhappy here. Believe me.

²³⁶ Jennifer Rubin, "Evan McMullin's moment," The Washington Post, 31 Oct. 2016, 2 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2016/10/31/evan-mcmullins-moment/>>.

²³⁷ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²³⁸ Unless otherwise noted, the lines for the following scene were written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²³⁹ Line taken from: Tim Hains, "Trump to Megyn Kelly: I Don't Have Time For Political Correctness and Neither Does This Country," Real Clear Politics, 6 Aug 2015, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2015/08/06/trump_to_megyn_kelly_i_dont_have_time_for_political_correctness_and_neither_does_this_country.html>.

²⁴⁰ "Make America Great Again: Donald J. Trump for President," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/?utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=w_djt1015115043_donor-wall-splash&utm_source=website&utm_content=donor-wall-splash-continue>.

²⁴¹ "About Donald J. Trump," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/about/>>.

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ANNOUNCER: That's right, Donald Trump built a wall, made Mexico pay for it²⁴², and deported 11 million illegal immigrants.²⁴³

TRUMP: They were stealing our jobs.²⁴⁴ They were some bad hombres. Some bad, bad hombres²⁴⁵. But we got rid of 'em!

RESIDENTS: Thanks Donald Trump!

TRUMP: We are making America Great Again!

UNEMPLOYED RESIDENT: But.... I still don't have a job--

TRUMP: Everybody is employed, everybody is happy and most importantly, everyone is safe. Thanks to my extreme vetting²⁴⁶ (trademark Donald J Trump), we no longer have any radical Islamic terrorists²⁴⁷ in TrumpTown.

RESIDENTS cheer, but less enthusiastically, except ANGRY WHITE MAN who cheers louder

ANGRY WHITE MAN: We have nothing to fear in Trumptown!

ANNOUNCER: I wouldn't say that, TrumpTown has enemies. Who doesn't?

TRUMP: There are bad, bad people out there. That's why we believe in arming ourselves - for defense! Here in TrumpTown we protect the 2nd amendment.²⁴⁸ The more good residents of TrumpTown have weapons, the safer we all are!²⁴⁹

[Confetti cannons are passed out to the cast.]

²⁴² "Immigration," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/immigration/>>.

²⁴³ Team Fix, "The CNN-Telemundo Republican debate transcript, annotated," The Washington Post, 25 Feb. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/25/the-cnntelemundo-republican-debate-transcript-annotated/>>.

²⁴⁴ "Immigration," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/immigration/>>.

²⁴⁵ CNN, "Donald Trump: We need to get out 'bad hombres'," YouTube, 19 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AneeacsvNwU>>.

²⁴⁶ "Donald Trump calls for 'extreme vetting' of immigrants to US," BBC News, 16 Aug 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.bbc.com/news/election-us-2016-37086578>>.

²⁴⁷ "Foreign Policy and Defeating ISIS," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/foreign-policy-and-defeating-isis/>>.

²⁴⁸ "Constitution and Second Amendment," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/constitution-and-second-amendment/>>.

²⁴⁹ "Donald Trump on Gun Control," On The Issues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue, 5 Nov. 2016, <http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Donald_Trump_Gun_Control.htm>.

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TRUMP *[Recorded]*: "I will get rid of gun free zones on schools (you have to) and on military bases...there's no more gun free zones!"²⁵⁰

ANNOUNCER: Speaking of schools, let's visit a school in TrumpTown! Where dreams are born!

[Group of CHILDREN clumps in the center, hard at work for school.]

TRUMP: Listen. It's a good thing. And we're very financially successful. And we're working for all the people. We're a diverse group of people. We have men and women and children and oh look here's one of my guys right now! *[Recorded]*: "Oh, look at my African-American over here. Look at him. Are you the greatest?"²⁵¹

[The cast looks for black people. There are none. TONY steps forward]

HALF-BLACK MAN: Well, I'm half black?

ANNOUNCER: That's right - there are black people in TrumpTown, as you can clearly see.

TRUMP *[Recorded]*: "I am the least racist person that you have ever met."²⁵²

ANNOUNCER: Believe it.

CHILD: How come there aren't more black people in Trumptown?

TRUMP: Well they've reached *[Recorded]* "a point where they've just about never done more poorly, there's no spirit, there's killings on an hourly basis virtually in places like Baltimore and Chicago and many other places." "There's no spirit."²⁵³

HALF-BLACK MAN: Excuse me?

