

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
PROUD TRUMP SUPPORTERS FOCUS GROUP
CANTON, MICHIGAN
APRIL 10, 2017
GROUP 1

Note: first names were changed in the transcripts to protect the confidentiality of the participants. For instance, if the moderator called on "Sally" by name, that appears in the transcript as "woman."

MODERATOR: . . . I'll wait until everybody is in and settled to get started.

Good evening. My name is Glen. I'll be your moderator this evening. Tonight you're participating in a focus group discussion. These kinds of group discussions are held all over the country on everything from politics and policy to consumer products like Coke and Pepsi. As you probably figured out from the questions they asked when they called to see if you could come tonight, we're going to be talking mostly about politics and policy. We're not going to be talking at all about consumer products. So those of you hoping it's like a beer tasting, sorry to let you down.

WOMAN: Sorry. Yeah, too bad.

MODERATOR: Before we get started, let me talk a little bit about how things work tonight. First of all, we are, is it, oh, right up there you can see from the cleverly disguised microphone, this is being taped. But that's for, it's right kind of on this side of the light. It's a little button-type thing. Anyhow, it's being taped, but that's for my benefit. I do these all over the country on all sorts of different topics.

And don't take it personally, but in a couple of weeks I'll never remember what was said here tonight when I go to write up my report. If I refer to anything that you say here tonight, if I quote something, it will just be as a man or a woman in Michigan. There's no, nothing specific in terms of names or anything like that.

Also as you figured out, that's a two-way mirror. My colleague, Kyle, is sitting behind the glass there. He's taking notes just to make it easier for me to refresh my memory. You've all been asked to turn off your cell phones, I hope. Okay. Good. I'm allowed to leave mine on. I'm going to just make sure I turn off the volume, the ringer, just because in case Kyle wants to text me anything like, oh, you forgot to ask about this, or follow up more on that. But at the most, this series of groups I've done so far, that we've done so far, he's texted me two out of

the three nights, so it's not something that will happen all the time or even very often. So, anyhow, he's just back there.

Let's see. Oh, first of all, there are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in your opinion. That's why we're paying you for your time this evening, so we'd love for you to talk when I ask questions. So please feel free to speak up. If somebody else is talking, obviously, don't talk while they're, while that person is talking, but, you know, either jump in when they're done or get my attention. It's not school. You don't have to raise your hand, but just kind, you know, get my attention.

If you've been talking a lot, I may ask you to hold off to make sure we get to hear from everybody. And if you've been quiet for a while, I may call on you directly by name. But, again, if you're participating, you don't have to be involved in every question, but if you're participating, you know, just go with the flow. Do me a favor. I'm terrible with names, so those of you on the side, if you could turn it . . . that's helpful.

Let's see what else. Oh, I don't have any opinions about this. My job is to ask questions. From time to time as you're talking, you'll notice me nodding my head. That doesn't mean that I agree with you. It just means that I'm listening. If I'm not doing it, it doesn't mean that I'm not listening. It's just something I do sometimes and other times, not so much. Also I ask that there be no side conversations. Sometimes you want to whisper something to the person next to you. That can be distracting to the group as a whole, so please hold off on that.

Part of my job is to get you out of here on time, so from time to time I might say something like, Man, you get the last word on this, and then we move, you know, have to move on. It's not because I don't want to hear from the next person that I know wants to talk, it's just that, you know, my job, part of my job is to get you out of here at, let's see, we started at, 7:45, and no later than that.

Let's see what else. Oh, if you need to use the restroom that's fine. My only request is that you only leave if nobody else is out using the restroom. Because if we have, you know, a bunch of people going out at the same time, that sort of puts a crimp in the discussion. But if it's one at a time, that's quieter.

I'm trying to think if there's anything else. I'm sure there is. Oh, there is one, at least one more thing, and that is from time to time I'll play devil's advocate, where if I think, you

know, if I'm hearing, sometimes I'll just throw out a question with a different perspective or throw out a different perspective just to see how you react to it.

Again, if it doesn't change your mind, then that's great. If you hear it, and you say, oh, you know, maybe he's got a point there, but don't come around to what you think might be my point of view in asking that question just to make me feel good. My wife will tell you I've got plenty of self-esteem, so I'm just, you know, it's just a survey, a focus group technique. So let me start by asking a very general question, and that is, and I want to hear from everybody. Give me either one word or short phrase to describe how you think things are going in the country these days.

MAN: Growth.

MODERATOR: Growth?

MAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay . . . I'm going to jot them down. What else?

WOMAN: Change.

MODERATOR: Change. Okay.

WOMAN: Upheaval.

MODERATOR: Upheaval.

MAN: Polarization.

MODERATOR: Polarization. A word or short phrase how things are going in the country.

WOMAN: Division.

MODERATOR: Division. Okay. One thing I do, on this one, I do want to hear from everybody once. So if you haven't thrown something out yet, please do.

WOMAN: Scary.

MODERATOR: Scary. Okay. We're getting there. I have three people I haven't heard from yet.

MAN: Cautiously optimistic.

MODERATOR: Cautiously optimistic. See, that fits as a short phrase.

MAN: Civil war.

MODERATOR: Civil war, another short phrase.

MAN: Lack of family values.

MODERATOR: Lack of family values. Okay. I think that's everybody, yeah.
Man, if I'm not mistaken, you said growth.

MAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: And, by the way, Man will probably be the only one I remember, so don't be impressed.

MAN: Elaborate?

MODERATOR: Yes.

MAN: The stock market, since January, is up. I mean, since November it's unbelievable how far we're up. So for those who are participating, have investments, I mean, you can't help but see the growth there. As we talk about job growth and all of those details, I think it's a double-edged sword. You know, I heard polarization. I do believe the middle class is thinning out a little bit, and we'll see what happens there. But all in all, I feel like we've had some movement in the right direction since January 1.

MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody else said change.

WOMAN: That's me.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: Well, I was one who went from Democrat to Republican. But I just think in general change, growing pains and other things I thought of. Just so many things are changing with health insurance. I work in the health field, so that affects me a lot. Just I feel like so many different . . .

MODERATOR: Is it . . .

WOMAN: Just so many different categories are just changing.

MODERATOR: Do you think the change is overall positive or overall negative?

WOMAN: In my opinion, yes.

MODERATOR: Upheaval, somebody said upheaval.

WOMAN: That was me.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: Upheaval, because there's been a direction for a long time towards a more socialistic aspect in the government. And now everything has really been turning over, because it's a trend back to the more conservative approach we've had in years past. And so a lot of things that you saw changing, they're either changing back, or they're different yet again. And

you have people that are delighted, and you have people that are just hysterical over, you know, everything is going to hell in a handbasket, so to speak. You have, you, it runs the gamut. So I like the civil war aspect, because you do see there's not very many here. They're either all here or all over here, totally bipolar aspects of it, but nobody is happy.

MODERATOR: Okay. And somebody said polarization.

MAN: That was me.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Pretty much what she was saying, you know. There used to be people kind of all along the spectrum, you know, left to right, middle and everything. And it just seems like they're all, you know, picking sides, this or this. You know, there's not too much in the middle, it seems like.

MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody said division.

WOMAN: That was me.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: What happens, what I'm seeing is that people have their opinions, and if you don't agree with their opinions, then they hate you, or they say that you're spewing hate, whether it's the left or the right. No one is agreeing on anything. They just say you disagree with me, so, therefore, you're wrong, and you're full of hate.

MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody said scary.

WOMAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: I'm just afraid of where we're going with Russia, with everything. You know, I'm afraid we're going to have another, maybe a civil war over what's going on or just in general with the world. Everything is up in arms.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then somebody said cautiously optimistic.

MAN: That was me.

MODERATOR: Do you go by Man or Man?

MAN: Man is fine.

MODERATOR: Man. Okay, Man.