ANNOUNCER: Well you're a well-educated black! You're in the Trumptown school system!

TRUMP *[Recorded]*: "A well-educated black has a tremendous advantage over a well-educated white in terms of the job market. ... If I was starting off today, I would love to be a well-educated black, because I really do believe they have the actual advantage today."²⁵⁴

²⁵⁰ Line taken from: Jeremy Diamond, "Donald Trump slams gun-free zones in Vermont speech," CNN politics, 7 Jan. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/07/politics/donald-trump-guns-obama-town-hall/>>.

²⁵¹ Jeremy Diamond, "Trump on black supporter: 'Look at my African-American over here'," CNN politics, 6 Jun. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/03/politics/donald-trump-african-american/>>.

²⁵² CNN, "Donald Trump: 'I'm the least racist person'," YouTube, 9 Dec. 2015, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRDmWPAtHiA>>.

²⁵³ Line condensed from: Kiran Moodley, "Donald Trump says African-American youths 'have no spirit'," Independent, 24 Jun. 2015, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/donald-trump-says-african-american-youths-have-no-spirit-10342030.html>>.

²⁵⁴ Line taken from: Glenn Kessler, "Did Donald Trump really say those things?," The Washington Post, 25 Jul. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016,

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HALF-BLACK MAN: Oh. Awesome.

ANNOUNCER: What do you want to be when you grow up, children of Trumptown?

CHILD: I want to be a businessman, like Donald Trump!

CHILD: I want to be that too!

CHILD: Me too!

CHILD: Me three!

HALF-BLACK MAN: I want to be an accountant!

ANNOUNCER: Cool! Maybe you can work for Trump! He has a huge real estate company.²⁵⁵
Maybe you can work for him, counting his millions!

TRUMP: "Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day."²⁵⁶

CHILD: What's a yarmulke?

HALF-BLACK MAN: But I thought I could be anything in Trumptown! This isn't fair!

TRUMP [*Recorded*]: "I have a great relationship with the blacks. I've always had a great relationship with the blacks."²⁵⁷

HALF-BLACK MAN: No you don't! You're a racist!

TRUMP [*recorded*]: "We have a protester! By the way were you paid 1,500 dollars to be a thug? Where's the protester? Where is he? Was he paid? You can get him out, get him out."²⁵⁸

<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/07/25/did-donald-trump-really-say-those-things/>>.

²⁵⁵ "About Donald J. Trump," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016,

<<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/about/>>.

²⁵⁶ Line taken from: Glenn Kessler, "Did Donald Trump really say those things?," The Washington Post, 25 Jul. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016,

<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/07/25/did-donald-trump-really-say-those-things/>>.

²⁵⁷ Line taken from: SuchIsLifeVideos, "Donald Trump: I Have A Great Relationship With The Blacks," YouTube, 15 Apr. 2011, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qrP-9MGio8>>.

²⁵⁸ Line taken from: Daniel Marans, "Trump Calls Black Supporter 'Thug,' Throws Him Out Of Rally," The Huffington Post, 28 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016,

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-black-supporter-thug_us_58139e7ce4b064e1b4b253f2?section=us_politics>.

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ANNOUNCER: Now, we have to add the the yarmulke line, this line is from a 1991 book about Trump, and to be fair, it's possible he never said it.²⁵⁹

[PEOPLE from outskirts remove TONY from the school, take him offstage. CHILDREN look uncomfortable, scared and confused.]

TRUMP: Let's get past that unpleasantness. You're going to love this. We're rolling out a brand new infomercial campaign for a new absolutely essential product. It's going to change the way you live. It's going to change your life. Check it out.

ANNOUNCER: In a locker room in downtown TrumpTown, a TV clicks on in the corner.

[The cast separates into LOCKERROOM MEN (literally the people who identify as men in the cast) and the STEAKS (literally the people who identify as woman in the cast)]

LOCKERROOM MEN: *[sports, sports, women, women, boobs, I'm enslaved by, and reinforce, the patriarchy...etc]*

[During the commercial, the woman rotate around on chairs or blocks.]