MAN: I'm, you know, it's too early to tell right now what's going to happen. But I think, like Man was saying, you know, the stock market is good. You know, I just think it's going to take time. We don't know, really, what's going to happen yet.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then is it Man or Man?

MAN: Either, or.

MODERATOR: Okay. I think you said civil war. See, I remember some more than just the first . . .

MAN: Yeah, it just feels like there's no, there used to be black and white, and black and white, like meaning black and white. Now everything is, oh, my God, you're not on my side. You're on the other side. You're now the enemy. And it's like the day after the election, I have a case I keep my paperwork in. And one of my customers took it and slammed it on the table, called me a racist, called me every name in the book. And it's like what did I do? You voted for Trump. And it's like the guy before, two days before was like, hey, you know, Man, hey, nice guy and all that and was like there's no such thing as black and white anymore. Everything is either you're on the right side or the wrong side.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then do you go by Man or Man?

MAN: Either one.

MODERATOR: Okay. You said lack of family values.

MAN: Yeah, it's like, you know, it says it takes a village. There ain't no village, and the communities do not help raise children or anything like that anymore. They, and it just feels like everybody separates themselves. Kids are only this . . . kids are only this way . . . you also read in the Bible a lot, they also said, spare the rod, spoil the child. I'm one of the people I don't think you should beat the crap out of your kid, but I don't think you should just tell them no, and that's enough either. And then the whole country, it seems like, it really does take a village.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. Compared to before the election, or, you know, right up before the election, thinking about the economy, I'm going to ask you three different options. And I'm just going to ask for a show of hands at first. And so would you say the economy is, and let me give you the three options, and then I'll re-ask it. Do you think the national economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same? How many think that it's getting better? Okay. Almost everybody. And then, Man . . .

MAN: The same.

MODERATOR: The same. Okay. And when you say it's about the same, does that mean you think it's, you know, it's going okay, or it's not going well, or . . .

MAN: Okay. For some, it's going great. For others, it's not. I went from \$16.75 in 2008 to \$10.00 today, and I had to scrape to get that job. So when I look at people that are like, you know, hey, they're making more money than me, I'd love to do that. I'd love to work full time. I'd love to get paid what the other people do. But you've got to fight and scrape and, you know, to get what you want.

MODERATOR: Okay. Others who feel it's getting better, I know the stock market was mentioned earlier. What else causes you to feel like it's getting better, what in your own lives makes you feel like it's getting better?

MAN: Real estate prices are starting to go up a little bit.

WOMAN: That's what I was going to say, real estate, yeah.

WOMAN: There's lots of construction right now, especially with Ford Motor Company and investing in the area.

MAN: Lots of new homes being built too. Trust me, that's what I do for a living.

MODERATOR: Sorry, Man . . . talking, just speak up just a little bit more, because you've got a . . . quiet voice. Pretend you're on the jobsite. What other indicators or situations in your personal life, it could be . . . makes you feel like, well, hey, things are getting better?

WOMAN: I think, oh . . .

MAN: Go ahead . . .

MODERATOR: Woman, then Man.

WOMAN: I was going to say more patients that have insurance and, at work. Before, in the last few years, I had a lot of patients that did not have insurance or had like assistance. But now I see more insurances coming from employers with my patients.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: It's a lead-in. I sell group and individual insurance, and more and more people are seeking my professional services than ever before. And it seems like those from the bottom to the top have more capital. They are more interested in not just, okay, can I just get

medical, but what about dental, what about vision, what about additional, ancillary benefits to protect my income.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, you can't hand out your cards until afterwards.

MAN: I know, right . . .

MODERATOR: Let's put aside economy in general, and also put aside like foreign policy stuff. So just think about other domestic issues, other issues here in the U.S. In the U.S., what, besides economy in general, not, I don't want to hear that, but what concerns you most right now? What other issues cause concern to you?

WOMAN: Immigration.

WOMAN: Yeah, immigration, for sure.

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: What else? Well, Woman, tell, while they're thinking, tell us a little bit about why, and, Woman, feel free to jump in . . .

WOMAN: Well, I don't know if this is a roomful of Trump supporters or not, but the, you know, immigration is a big concern, having all these people come over and that are not educated. And they are going on our taxes. We're paying for them. And I think most people want it stopped. And I do feel like they're kind of, you know, pushing, pushing. But I have seen the videos last week of them killing kids, and I don't know. I also believe what are you going to do there? I mean, you've got to help them. You've got to let them come and get away from evil. So it's, I'm kind of torn on it, but they've got to do something.

MODERATOR: Just clarifying, my understand is, and this is who we recruited, just so people didn't slam their briefcases down at Man, everybody here is a Trump voter, so . . .

WOMAN: I thought so.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I thought we were going to be half and half in the way they asked the questions.

MODERATOR: Well . . . there are groups, I do groups with other types of voters as well, but after this last election, we're trying to keep people to stick . . .

WOMAN: What a shame.

WOMAN: It's been the most violent, I think, in the election . . . I teach in the education field, and traditionally, the education field has been Democratic no matter who is in,

running for that position. And when you dare to stand up for something that's not Democratic, it's a very hostile work . . . I've had children's parents who have called me at home and kids, so it's like I teach in Detroit, so I have a predominantly African-American history. And I've got kids bawling their eyes out. You like Trump. He's going to pack us back to Africa. And I'm going, weren't you born here? Yeah. Well, then, you live here. This is your country. You're not. You know, they just hear bits and pieces.

So it's, that's why I was concerned is I thought, oh, let's see, where are we going to be here? So I'm, it's not that I, because I did choose to vote my beliefs and who I felt was, you know, the right person for the job. But I wasn't sure if I should have packed my, you know, AK-47 and hid it under the table, or, just in case, because that's how you often get slammed that way.

MODERATOR: Okay. We're going to talk a little bit more about that in a minute. I'm going to go to Woman and then Man.

WOMAN: Okay. I work with refugees on my own time. I don't get paid for this. There's a family that I help. I teach a man from Syria who is a dentist in Syria. I teach him English. He's very educated. Neither one of the groups of people that I work with want to necessarily be here. These are people that don't want to have left their country. They want, they have national pride. They want to be in Syria. They want to be with the rest of their families. It is a huge upheaval, and these people need lots of compassion, and they need help.

But, what happens is that, first of all, there is this, oh, I don't know if I can have your help, because I have pride issues. Then they start to receive your help. Then the hand comes out. And this is something that, I worked with homeless people for seven years as well, this is something that everyone has to understand of what people are going through, so we need to have that compassion for them.

So for them it is very, you, it's very, very difficult. They want to be back in their country. At the same time, I think there are people who will also take advantage and come into our country that would want to do harm. So I, my concern is how do we weed the people out that want to cause harm to us? My husband is from Germany. I have an entire family in Germany. My niece is a nurse, and she has to, one time a month, be on the ambulance. And when they go into refugee camps, people wearing, the ambulance drivers and everyone going in have to wear bulletproof vests so they don't get stabbed, because there is a mafia mentality that is growing within these camps.

I don't want that here. I want to have compassion for people. I want to help people in their time of need, just as I would want someone to help me. However, how do we get rid of the people, or how do we police the people that want to bring harm on us? And I think that's our biggest issue, and, then, of course, it goes into the military.

MAN: I just want to say that, you know, I work with a bunch of people that just, they're just not willing to give Trump a chance. I mean, they've heard so much negative about him, and, you know, and it's not really fair to him, because they're not giving him . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me, Man, let me interrupt for just a second. We're going to, actually, I'm going to ask a question along those lines in a little bit. But is there any other issue besides the economy and jobs that comes to mind to you that is a major concern to you here in the U.S.?

MAN: Political reform. For the first time ever we have a semi-non-politician as the President. And I just believe it's our chance to get back where our dollars, our tax dollars go. I mean, right now, it seems as though, when I was in the military, it was use-it-or-lose-it mentality. If you don't spend the budget, you lose those dollars. And I feel like now it's reform and making educated decisions where our dollars are spent. And I don't believe we've had that the past eight years.

WOMAN: I think values, as well, because we've had so many polarized things with issues like abortion. Whether you have conservatives, where, like the Supreme Court justices, things that are, that have been an issue there because you either have, you're supposed to have a, you know, a representative of all of the beliefs in the country, and it's been traditionally pretty liberal. So that was a big concern. And I can breathe a sigh of relief at least this last one got through, but it wasn't without a lot of effort on getting this Supreme Court justice nominated. That was a very big issue.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask the group this. Thinking globally now, what international reform policy issue are you most concerned about right now?

MAN: Immigration.

WOMAN: Immigration.

WOMAN: Immigration, definitely.

MODERATOR: Let's do this. How about beyond immigration, which, by the way, fits as both a kind of, well, not kind of, a domestic and an international issue? Any others?

WOMAN: Foreign trade.

MODERATOR: Trade. Okay.

MAN: Yeah, trade agreements.

WOMAN: Terrorism.

MODERATOR: Terrorism. Okay. Other international concerns, foreign policy concerns?

WOMAN: How to deal with North Korea . . .

MAN: Yeah, I mean . . . start a war.

WOMAN: . . . nuclear war . . .

MODERATOR: Let's do this. I'm going to hand out something that we'll use occasionally. Let me get the pens out first, or . . . pencils. And take one, pass it down. We're going to have a few chances for you to write stuff down. One of the . . .

MAN: . . . Detroit.

WOMAN: Well, I was . . .

MODERATOR: . . . advantages on, of people writing things down is, you know, you get your own thoughts down without them being impacted by other people. So on the first page, I'll wait until it gets around. On the bottom of the first page it says, there's a box that says please put your first name and last initial in the box below. And then after you've done that, go ahead and flip over to page two, and just kind of hang there until I know everybody's done.

WOMAN: . . . the . . . you know.

MODERATOR: Okay. It says please do not turn the page until you are told to do so. Okay. Go ahead and turn the page.

WOMAN: At least it says thank you.

MODERATOR: And we're going to get you thinking creatively a little bit. And so your question is, if Donald Trump were an animal, what kind of animal would he be, and why? You don't have to like, you know, write the animal on top. You don't have to write a whole lot down, but just enough, you know, as to why that popped, that kind, that animal popped to mind. And when you're done, just go ahead and put your pencil down just so I know where folks are.

MAN: You threw a curveball . . . I was like waiting for something else. What kind of animal would he be? It's like . . .

MODERATOR: Well, it's baseball season, so I can throw a curveball. If you're still writing, that's fine, but, and I see most people are almost done. Man, do you want to start us out with what you've got and why?

MAN: Well, I put like a tiger, fierce, competitive, killer instinct, and protective instinct.

WOMAN: I like that.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Yeah, I put tiger too. You know, he's, yeah, he's a competitor and really wants change in this country.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Mine is a little unusual, a draft horse. He has great power but has it under control.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: I put a lion. He seems to be devouring his prey. Those who are, you know, I feel like, I mean, to use the word entitlement, but I feel like those who are leveraging the advantages of being in politics he seems to be getting out.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Shark.

MODERATOR: Shark, and why shark?

MAN: Because he'll eat just about anything.

WOMAN: These are fun. I had to laugh, because I said at first I thought a bull. But then I thought, well, they're very destructive. They can't rein it in. And then I said, nope, he's more like a well-bred racehorse, because he's out there to win, and he knows what he needs to do.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I also said lion. I thought of like a pack. He's like leading the group, not afraid to speak what he's thinking.

MAN: Maybe the mane has . . .

WOMAN: I said elephant, because he's, his presence is so overwhelming when he's in the room. I mean, I think he's arrogant. I mean, he's got, he has some work to do. But he's pretty, you know, you're going to know he's there.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Woman?

WOMAN: I put honey badger. The honey badger actually goes into a hive and attacks the hive. So he's tough. I think he's a fighter, and I think he doesn't care too much about those around him, and someone who usually wins.

MODERATOR: Okay. The next thing I'm, hold on. Stay on this page for now, because I'm going to show you what I'm going to ask you to do next. It's a projective exercise called a mind map. Don't go, don't flip yet.

MAN: No, I was going to go back.

MODERATOR: I'm going to show you one, and take a look. I'm going to show you one I did when I got here real quick. What you do is you start with a word in a circle, and my word was spring. That's not going to be your word. So I, and then here's what I did in about two minutes, really quickly.

WOMAN: Because it's spring now.

MODERATOR: Yeah, because it's spring now. So the first thing I thought of was, well, you get longer days. You know, the sun is out longer, and it's sunnier and warmer. At least most of the time it's warmer. Baseball is back. And then you've got hockey playoffs, which, I guess, for the first time in a long time . . .

MAN: Twenty-five years.

MODERATOR: . . . 25 years, that's what I thought it was, that's a sore subject here in Michigan. By the way, I'm from Virginia, so hockey isn't that big a deal. But I did hear about the streak ending. It's, you know, flowers, time to plant flowers and stuff. My wife really likes to decorate our back yard, so I do enjoying helping now, as long as I don't have to weed later in the summer.

And then I kind of, you know, get the birds in our area, and I like to put out the feeders and stuff. It also means I've got to fight with the squirrels. What I find works best, I'm not around enough to do it all the time, but is on my pole I take Vaseline. And I start part way up, because I like to watch them start to crawl up, and then . . . hit the Vaseline and slide right back down.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: It's like a little cartoon.

MAN: I saw a slinky works well too.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Yeah. Then they jump, and they get on the slinky, and then they . . . and they keep doing it.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: I'll bet you there's a video on that.

MAN: There is.

WOMAN: I'll be there is.

MODERATOR: And then I like to go biking and kayaking, you know, now that the weather is warmer. And, of course, look, I . . . year-round, but it, you know, it's lot more relaxing and fun to go outside not when there's snow or cold rain or whatever, but when it's sunny and still nice out. So that's mine.

Yours is, go ahead and jump to page five, which is right after page four. You can go ahead and turn to page five. And your mind map, as you probably guessed, is going to be Donald Trump. So just take two or three minutes, and jot down everything. You know, some of them are connected, as you can see from the example up there. Some of them are just on their own. Okay. Take another 30 seconds or so, if you're still writing. Jot down one or two more or three more thoughts or so. Just kind of be wrapping up the last one.

Okay. I'm not going to ask you for everything you wrote down. I'm just going to ask you for one thing. And I'll go around the room. Woman, I'll start with you. And, guess what? You have it easiest, because anything you wrote down is not up here yet. So what I'm asking is if you also have written down something that somebody else has already said, if you could go with something that hadn't been said yet. And, Woman, can you fix your nametag? I can still see it, but I'm worried it's going to disappear. Woman?

WOMAN: Lines in the sand, draws lines in the sand.

MODERATOR: Lines in the sand. And, Woman?

WOMAN: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: Healthcare. And, Woman?

WOMAN: I wrote honest with another bubble that says, public actually knows what's going on.

MODERATOR: Okay. You said honest and then . . .

WOMAN: Tells us what he's doing.

MODERATOR: Public . . .

WOMAN: Tweets it.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Trolls it . . .

WOMAN: He's just out there.

MODERATOR: And, Woman?

WOMAN: I have in one bubble keeps his promises, and then I put three other ones after that that connect to that bubble.

MODERATOR: That's okay. We'll go with that one for now.

WOMAN: I'm good.

MODERATOR: And then we have Man.

MAN: Social issues.

MODERATOR: Social issues. What social issues do you think go with him?

MAN: I just wish they would get over some of these social issues, like, basically, like saying get over it.