TRUMP *[Recorded, not the actor]*: When it comes to great steaks, I just raised the stakes. Trump Steaks are the world's greatest steaks in every sense of the word. And the Sharper Image is the only store where you can buy them. Trump steaks are by far the best tasting, most flavorful beef you've ever had. Truly in a league of their own. Five star gourmet. Less than one percent of steaks in the US qualify as Trump-quality steaks. Trump Steaks are aged to perfection. Taste for yourself! Treat yourself to the very very best life has to offer. And believe me. I understand steaks. It's my favorite food.²⁶⁰

TRUMP: Just start kissing them, you can do anything.

STEAKS: Trump steaks.

²⁵⁹ Donald Trump said the above mentioned line according to author and a former top executive at Atlantic City's Trump Plaza Casino until 1990, John R. O'Donnell. O'Donnell includes this quote and others in his book *Trumped! The Inside Story of the Real Donald Trump--His Cunning Rise and Spectacular Fall*, published in 1991, as Trump's response to O'Donnell's criticism of a finance employee who is black. Donald Trump denied making the statement, in an interview on [NBC News: Meet the Press](#) with Timothy J. Russert saying, "I hardly know this guy. He was running one of my casinos for a short period of time. He was firedwe fired him because he wasn't doing a very good job. He wrote this nasty book. He made up stuff. This is like Jon Lovitz on "Saturday Night Live," the liar. "I went to Harvard. Yeah, I went to Harvard." This guy, I hardly know him. He made up this quote. I've heard the quote before, and it's nonsense."
<<https://votesmart.org/public-statement/367/discusses-his-bid-for-the-reform-party-presidential-nomination-in-interview#.WB6tchRxlJ>>.

²⁶⁰ Line condensed and repurposed from: Jagon331, "Trump Steaks!!!," [YouTube](#), 7 Jul. 2007, 5 Nov. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyONt_ZH_aw>.

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STEAKS + TRUMP: Grab 'em by the pussy.²⁶¹

[The LOCKERROOM MEN and the STEAKS pair up. They do a dance that is alternatingly sexual and silly. It involves tic tacs. It does not involve literal pussy grabbing.]

TRUMP: That's it fellas, get 'em while they're hot!

ANGRY WHITE MAN takes a STEAK, but she resists his dance.

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Hey, hey, wait! I paid for this steak but it won't dance with me!

TRUMP *[recorded]*: "Believe me, she would not be my first choice, that I can tell you!"²⁶²

FEMINIST STEAK: I'm not just a piece of meat! I'm a human being!

TRUMP *[recorded]*: "Nobody has more respect for women than I do. Nobody."²⁶³

FEMINIST STEAK: No! You're a misogynist!

TRUMP: What a nasty woman.²⁶⁴ Get her out of here.

[People on the outskirts remove the FEMINIST STEAK and take her offstage.]

ANGRY WHITE MAN: But I want that steak! And you said I could just start kissing it! You said, in TrumpTown I can do anything!

TRUMP: You can do anything, this is—

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Then give me my steak!

TRUMP *[Rushing to ANNOUNCER]*: Let's get this man a new steak, a better steak!

ANNOUNCER: Sorry, Mayor Trump. Trump Steaks has gone bankrupt!

TRUMP *[Recorded]*: That's fine! "I'm the king of debt! I'm great with debt. Nobody knows debt better than me."²⁶⁵

²⁶¹ IAmUnstoppable, "'Grab 'em by the P*ssy' Hot Mic Catches Donald Trump Saying Vulgar Things About Women," YouTube, 7 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKB92ohXn20>>.

²⁶² Line taken from: "Trump Maligns Accuser: 'She Wouldn't Be My First Choice'," *The Daily Beast*, 15 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.thedailybeast.com/cheats/2016/10/14/trump-she-wouldn-t-be-my-first-choice.html?via=desktop&source=copyurl>>.

²⁶³ Line taken from: Bloomberg, "Donald Trump: 'Nobody Has More Respect For Women Than I Do'," YouTube, 19 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9B7KPRo30y4>>.

²⁶⁴ CNN, "Trump: Clinton such a nasty woman," YouTube, 19 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2KOQfZ0Zd0>>.

²⁶⁵ Line taken from: CBS This Morning, "Trump on fundraising gap with Clinton, being 'king of debt'," YouTube, 22 Jun. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPF500Gs28M>>.

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ANGRY WHITE MAN: But I still don't have a steak!

UNEMPLOYED RESIDENT: And I still don't have a job!