MODERATOR: And, Man?

MAN: First generation politician.

MODERATOR: Then we have Man.

MAN: Has conservative cabinet.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then we have Man.

MAN: Surrounds himself by good people that he's elected.

MODERATOR: I'm going to put that next to conservative, or connected to conservative cabinet. It's not the same thing, but it's, they're really, and then, Man?

MAN: I just put smart and good business sense.

MODERATOR: . . . connecting smart/business sense. By the way, you might be able to tell that in elementary school I did not get good marks for penmanship, but it's helpful to write them down. Okay. We don't have a ton of these, but I do have for now, and then we're going to put them aside, go ahead two pages over to the next exercise. And that is, I want you to finish the sentence on what, the thing that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most proud about my vote for him, and then the one below that is the thing that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most unsure about my vote for him is.

So go ahead and fill those out. And, again, just put your pen down when you're done. Oh, unsure. I put concerned, but it should say unsure up there. If you're still writing, that's fine. Man, I'll start with you and then make my way around to the other side. So, Man, what did you have for both proud of and unsure?

MAN: He's a finisher.

MODERATOR: Finisher, and then concerned?

MAN: Is he going to finish what he's . . . is he going to be around in four years? Is he going to be around in two years?

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: He's doing his best to do everything he said he would do.

MODERATOR: And then unsure about your vote?

WOMAN: His mouth sometimes speaks before his brain connects.

MAN: Well, he is a guy.

MAN: I was going to say . . . male . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And then we have Woman.

WOMAN: I wrote stands up for what he believes in, and my most unsure was also speaks without a filter.

MAN: I think he doesn't listen to his filters.

WOMAN: I think he means well. It just comes out . . .

MODERATOR: And, Woman?

WOMAN: I'm proud that he keeps his promises.

MODERATOR: And most unsure about?

WOMAN: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then we've got Woman.

WOMAN: The new appointment of the Supreme Court justice, and then he tweets too much.

MODERATOR: Well, I'll tell you that one thing that's kind of funny is I did some of these last week in Ohio and Pennsylvania. You might notice a theme on where I've been, it's states that went Obama and now Trump. But before that, I had to write down Supreme Court nominee. Now it's Supreme Court justice, so things do change. And now we have Man.

MAN: They already actually said it, but I put proud was the honesty, does what he says, and unsure was the tweeting everything.

MODERATOR: Honesty . . . what he says, and tweets. And then we have Man.

MAN: Yeah, I just put that he's trying to do something about healthcare, which is good. And then, yeah, just his mouth gets in the way sometimes.

MODERATOR: And, Man?

MAN: He gave an ultimatum and enforced it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Which one were you thinking of?

WOMAN: Which one was it?

MAN: Syria.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: And tweeting seems un-presidential to me, but then I'm an old fogey, I don't tweet. It just seems like it.

MAN: No, you're not old.

MAN: Now if George Washington would have tweeted . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I had put met with U.S. business owners and CEOs to identify issues and solutions. And then what makes me most unsure is his inability to pass healthcare reform bill and tweets too much. And I'm only 35.

MAN: There's a common theme here.

MAN: But we do know that Lincoln tweeted and FDR tweeted. Lincoln had the Gettysburg Address, and FDR has fireside chats.

MODERATOR: Well, my favorite Lincoln tweet was, don't believe everything you read on the Internet.

WOMAN: Wow, that's great.

MAN: Yeah, that's what I was thinking of. Yeah, Abraham Lincoln.

MODERATOR: Okay. Go ahead and put the workbooks, close them up, and put them aside for now. That was kind of interesting stuff, right? All right. If you could pick one personal quality, a personal quality, not an issue or anything like that, a personal quality, what is it that you like most, what personal quality do you like most about Donald Trump?

MAN: Relentless.

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Others?

MAN: Decisiveness.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Decisiveness. Okay. And then, Woman?

WOMAN: His family relationships.

MODERATOR: Family relationships.

WOMAN: I like his manners.

MAN: Confidence.

MODERATOR: Confidence.

WOMAN: See, I don't know one word for it, but he doesn't care what people think, so he's, I don't know how to word that shorter, but . . . says, okay, says it . . .

MODERATOR: I didn't say it had to be one word, just a personal . . .

MAN: . . .

WOMAN: . . . like he means, like just puts it out there. He doesn't beat around the bush.

MAN: Means what he says, says what he means.

MODERATOR: Anything else from anybody, personal quality that you like or personal characteristic.

WOMAN: He doesn't smoke or drink.

MAN: That we know of.

MODERATOR: And what personal quality that Donald Trump has concerns you most about him?

WOMAN: His mouth.

MODERATOR: His mouth. Okay. Anything else come to mind that you're like, oh, I'm, you know, I like him overall, but personally quality, not an issue, you know.

MAN: That's the big thing is he just speaks, you know, or maybe he thinks it up completely.

WOMAN: Like a talk thinker?

MAN: And then people, yeah, people are quick to jump on it.

MODERATOR: Woman, what's a talk-thinker?

WOMAN: When you talk out, you talk your thoughts out as you're thinking through the process. You talk it out. You don't think it through silently in your head. You walk the steps out.

WOMAN: It's not what you say, it's how you say it maybe, no?

WOMAN: It's more than that. It's like, okay, now I'm going to do this, and then I'm going to do that. But, wait a minute. Maybe I'd better back up and try this first. You think out loud. And he tends to be that way, and he expresses it how he feels. He doesn't couch his phrases in a politically correct way of saying things. You know, if he, it says, pardon me, if he says he's going to urinate, he might say I'm going to pee on the floor. You know, he'll say it that way rather than make it socially acceptable.

WOMAN: . . . politically correct . . .

MODERATOR: . . .

WOMAN: No, just what she was saying, politically correct.

MODERATOR: Okay. So he is politically correct, or he's not politically correct?

WOMAN: He's not always . . .

MAN: He's . . .

MODERATOR: Is that, and is that a concern or problem sometimes?

WOMAN: I think he should listen to his advisors. I'm sure they're telling him quit tweeting at 3:00 in the morning whatever comes to mind, which, I'm sure we all feel some of the things. But he makes a fool out of himself too.

MODERATOR: Okay. Did you think that, thinking back to 2015 when Trump announced, did you think that he would make a good President before he became a presidential candidate, you know, his name . . . out there?

WOMAN: Absolutely not.

MODERATOR: Oh, let me finish. Or was it after he started running for office that you thought he might be a good candidate? Woman, when did you think? You said . . .

WOMAN: Not until almost the very end. I did not. He was not my pick.

MODERATOR: When you talk about the end, do you mean the end of the Republican . . .

WOMAN: Correct. Yes, I do.

MODERATOR: . . . or before the presidential campaign?

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: And then, Man, you said absolutely.

MAN: Yeah, I just, the, my thought process well, if he can manage, take care of that multi-billion dollar company as well as he does, then he should be able to take care of the country, at least the finances and everything.

MAN: Yeah, we needed a businessman . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . that's true. The day I heard he was running, I told, I looked at my husband, and I said, that's our new President. And that was like years, well, yeah, probably in 2015. And he was like no way. And I was like, yeah, just watch. I just knew it.

WOMAN: I thought he was a joke in the beginning.

WOMAN: I'm with Woman, 100%.

MODERATOR: When did you come around?

WOMAN: Not until he was the last one, and then up until I had to fill in the circle.

MODERATOR: For, and you kind of feel the same way?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Now, okay, let me hear from others first. Were you? Now I do have a question to follow up. Did you think, you know, right away when he got into the race, wow, this guy is going to, or should be President or could, would be a good President, or did you think, did you have to be convinced of that as you, as the campaign went on?

WOMAN: I thought he'd be a good president.

MAN: I had to be convinced.

MAN: I liked some of the other candidates, but then they dropped out, and I thought, well, this is our choice. You know, it's him or Hillary, so.

MODERATOR: Was your vote more for Hillary or . . .

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: . . . sorry, against Hillary or for Trump?

MAN: More against Hillary than for Trump, but I saw a lot of good things in him, so it wasn't completely . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, how about you?

MAN: My vote was definitely against Hillary and, you know, for Trump.

MODERATOR: Were you on, as the saying goes, the Trump train early, or did it take some, you know, did it take a while?

MAN: No, it took some convincing, but . . .

MODERATOR: And what got you on? Was it the Republican presidential debates, or was it that he was the last one standing or . . .

MAN: Yeah, I think he did a pretty good job in the debates.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, how about you?

MAN: I was, when I heard, maybe the . . . I laughed for like days, just like, really, he's going to be the President? He's going to beat all these other guys that are professionals? He's going to be the last man standing? So then he, when he was the last man standing and started firing at Hillary, and it was just like, it just, for some reason, it was like you had to vote for this guy.

It was like everybody was saying, no, he's going to be bad for the country. He's going to be bad for this. He's doing to be bad for that. And it was like I was getting drawn in. So I couldn't tell you when I first got on the train, or was I the last one on the train. It was just, Trump just seemed like he was going to be the new guy. He was going to do it.

MODERATOR: Was that before it was down to just him and Hillary? You know, was it when there were only a couple Republicans left, or was it when it was just him against Hillary?

MAN: It, when, it was when they started doing the debates and . . .

MODERATOR: Which ones, Republican or general election?

MAN: The Republican debates where they had 26 people up there. And it was just like he would take a question and be like, bam. And it was just like he wasn't going to take no gruff. He was just going to come out there and just start punching away. And when he, I can't remember which guy it was he insulted, and it was like, yeah, he's going to fight. He's not going to lay down and, you know, do an Obama.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about, I'm sorry. Woman?

WOMAN: What I was looking at when I looked at the choices, you know, I had a couple people in mind that I really preferred that seemed more polished. But the thing, as I began to look at it, and I saw who contributed where, the thing I knew for sure was Hillary could

not be the next President. It just, it, we, you had to look at who would be the best candidate to usurp or to overthrow the Hillary regime that was being built up.

And the thing is, with Trump, there were, he didn't need anybody to donate to his campaign, and so, therefore, they couldn't pull strings and say, okay, now because we gave you this amount of money, you've got to do what we say. And everything that he, that Trump said, you know, it was like, okay, Mr. Moderator. Why are you turning my mic off, but you leave theirs on? You know, he called them out. He made them accountable.

Because I looked at them. I didn't like Hillary, for sure. I didn't really care for Trump's brashness, and I thought, well, maybe I should look at the Vice Presidents, because one or the other is liable to get themselves killed before they get elected, and so then the Vice President would have to step up. Which one is more likely to be, you know, to run the country? But the more I listened to what Trump was, the more I said I really didn't have any choice. I knew I couldn't vote for Hillary. I could not live with myself if I did. He was the one that seemed like he was the only one that was going to be able to make it through all that mess. I've never seen so many people run for Republican, a chance to be President in my life.

MODERATOR: So, real quickly, was your vote for Trump or against Hillary?

WOMAN: Yes, it was for Trump, absolutely, yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then, Man, how about you? When did you? Let me go back to that initial question, which is when did you think he would make a good President?

MAN: I mean, all right, so hindsight is 20/20. No one is going to believe me, but I was on the train from the beginning. I liked Kasich, but the whole thing was, to their point, lobbyists have had their control for so long. And I felt like, although President Donald Trump will have his own bias and wouldn't be completely fed by lobbyists and this general political environment.

So I was on the Trump train from the beginning. I honestly thought he was going to win. I believe I was like a cheerleader for him in some senses. And I knew he'd be polished in public. You know, we would get to watch this over time. And from January or even November until now, in my opinion, like when he announced what happened in Syria, I've never seen him talk so slow.

WOMAN: He's learning.

MAN: He's just, he is so, I mean, this might sound crazy in this environment, but JFK, if you go back to listen to his speeches, to me, he was the most presidential President we've ever had. And then you see Trump, and he's evolving into a powerhouse. When he speaks, he's very thorough. He's concise now. He's not always using his hands. I mean, it's just . . .

MAN: It takes a lot of coaching.

MAN: Yeah, and to me, I believe, in the background, we don't have all the noise from lobbyists getting, you know, followed through on by all the politicians now. And I think most people in D.C. are scared. That's my personal opinion, because he's uncontrollable, which I like.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, oh, Woman. I'm sorry, then you.

WOMAN: That's okay. I was on the Trump train, so to speak, from the beginning. I think, for me, a lot of it was like an intuition. I really believe like go with your gut. And I think the reason why I had the intuition I did was because he was different than anybody that's ever ran that I've learned about in history and school until I've been able to vote the last two elections, that he's just different than anything.

And I do think a lot of the reason why people did, if, I think the reasons for not wanting to vote for him were like his mouth, or he talked with his hands, or he was unpolished. but I was able to just see past that and see like a businessman and having family that owns their own business or always having to, you know, support myself from a young age working, and just knowing he was a working man. You know, I was just, I think, too, as he becomes more polished, people are going to see what he's really about and not let that take away from what he's about, just that he has a bad mouth sometimes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, you said you came pretty late to supporting Trump, like right before the election. Were you, would you consider your vote more against Hillary or for Trump?

WOMAN: That's a hard one, because I'd do anything to get Obama out of there.

WOMAN: . . . yeah . . . Obama . . .

WOMAN: So I was against him, but I also liked Trump. You know, there's a lot of things that I had to pick. But in the beginning, I didn't. I thought he was a joke. I thought he would be the first one out. He's a TV star. He's been married. I thought he didn't have a chance in heck. And, I mean, you know, so far, I'm very pleased.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you, the same question?

WOMAN: It came down to the Supreme Court justice. I, when I got to the voting booth, I had to convince myself that my vote mattered, and I needed to vote for him or leave it. It was either that, or leave it blank, because I would not vote for Hillary. So I said, okay, my vote does matter, and the Supreme Court justice is what really matters right now.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. Man, we've got your answer on this, but how about others? Going into the election, did you think that Donald Trump was going to win, or did you think that Hillary Clinton was going to win?

WOMAN: I . . .

MODERATOR: You thought Trump. Okay. How about others?

MAN: Trump.

MODERATOR: Trump.

MAN: Trump.

MODERATOR: Did you feel it? Anybody here think Clinton was going to win? Okay. Two of you.

MAN: I was so convinced, I was on my way to Canada. I . . .

MAN: Oh, go ahead.

MAN: I was going to, I was joking. And I said it was going to be over by 11:00. Hillary is going to win. I'm going to get the keys to the Transit, and I'm driving to the Canadian border. You guys can pick it up there.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: I didn't think he would. I hoped he would, but I didn't think he would from the way things were going. And I guess Hillary is all getting ready for her speech, and then something changed, so she wasn't able to give the speech she wanted to give.

MODERATOR: Woman, how about you? You thought Hillary?

WOMAN: I thought Hillary would win.

MODERATOR: Yeah, based on?

WOMAN: Just I think the loudmouths in social media, and I think there's a lot of liberal people who spend a lot of time convincing people and just shouting, where I think conservatives are more conservative, and they don't necessarily put their opinions out there. So I, that's what I thought. Plus, I live in a Democratic city.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you, why did you think Hillary was going to win?

WOMAN: I fully . . . gosh, that when Obama won the ballots were not counted right. I think he shouldn't have won. I think there was tampering. And I think that's what they were going to do for Hillary. That's what I assumed they would do, so . . .

MODERATOR: Man, why did you think that Trump was going to win?