TRUMP *[having just thought of a way out of this]*: Defense! There's no time for steak, sonny, we've got to arm ourselves. America is under a great threat! From China! That's it. They've invented something called "Global Warming" to destroy our productivity and way of life!²⁶⁶ Let's show them that we mean business!

RESIDENTS: I'm scared! *[ad lib]*

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Get the nukes!

RESIDENT: Nukes?!

TRUMP *[Recorded]*: "At a minimum, I want them to think maybe we would use it, OK?" "You know, we need unpredictability."²⁶⁷

RESIDENT: This is too much. I'm panicking!

RESIDENT: Me too!

RESIDENT: Someone save us!

TRUMP *[kicking down an invisible door]*: Me! Special Agent Donald Trump! *[Recording:]* "I've built a great company. I've been all over the world. I've dealt with foreign countries ... I think the main thing is I have great judgment. I have good judgment. I know what's going on. I've called so many of the shots."²⁶⁸

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Yeah! Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

[RESIDENTS join in chanting "Donald Trump" over and over again]

BAND OF NON-STRAIGHT-WHITE-MALES: Not so fast!

ANGRY WHITE MAN: What are you doing here?

HALF-BLACK MAN: This is not what will make America great!

²⁶⁶ Louis Jacobson, "Yes, Donald Trump did call climate change a Chinese hoax," Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 3 Jun. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/03/hillary-clinton/yes-donald-trump-did-call-climate-change-chinese-h/>>.

²⁶⁷ Line condensed from: Kendall Breitman and Kevin Cirilli, "'Unpredictability' on Nukes Among Trump Keys to Muslim Respect," Bloomberg Politics, 23 Mar. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-03-23/trump-lays-out-vision-for-gaining-respect-from-muslim-world>>.

²⁶⁸ Line condensed from: "Watch Full Commander-In-Chief Forum," NBC News, 7 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://time.com/4483355/commander-chief-forum-clinton-trump-intrepid/>>.

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SENSITIVE ACADEMIC: *[With Hillary Clinton's voice suddenly coming out of her mouth:]* "You know, to just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic -- you name it."²⁶⁹

TRUMP: Do you hear this? *[Recorded:]* "She called half of our supporters a "basket of deplorable" in both the speech and an interview. She divides people into baskets as though they were objects, not human beings."²⁷⁰

ANGRY WHITE MAN: I am not a deplorable!

FEMINIST STEAK: I am not a steak!

HALF-BLACK MAN: And I am not a killer!

SENSITIVE ACADEMIC: You say there aren't enough steaks in TrumpTown, you've declared bankruptcy six times²⁷¹, you've fired all your accountants!²⁷²

TRUMP *[Recorded]*: Wrong. Wrong.^{273 274}

TRUMP *[Recorded, to the UNEMPLOYED RESIDENT]*: "Knock the crap out of 'em, would you? Seriously."²⁷⁵

SENSITIVE ACADEMIC *[turning to ANGRY WHITE MAN]*: And YOU'RE still a disenfranchised angry white man!

[ANGRY WHITE MAN is speechless.]

²⁶⁹ Line taken from: CNN, "Clinton: Trump supporters in 'basket of deplorables...," YouTube, 9 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZH4JLWjNw>>.

²⁷⁰ Line taken from: Aaron Blake, "This Trump response to Clinton's basket of 'deplorables' comment was quite good," The Washington Post, 12 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/12/trumps-initial-response-to-clintons-basket-of-deplorables-comment-was-a-very-good-one/>>

²⁷¹ Linda Qiu, "Yep, Donald Trump's companies have declared bankruptcy...more than four times," Politifact: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, 21 Jun. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/21/hillary-clinton/yep-donald-trumps-companies-have-declared-bankrupt/>>.

²⁷² Note: We wrote this line based on our scene. Our character of Donald Trump fires his accountant. We are not saying that Donald Trump fired all his accountants at one time.

²⁷³ Note: This line was not necessarily said in response to the above mentioned issue, but on a number of other occasions.

²⁷⁴ Line interpreted from: John Paul Schilling, "Presidential Debate 'Wrong Wrong Wrong' Trump," YouTube, 26 Sep. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2Ec_oHjEFM>.