MAN: I was just . . . I don't know exactly why. You can just have feelings. I just thought he would, just because I, the same reason as I said that I voted for him in the first place. I just thought he was going to be great at managing all our finances, could make the economy boost back up, and everything else. And I figured everybody would come around to see that.

MODERATOR: Okay. Before the election, were you reluctant to tell people, to tell other people you were going to vote for Trump, and if you were, why? Woman?

WOMAN: Yes, because this is the most vocal I've ever had my friends or family. I work in a hospital, specifically in the OR, and surgeons, most of them, are all Republican. And it was just people weren't afraid to tell you what they thought about your vote. There wasn't a respect for your vote. It was their thoughts about your vote versus a respect for your own.

MODERATOR: But I'm confused. If the surgeons were likely to vote Republican.

WOMAN: Republican, yeah . . . so just if someone in the room was Democrat, then it was a fight. Or say if I was working with a nurse, I guess, that was Democrat, it would turn into like this environment where everybody is all of a sudden against each other in the room, instead of a civil conversation and respecting each other's feelings.

MODERATOR: Did you guys pretty much stop talking about politics?

WOMAN: Yeah, it became like a no-politic rule.

MODERATOR: How about others? Was anybody else concerned about . . .

WOMAN: Definitely, because it became so frenzied in our workplaces, the, our unions were almost demanding that we sign up to call people. You've got to tell people to vote for Hillary. And, you know, they would have a kid . . . that would travel from one class to the next, and they'd literally grab you. You're going to vote for Hillary, right? And we're like, wow.

And even during the election, I, as the results kept coming in, I had kids that would text me, and, please tell me you voted. Please tell me you voted for Hillary. And I'm like,

I'm voting for the Vice Presidents. That's what I would tell them, because we were just, you know, the few times that I would make a comment, because they would get, even on the Facebook things . . . they would get crazy. They would say ridiculous things. And if you would say, well, what about this, then they would go, oh, you're a Republican. What are you doing here? And it's like you just made a comment. Did you look at both sides of the story and . . .

MODERATOR: Did, were there other teachers at your school who supported Trump or . . .

WOMAN: Yes, I know of 2, and they did . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Out of about how many?

WOMAN: . . . oh, out of about 40 in our building, but . . .

MODERATOR: So three total, including yourself?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: So less than 10%.

WOMAN: Absolutely, and I would say it's like that throughout the whole district.

MODERATOR: Anybody else feel like they couldn't talk or were reluctant to talk to people about their vote? Man, is that . . .

MAN: Yeah, I couldn't. I mean, I know I work with a bunch of people that vote Democrat. And so, as they say, don't talk politics in work. At work, I just kept it to myself.

MODERATOR: So it wasn't so much Trump, it was just you don't like to talk politics at work.

MAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else?

MAN: West of 275, it was Trump. East of 275, I had to be a so-called Hillary supporter, right?

MODERATOR: You travel for work then?

MAN: Oh, yes.

MODERATOR: Within the area?

MAN: Yeah, the big, there's a big difference between Romulus and Belleville. It's like a monstrous gulf. Everybody in Belleville was all for Trump. So like I'd work in the Belleville store, and I had to be, yes, I'm for Trump. Yeah, and did you hear him at that speech

he made in Ohio? Yeah. The Romulus store, are you voting for Hillary? Oh, of course, yeah. Don't, put the gun down, hey, you know. Don't stab me in the parking lot . . .

WOMAN: . . . started when people were rioting and all that stuff. It got a little scary that maybe you shouldn't say who you, you know.

WOMAN: And even after.

MAN: Yeah, I work. I have a lot of clients that are Lebanese in Dearborn, and I was very conservative as to my viewpoint there, because I didn't know their point of view. But then as they opened up, I found out a lot of them were Trump supporters, believe it or not.

WOMAN: There was a lot of closet support Trump . . .

MAN: There was a lot of closet Trump supporters in that community.

WOMAN: Yes, there was.

MAN: And everyone that I spoke to had the general idea that that demographic would never support Donald Trump. And it was, they were dead wrong.

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MODERATOR: Tell me what emotions or feelings you had, either on election night, if you stayed up late enough, or the next morning when you found out that he was elected President. How did you feel?

WOMAN: I was at peace, personally, because I'm a Christian, and I said, God has already picked out who our President is, and I just went to bed.

WOMAN: It's the first time I think I've ever stayed up to watch the entire thing. It was like, you know, whatever is going to happen is going to happen. But as I began to see it unravel, part of it was disbelief, because you saw all these people that were wringing their hands, and, oh, my God, wait. This website to go to Canada has crashed, so many people want to leave. I mean, dramatics. I'm like, what age are these people again? You know, we are allowed to vote for who we want. The people have spoken. Get over it.

But you're, but I was so excited, but I was in disbelief at the reactions. I mean, you didn't see that the last election when the people who didn't want Obama to get in. They didn't act like that. They didn't throw temper tantrums and lay on the floor and scream and say they couldn't pass their bar exams because, you know, their person didn't get in for the presidency.

WOMAN: But that might happen now.

WOMAN: It does happen now, because you're dealing with the entitlement . . .

WOMAN: No, I mean, the next election, if it goes the other way. Now maybe the conservatives are going to start . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: They don't realize it's only four years. They think it's the rest of time.

WOMAN: That's right.

MODERATOR: Woman, go ahead.

WOMAN: I was excited, because, you know, it felt like a true race up to the last minute . . .

WOMAN: Yes, it did.

WOMAN: . . . kind of a . . . anticipation. I had a little bit of frustration, but that was more towards the media, and I think that's even now. You can turn on one Web, one news station and hear one thing, and turn on another one and hear a completely different version. And I believe, based on what you want to believe or what you want to be told, you kind of pick what news you want to watch or what Facebook you want to follow. And there's so much, so that kind of is frustrating. But as to the results of the election, I was happy. But I think sometimes with our media in this day and age, it can be a frustrating experience to hear what's true.

MODERATOR: Okay. How about this side of the table, how did you guys feel? What was your emotion? What was your, how did you feel?

MAN: I was dumbfounded. I turned it off at night, because I just thought, well, this is going to be crazy, so I'm just going to go to bed. When I got up in the morning and heard about it, I thought, are you kidding? What did they say, President Trump? I mean, that, I liked it, but I didn't hardly believe it, because, you know, it just seemed everything was so overloaded on the other side, it's like there's no possible way he's ever going to make it. Because, you know, 99%, it seems like 99% of the media and the unions and everybody else was fighting. Even his own party was fighting against him. It's like how is he going to make it? He made it, so.

MAN: I was happy. Especially because my brother-in-law, for the whole time kept saying, oh, he, people in this country are too stupid. They're never going to vote for Trump. He'll never get it. So that next morning I was like, hey, what was that you were saying?

MODERATOR: So was your brother-in-law a Trump supporter, or he just thought people wouldn't support him?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Oh, okay. Man, how about you?

MAN: I was just relieved, because there was, it's a long process. And, you know, to see him finally win was just a relief to me.

MODERATOR: Is there any time since the election, any point since the election in which you regretted voting for Donald Trump?

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: No. Okay. Not even once, not even with some of the things he's tweeted or, okay. Did anybody here vote for Barack Obama? Because Michigan is one of those states that went Obama twice and then for Trump. Anybody here vote for Obama either in 2008 or 2012?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: No. Okay.

MAN: . . . bother to show up. I know. My bad. It's my fault.

MODERATOR: Do you think that Donald Trump is changing or will be able to change the way things work in Washington?

WOMAN: Yes.

WOMAN: I think he already has.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Slowly but surely.

MODERATOR: Woman, how so?

MAN: Definitely . . .

WOMAN: One thing is because the media has had such a controlling force in Washington, and when he wouldn't allow them into the, or he didn't attend that media political dinner thing, he put them in their place. And while I don't like all his little tweets, when you sit back, and you look at it, you realize he's trolling. He sends a lot of those out to send the media out on their little wild goose chases, and then he goes back and gets things done. There's a strategy to what he does.

And that's the only reason I'm not like entirely unhappy with the tweeting part, because I can see where he's going with it. He just, he knows they'll run after something. Let

them all chase down that little bunny rabbit trail, then I'm going to go this way, and I'll get things done. I think that those are the things that I'm seeing where he changes, I think, because he listens to people that do have not just your everyday person on the street, but people who have a sense of knowing, knowledge and expertise about how things should go that are not necessarily politically correct. He listens, and he weighs those things. So I do see. I think it's going to take time, but I believe it's already begun to change.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts on is he going to be able to change Washington?

MAN: Well, I feel like he's in the . . . they already are, just because he like didn't have to have any lobbyists or anything to control him.

MAN: It's an uphill battle.

WOMAN: Yeah, but, you know, too . . .

MODERATOR: Well, go ahead, Man, and then I'll go to Woman.

MAN: I was just going to say, it's an uphill battle. It's like he's almost the only one that does things and thinks of things the way he does. But he's not a politician, so . . .

MODERATOR: So does that mean he's not going to be able to change Washington because he's the only one, and he's not a politician, or . . . because . . .

MAN: I think he's, yeah, he's, well, he's able to at least start some change there.

WOMAN: He's got a big fight in front of him.

MAN: Yeah, I don't think he'll be able to change everything, but I think he's making some inroads.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Okay. Now I'm going to answer my question from earlier, the Roadrunner. What animal do you think best describes Trump? He's the Roadrunner, and the Democrats and the media is basically Wile E. Coyote. But he's only going to finish what they're going to let him finish. The only way we're going to get what we really want is we're going to have to do it. We're going to have to be the people behind him being.

Because, Reagan would say something, and they would always say, oh, Reagan, you are, go back to acting. The only way he got things done was we all got together behind Reagan and said, you're going to get it done. We're going to push him across the finish line. That's the way I see it's going to be accomplished.

MODERATOR: Okay. What was, does anybody remember what the Trump campaign slogan was?

WOMAN: Make American Great Again.

MAN: Yeah . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. That was an easy question. But let me ask you this. What does, when you hear Make American Great Again, what does that mean to you? What do you hear when you hear that?

MAN: It hasn't been great.

WOMAN: Change.

MAN: It has to be changed to make it great again, because something happened.

MODERATOR: And, Woman, you said?

WOMAN: Change.

WOMAN: Yeah, that's what I think of.

MODERATOR: Other thoughts?

MAN: No more silliness.

MODERATOR: No more silliness. Okay.

WOMAN: I think it was a sense of, when you said Make America Great Again, it makes you go back to when you stopped being great. Because, obviously, something changed.

WOMAN: I think a sense of feeling pride of living in America.

MAN: And just that pride of what we build here too, like made in America, not like all that stuff you like go to Walmart and buy because it's cheap, and it's made from China.

WOMAN: True.

MODERATOR: Other thoughts on what Make American Great again means?

MAN: Well, I think with Obama, everyone bought into that change comment. And then we saw what change was, and not all change is good.

MAN: That's what was left in our pockets.

MAN: So Make American Great Again to me was, back, I grew up in the '80s, and I could ride my bike until it got dark. I could, you know, play in the park and not worry about some of the things that are going on in today's society. I just, I feel like it was getting things back on track is what I took from Make America Great Again.

MODERATOR: What are some of the reasons to you America was no longer great?

WOMAN: I think we lost international respect over the last eight years. I have a very large international community of friends, and they, there's zero respect now, I think, for our, even our military. And I think that should be very eye-awakening for all of us.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other reasons? Go ahead, Woman.

WOMAN: I'd say military and like VA systems. I have family, my brother is in the service, and I know, I just don't feel he gets what he should get for being gone all the time. And I think our military could be treated a lot better.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other ways America is no longer great?

WOMAN: Racial, there's more tension than ever before that I remember. You know, it's worse than it's ever been.

WOMAN: And also the attacks on the police officers. I mean, that's just, it's upside down.

MAN: . . . normal.

MAN: Well, a lot of that happened in lower socioeconomic areas where it seems like drug dealing is their way out. And I just feel like that's been abandoned. You know, Obama was from Chicago, and Chicago has one of the highest murder rates. It wasn't being addressed. There was no assistance to help the poor communities, it seemed like. And I actually believe Trump will take action in those areas as he promised.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other reasons America wasn't great?

WOMAN: I think . . .

MAN: It just seemed like too much political correctness. It was like if you, if I made a comment about I don't like country music, because he's wearing a country hat, so I'm going to say he likes country music, people would, no, you've got to love country music . . . Garth Brooks, and it just got to the point, it's like we nitpicked everything. You want to use the men's bathroom, and you're a woman. You can't do that. If you want to go the opposite way, you can't do that. If you don't want to serve, make a cake for somebody, it's like that you're being homophobic. It's like, no, I just don't want to do it. It's like it just seemed like we picked everything. Everything had to be politically correct and . . .

MAN: And we didn't want to offend anybody in any way.

MAN: Right.

MODERATOR: I had somebody over here who started to say something. Oh, Woman.

WOMAN: I was going to say, in some ways, I think that it's the perception of things aren't going as well. For instance, like immigration, you hear people say, oh, Trump is not letting in immigrants. It's like, no, he's trying to stop illegal immigration.

WOMAN: Thank you.

WOMAN: People just jump the gun, and I think it's an education thing, or they just listen and run with something the media says versus really breaking it down. It's like, no, he's not saying these people can't come here. He just wants it legally, and he wants to tighten up the system to make it safer for people to just come in here and not waltz in here so like . . .

MAN: But then . . .

MODERATOR: Man, you get the last word on this. Go ahead.

MAN: So to that point, like you had talked about the election. When they were announcing him winning, the people seemed to be in disbelief. And I feel like a journalist's job is to show a nonbiased opinion. And for the first time, they showed their true colors, like, oh, my God, our Hillary is not winning. And there's where I feel like we need to get back to, where people are showing their true colors.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. Was your support, I'm going to ask for a show of hands, two options. Let me read it first, and then I'll re-ask. Was your support for Donald Trump more based on his issue positions or more based on his willingness to tell it like it is instead of worrying about being politically correct? So how many say it was more based on his issue positions? Raise your hand. One, two. How many more on the, he was willing to tell it like it is? Okay. And then, Woman, you're up in the air.

WOMAN: Yeah, I don't, I can't choose one over the other on that, I don't think. I don't know.

MODERATOR: Thinking about if Hillary had won the election instead of Donald Trump, would you be more supportive or less supportive of the Republican Party? I mean, if Hillary had won, how would that affect your feelings towards the Republican party, more supportive, or less supportive?

MAN: Less.

MODERATOR: Man, why less?

MAN: When he is your figurehead of your party, and you're not all in, I mean, this is like a war. All the Democrats are backing up Hillary, except for Bernie. And, basically, it was like there's no retreat. You're guys are going to surrender? You guys are going to quit? It was like the seventh inning, and they were already, you know, hey, let's pack up the bus, and bring in the next guy.

MODERATOR: Okay. So you'd be less supportive.

MAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Other thoughts?

WOMAN: I would be less, I think, only because I can't stand the way that his own people, I mean, other . . .

MAN: His own party.

WOMAN: . . . his own party, exactly, turned against him.

MODERATOR: Okay. Here's where I get to be devil's advocate. Does anybody say, well, with Hillary, and, oh, that would be so much worse, so, you know, she would basically drive me into the arms of the Republican Party. Does anybody feel that way?

WOMAN: I've always been a big supporter of be a part of the solution, not the problem. And the biggest problem with the Republican Party has been it's been very weak. It's not been handled well. And I would want to support an effort to reform and to let, they need to find themselves, because they're not the strength they used to be. You know, there's been a lot of RINOs in the Republican Party and to where you're not even sure what they stand for anymore.