²⁷⁵ Line taken from: Ashley Feinberg, "Trump Encourages Ralliers to 'Knock the Crap Out of' Protesters, Promises to Pay Legal Fees," Gawker, 1 Feb. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://gawker.com/trump-encouragers-ralliers-to-knock-the-crap-out-of-p-1756448417>>.

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UNEMPLOYED RESIDENT: You said getting the bad hombres²⁷⁶ would make TrumpTown's economy better²⁷⁷ -- but it's only getting worse!

RESIDENT: And you said building a wall and barring all Muslims from entering would make us safer!²⁷⁸

A STEAK: But I don't feel safe at all!

TRUMP [*Recorded*]: "Nobody knows the system better than me, which is why I alone can fix it."
²⁷⁹

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Not this time! This is TrumpTown. We're making America Great Again! No blacks! No illegals! And steak and jobs for everyone!

RESIDENTS: Yeah! This is all your fault, Donald Trump! (*ad lib*)

[Things get rowdier and rowdier! People start to enclose TRUMP with SENSITIVE ACADEMIC, FEMINIST STEAK, and TONY.]

TRUMP: WAIT! We can still Make America Great Again! We're just under threat! Yes, that's it! We're under threat from.... NORTH KOREA!²⁸⁰ *[TRUMP points at an unsuspecting audience member, giving reason for everyone to point their nukes at the audience. Everyone looks around. What do we do?]*

ANGRY WHITE MAN: Launch the nukes!

TRUMP: No!

[The nukes launch. Confetti cannons over the audience. All the actors collapse. Video:]

TRUMP [*Video, no actor*]: :06. I've been very lucky and I've led a great life. Now, I want to give back to the country which I love so much and has been so good to me. I want to go into the

²⁷⁶ "Immigration," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/immigration/>>.

²⁷⁷ "Economy," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/economy/>>.

²⁷⁸ "Immigration," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/immigration/>>.

²⁷⁹ Line taken from: Politico Staff, "Full text: Donald Trump 2016 RNC draft speech transcript," Politico, 21 Jul. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/full-transcript-donald-trump-nomination-acceptance-speech-at-rnc-225974>>.

²⁸⁰ "National Defense," Donald J. Trump for President, Inc., 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/national-defense/>>.

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inner cities, the poorer rural communities, and the failing schools and I want to work with a national plan of revitalization.²⁸¹

I'm tired of the excuses from our politicians. I'm tired of being told what cannot be done. I'm tired of people asking Americans to defer their dreams to another day, but really what they mean is to another decade. Enough waiting. The time is now. We can achieve our goals for this country and we can do so more quickly than anyone ever thought possible.²⁸²

There is nothing we cannot accomplish. The United States is great. It's great. Its people are great. There is no task or project too great. There is no dream outside of our reach. Don't ever let anyone tell you it can't be done. The future lies with the dreamers, not the cynics and the critics.²⁸³

Everywhere I go in this country, all I see is untapped potential waiting to be set free. And the biggest element of all is our incredible people — the people of this country. They're just waiting. They're waiting and waiting, and I think maybe now their time has come.²⁸⁴

We have a divided nation, a seriously divided nation. All of our people. That is how we will truly make America great again.²⁸⁵

Thank you very much. I greatly appreciate it. Thank you.²⁸⁶

²⁸¹ Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

²⁸² Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

²⁸³ Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

²⁸⁴ Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

²⁸⁵ Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

²⁸⁶ Line take from: USA TV, "Donald Trump Speech Today 10/26/16 at Grand Opening of Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow), 26 Oct. 2016, 5 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWrRF9OL6Ow>>.

Clinton Critique

TRUMP: Well, I have much better judgment than she does. There's no question about that. I

also have a much better temperament than she has, you know?

I have a much better — she spent — let me tell you — she spent hundreds of millions of dollars on an advertising — you know, they get Madison Avenue into a room, they put names — oh, temperament, let's go after — I think my strongest asset, maybe by far, is my temperament. I have a winning temperament. I know how to win. She does not have a...

MODERATOR: Secretary Clinton?

TRUMP: Wait. The AFL-CIO the other day, behind the blue screen, I don't know who you were talking to, Secretary Clinton, but you were totally out of control. I said, there's a person with a temperament that's got a problem.

MODERATOR: Secretary Clinton?²⁸⁷

[CLINTON turns to the audience, the video turns on and she does the mimic.]

CLINTON: Whew, OK.²⁸⁸

MODERATOR: Amazing. Simply amazing. And so clear. Let's see it again.²⁸⁹

[More cast members come out to do it]

CLINTON: Whew, OK.²⁹⁰

MODERATOR: Lesser of two evils, my foot. One more time Secretary Clinton.²⁹¹

[Everyone, even trump and the moderator do it]

CLINTON: Whew, OK.²⁹²

[Ding ding ding sound!]

²⁸⁷ Above lines taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁸⁸ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁸⁹ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁹⁰ Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁹¹ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁹² Line taken from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

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MODERATOR: Well, I'm sorry Mr. Trump, almost nothing you said made sense. While Secretary Clinton, on the other hand, you managed to avoid saying anything crazy. And you even shimmied! This debates goes to you.²⁹³

Trump: Wrong.²⁹⁴

[The chorus of "Roar" by Katy Perry plays as Hillary leaves her podium and begins to mingle with her fans in the audience. Trump storms out.]

SOMEONE: We love you Hillary!

SOMEONE ELSE: You're such an inspiration!

HILLARY: Thank you both so much! Can you chip in \$5? *[The SOMEONES reach for their wallets.]*

CRITIC #1: Hey, quick question Hillary.

HILLARY: Mhmm.²⁹⁵

CRITIC #1: At least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department while you were Secretary of State donated upwards of \$26 million to the Clinton Foundation.²⁹⁶

[Record scratches and the music stops.]

And according to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist James Grimaldi some of those companies including UBS, Boeing, Wal-Mart, Microsoft, GE and others seemed to get favors from the State Department under your leadership.²⁹⁷ How do you respond to that?²⁹⁸

HILLARY: Well we were promoting American companies and American jobs. And the foundation is a charity.²⁹⁹ *[Turns to walk away.]*

²⁹³ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁹⁴ Line interpreted from: The New York Times, "Transcript of the First Debate," Federal News Service, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

²⁹⁵ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁹⁶ Line repurposed from: James Grimaldi, "Did Companies & Countries Buy State Dept. Access by Donating to Clinton Foundation?," Democracy Now!, 12 Aug. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/12/did_companies_countries_buy_state_dept>.

²⁹⁷ Line repurposed from: James Grimaldi, "Did Companies & Countries Buy State Dept. Access by Donating to Clinton Foundation?," Democracy Now!, 12 Aug. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/12/did_companies_countries_buy_state_dept>.

²⁹⁸ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

²⁹⁹ Line interpreted from: James Grimaldi, "Did Companies & Countries Buy State Dept. Access by Donating to Clinton Foundation?," Democracy Now!, 12 Aug. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/12/did_companies_countries_buy_state_dept>.

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CRITIC #1: But what about Nigerian-Lebanese billionaire Gilbert Chagoury, who contributed-³⁰⁰

HILLARY: Bye now. *[HILLARY swiftly walks away.]*

CRITIC #2: Secretary Clinton!

HILLARY: Hello!³⁰¹

CRITIC #2: What do you think about the wikileaks emails that show officials in the Democratic Party tried to sway the primary in your favor?³⁰²

HILLARY: "I don't know anything about these emails. I haven't followed it."³⁰³

CRITIC # 2: Really?

HILLARY: That's what I said on "60 Minutes"³⁰⁴ and it wasn't a problem.³⁰⁵

CRITIC # 2: OK. Well apparently Luis Miranda, the communications chief for the DNC, instructed his staff to put out in a, quote, "unattributable manner" allegations that Bernie Sanders' supporters were engaged in acts of violence. Do you think -³⁰⁶

HILLARY: What's that!? *[HILLARY walks towards where she asked "What's that?"]*

[HILLARY points to something across the stage and walks away as CRITIC # 2's attention is diverted.]

CRITIC # 3: Excuse me.

HILLARY: Uh huh.³⁰⁷

³⁰⁰ Line repurposed from: James Grimaldi, "Did Companies & Countries Buy State Dept. Access by Donating to Clinton Foundation?," *Democracy Now!*, 12 Aug. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/12/did_companies_countries_buy_state_dept>.

³⁰¹ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³⁰² Line interpreted from: "Headlines: Podesta Emails Show Brazile Shared Questions with Clinton Campaign," *Democracy Now!*, 1 Nov. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.democracynow.org/2016/11/1/headlines>>.

³⁰³ Line taken from: CBS Evening News, "Hillary Clinton talks honesty on '60 Minutes'," *YouTube*, 25 Jul. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXZlsplyfw>>.

³⁰⁴ CBS Evening News, "Hillary Clinton talks honesty on '60 Minutes'," *YouTube*, 25 Jul. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXZlsplyfw>>.

³⁰⁵ Line written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³⁰⁶ Line repurposed from: Julian Assange, "Julian Assange: Leaked DNC Emails Show Democrats Waged "Propaganda" Campaign Against Sanders," *Democracy Now!*, 8 Aug. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <http://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/8/julian_assange_leaked_dnc_emails_shows>.

³⁰⁷ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

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CRITIC # 3: Um, newer wikileaks emails reveal that your campaign has colluded with major media outlets. And while -^{308 309}

HILLARY: Listen, the Russians are trying to influence our election and that is deeply concerning.³¹⁰

CRITIC #3: But -

HILLARY: Donald Trump has encouraged foreign governments to hack our servers. That's-³¹¹

CRITIC #3: But Secretary Clinton, with all due respect, these emails show that after doing an interview with the New York Times, the reporter gave your campaign "veto power" over which answers to include. And a writer from Politico sent your campaign manager a draft of a piece, basically, for approval before it was published. And it just came out this week that a paid commentator for CNN shared some questions for a CNN-hosted Democratic primary debate with your campaign before of the debate.³¹²

HILLARY: Thank you! [*HILLARY tries to escape.*]

CRITIC #3: Do you think that close of a relationship between politicians and the media is healthy for our democracy?³¹³

HILLARY: Well... Look³¹⁴, I'm a progressive. But I'm a progressive who likes to get things done.³¹⁵

CRITICS: But! But!

HILLARY: Thank you! [*HILLARY exits as the Katy Perry music picks up where it left off.*]

HILLARY SUPPORTER: Don't hate the player. Hate the game.

CRITIC #1: But there are actual critiques on her that we didn't get to hear because Donald Trump is an unworthy opponent.

³⁰⁸ Listening Post, "WikiLeaks: Neutral reporter or political player?," *Al Jazeera*, 22 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2016/10/wikileaks-neutral-reporter-political-player-161022113953803.html>>.

³⁰⁹ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³¹⁰ Line interpreted from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

³¹¹ Line interpreted from: *The New York Times*, "Transcript of the First Debate," *Federal News Service*, 27 Sep. 2016, 30 Oct. 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/us/politics/transcript-debate.html?_r=0>.

³¹² Listening Post, "WikiLeaks: Neutral reporter or political player?," *Al Jazeera*, 22 Oct. 2016, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2016/10/wikileaks-neutral-reporter-political-player-161022113953803.html>>.

³¹³ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³¹⁴ Words added by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

³¹⁵ Line taken from: *CNN*, "CNN Democratic Debate – Full Transcript," *CNN*, 13 Oct. 2015, 3 Nov. 2016, <<http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2015/10/13/cnn-democratic-debate-full-transcript/>>.

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HILLARY SUPPORTER: I agree! But you don't have to be with her to vote for her.

Pause

CRITIC #1: I miss Bernie.

CRITIC #2: I miss Kasich!

CRITIC #3: And I wish Bloomberg had run.

HILLARY SUPPORTER: Well, that's fine. But the next President of the United States is either going to be Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. Who are you going to vote for?³¹⁶

[No response. Tony enter without anyone else exiting. Begins the finale.]

³¹⁶ Above lines written by THE DEBATES cast and creative team.

Finale³¹⁷ 318

HILLARY CLINTON: Prosperity can't be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers.

Democracy can't be just for billionaires and corporations.

Prosperity and democracy are part of your basic bargain too.

You brought our country back.

Now it's time—your time to secure the gains and move ahead.

And, you know what?

America can't succeed unless you succeed.

That is why I am running for president of the United States.³¹⁹

DONALD TRUMP: We need somebody that can take the brand of the United States and make it great again. It's not great again.

We need -- we need somebody -- we need somebody that literally will take this country and make it great again. We can do that.

And, I will tell you, I love my life. I have a wonderful family. They're saying, "Dad, you're going to do something that's going to be so tough."

You know, all of my life, I've heard that a truly successful person, a really, really successful person and even modestly successful cannot run for public office. Just can't happen. And yet that's the kind of mindset that you need to make this country great again.

So ladies and gentlemen...

I am officially running...

... for president of the United States, and we are going to make our country great again.³²⁰

³¹⁷ Video for text used in scene: Donald J. Trump for President, "Donald Trump Presidential Announcement Full Speech 6/16/15 | Donald J. Trump For President," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_q61B-DyPk), 16 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_q61B-DyPk>.

³¹⁸ Video for text used in scene: C-SPAN, "Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign Announcement Full Speech (C-SPAN)," [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgGPMrLHRy0), 13 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgGPMrLHRy0>>.

³¹⁹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton, "Official campaign launch speech on New York City's Roosevelt Island: 'I'm running to make our economy work for you and for every American.'," [2016 Hillary for America](http://www.hillaryclinton.com/post/official-campaign-launch-speech-new-york-citys-roosevelt-island/), 31 Jan. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016, <<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/post/official-campaign-launch-speech-new-york-citys-roosevelt-island/>>.

³²⁰ Line taken from: Donald Trump and Washington Post Staff, "Full text: Donald Trump announces a presidential bid," [The Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 16 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016,

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Based on the 2016 Presidential Debates Last edit: 11/3/16

HILLARY CLINTON: The story of America is a story of hard-fought, hard-won progress. And it continues today. New chapters are being written by men and women who believe that all of us—not just some, but all—should have the chance to live up to our God-given potential.

Not only because we're a tolerant country, or a generous country, or a compassionate country, but because we're a better, stronger, more prosperous country when we harness the talent, hard work, and ingenuity of every single American.³²¹

DONALD TRUMP: So we have to rebuild our infrastructure, our bridges, our roadways, our airports. You come into La Guardia Airport, it's like we're in a third world country. You look at the patches and the 40-year-old floor. They throw down asphalt, and they throw.

You look at these airports, we are like a third world country. And I come in from China and I come in from Qatar and I come in from different places, and they have the most incredible airports in the world. You come to back to this country and you have LAX, disaster. You have all of these disastrous airports. We have to rebuild our infrastructure.³²²

HILLARY CLINTON: I wish my mother could have been with us longer. I wish she could have seen Chelsea become a mother herself. I wish she could have met Charlotte.

I wish she could have seen the America we're going to build together.³²³

DONALD TRUMP: Sadly, the American dream is dead.³²⁴

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Bring it back.³²⁵

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/06/16/full-text-donald-trump-announces-a-presidential-bid/>.

³²¹ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton, "Official campaign launch speech on New York City's Roosevelt Island: 'I'm running to make our economy work for you and for every American.'" *2016 Hillary for America*, 31 Jan. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016,

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/post/official-campaign-launch-speech-new-york-citys-roosevelt-island/>.

³²² Line taken from: Donald Trump and Washington Post Staff, "Full text: Donald Trump announces a presidential bid," *The Washington Post*, 16 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/06/16/full-text-donald-trump-announces-a-presidential-bid/>.

³²³ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton, "Official campaign launch speech on New York City's Roosevelt Island: 'I'm running to make our economy work for you and for every American.'" *2016 Hillary for America*, 31 Jan. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016,

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³²⁵ Line taken from: Washington Post Staff, "Full text: Donald Trump announces a presidential bid," *The Washington Post*, 16 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016,

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HILLARY CLINTON: An America, where if you do your part, you reap the rewards.

Where we don't leave anyone out, or anyone behind.³²⁶

TRUMP: But if I get elected president I will bring it back bigger and better and stronger than ever before, and we will make America great again.³²⁷

HILLARY CLINTON: An America where a father can tell his daughter: Yes, you can be anything you want to be. Even president of the United States.³²⁸

DONALD TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much.³²⁹

HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you all. God bless you. And may God bless America.³³⁰

THE CAST *[riffing]*:

Thanks you.³³¹

[End of play]

³²⁶ Line taken from: Hillary Clinton, "Official campaign launch speech on New York City's Roosevelt Island: 'I'm running to make our economy work for you and for every American.'" 2016 Hillary for America, 31 Jan. 2016, 4 Nov. 2016,

<<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/post/official-campaign-launch-speech-new-york-citys-roosevelt-island/>>.

³²⁷ Line taken from: Donald Trump and Washington Post Staff, "Full text: Donald Trump announces a presidential bid," The Washington Post, 16 Jun. 2015, 4 Nov. 2016,

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