MODERATOR: What's a, I'm sorry, what's a RINO?

WOMAN: RINO is Republican in name only. We have one of those that's the governor of Michigan. He's about as Republican as Hillary, but . . .

MAN: On a good day.

WOMAN: On a good day, yes. And when you have that in there, it's no wonder, because you have a whole generation coming up that really doesn't even know what the Republican Party stood for. The big issue with the race thing, for example, most African-Americans tend to vote Democrat. And, yet, if you tell them do you not realize that it was the Democratic Party that supported and literally brought slavery to the table, and they go, no, it didn't. It was the Republican Party. No, it wasn't.

The Republican Party was the ones that stood against and fought against slavery. But they don't know that, and they're not willing to hear it. They only know what the Democratic Party has told them. And so that's what, though, that's just one small issue. But there's a lot of those that seem to, they need to be addressed in the Republican Party.

MODERATOR: Anybody else feel less would say, other than those who have already spoken, would say, oh, I'd be less supportive?

WOMAN: I would consider looking at the Libertarian Party.

WOMAN: Me too. That's a big one for . . .

MAN: It's like, where's my other choice?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I don't like that one. Is there another choice? What do I pick?

WOMAN: Libertarians might be the only other one.

MAN: Yeah, but, I couldn't hear them. It was like white noise. It was like . . . Republicans and the Democrats. And they said, by the way, there's a third party. Really, there is?

WOMAN: Yeah, they're not electable.

MAN: There's probably two or three more other parties, but, yeah, they're not off

. . .

WOMAN: There was a Green Party or something like that that was out there.

MAN: Yeah, the Communist Party.

MODERATOR: Did you vote, sorry, did you guys vote straight Republican ticket, or did you split your ticket? Who here split their ticket, anybody? So everybody voted straight. Okay.

MAN: To be honest, I didn't think we could.

MODERATOR: Split?

MAN: I didn't think we could split, because they kept saying, no, in Michigan you cannot split your ticket.

WOMAN: I think it's the, in the primary you can't split your ticket, but in . . .

MAN: The general election.

WOMAN: . . . the general, you can.

WOMAN: Yes.

WOMAN: It's kind of confusing how that's set up.

MAN: Right, but it was like you couldn't choose a Libertarian, or you couldn't choose a Green Party, because you couldn't find them. You didn't know what they stood for.

WOMAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Putting aside the Republicans, thinking about the Democrats, who is, and I'm not talking about the chairman of the DNC, the Democratic National Committee, they just elected a new one, but in your mind, put that person aside. In your mind, who is the leader of the Democratic Party. When you think about the National Democratic Party, who comes to mind now?

MAN: Mickey Mouse.

WOMAN: The media.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: The media.

MODERATOR: The media.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Yeah, probably the media.

MODERATOR: Does anybody, any specific politician come to mind? Let me throw out some names.

WOMAN: . . . Nancy Pelosi.

MAN: Elizabeth Warren.

MODERATOR: Okay. Nancy Pelosi, Elizabeth Warren. Chuck Schumer, does that name ring a bell?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Does, is he . . .

MAN: Chuck . . .

MODERATOR: Do you see him as the face of the Democratic Party at all?

WOMAN: Not as much as the other two.

MODERATOR: Does anybody know who, besides Man and Woman, know who Elizabeth Warren is? Man does, and a few other people saying yeah. Okay. But there's no like, oh, this is definitely the leader. How about Bernie Sanders? Is he the leader of the Democratic Party?

WOMAN: Yeah, he might. He's still pushing.

WOMAN: Yeah, he's, but he's so . . . he's true socialism.

WOMAN: All the Millennials are for him.

WOMAN: Yeah, I know they are, yeah.

MAN: I was hoping . . .

MAN: Because he gives free bread and . . . or something.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: I was paying for . . .

WOMAN: . . . I think it's . . .

MAN: I would have voted for Bernie if he would have put his foot on the gas pedal at the Democratic National Convention. I would have switched. But he started making the speech, and then, all of a sudden, it was like a voice went off in his head, and the next thing you know, I fully endorse Hillary Rodham Clinton. So I had to . . .

WOMAN: . . . it was called the . . .

MODERATOR: Well, let me ask this, changing topics slightly. When you hear what is often called the mainstream media being critical of Donald Trump, and I don't know if you've noticed, but they are from time to time . . .

WOMAN: From time to time?

MAN: From time to time? Only when they're . . .

MODERATOR: Wait, you guys . . . wait.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . when are they not?

MAN: When they're asleep.

MODERATOR: Does their criticism make you question your support for Trump, or does it reinforce that he's on the right track in terms of shaking things up in Washington?

WOMAN: It reinforces my . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . the lack of credibility of the media.

MODERATOR: Now, again, and people can have different opinions. Does anybody here say, yeah, it kind of, you know, when they come out with these criticisms, oh, I have second thoughts about them?

WOMAN: I just tune it out, to be honest.

WOMAN: And some of it is so dumb. It's just, they're looking so . . .

MAN: They're picking at straws.

WOMAN: Her arms were crossed. What does that mean?

MODERATOR: Well, what's the most biased news report you've seen the press do against Donald Trump or about Donald Trump?

MAN: When they said that, no, you were not bugged. And then they found out, well, he was incidentally bugged. Let's see. What was the other one?

MAN: The comment about grabbing.

WOMAN: Right, when . . .

MAN: . . . I felt like that was their strong pitch to derail him.

WOMAN: It worked. A lot of people did switch. That's when a lot of people started . . .

WOMAN: And they didn't even realize how many decades ago that that happened and . . .

MAN: People change.

WOMAN: People, and he did change.

WOMAN: Name me one celebrity that doesn't . . . that has something on their record.

WOMAN: Thank you.

WOMAN: Like not that that justifies it, but . . .

WOMAN: Right, and it wasn't recent. You know, all people have done stuff in their life they regretted.

MAN: . . .

WOMAN: But they didn't keep on doing it, and he didn't.

MAN: And then Billy Bush said, I nailed him. I got him. I nailed him. And he got fired. It was like Wyle E. Coyote going after the Roadrunner. It just was, you know.

MODERATOR: Other, I'm sorry, are there any other news reports you think of, and you way, wow, I remember that? They were totally unfair too.

WOMAN: They said he raped, I think, women, or, something like that. It was before he became President though.

WOMAN: They were saying he was like abusing his wife, which I just feel like you can't accuse somebody of that unless you have legitimate proof.

WOMAN: And the deal with the beauty queen.

WOMAN: I think a lot of it was too because Hillary was a woman that they made him like a woman hater.

WOMAN: Right.

MODERATOR: What Trump said recently, and I can't remember whether it was on Twitter or, you know, in comments, he said that, and I quote, quote, the press is the enemy of the people. What does that, how do you react to that?

WOMAN: I think he's right, and I wish people would start looking at it, because they tend to believe, well, it was on the news, it must be right. And I think that's where he got a lot of the older generation, because they were used to knowing that when you, when it was on the news, it was true. They weren't used to suddenly the media only puts what, puts a slant on things. You know, don't believe everything you read in the paper. Well, what about television? What about Facebook? What about, you know, go through the whole thing? He's right. The media is not. It is the enemy of the people. You just . . .

MAN: We're used to Walter Cronkite.

WOMAN: Yeah, but that's another day. You know, that era has sadly gone.

MODERATOR: Any other thoughts, Woman?

WOMAN: It makes me very sad that because the media should not be the enemy of the people. The media should be part of the voice of the people. And I'm just really just disheartened about the swing.

WOMAN: That was the heart of journalism.

MODERATOR: Man?

MAN: The media sold out to money. I mean, if you look, you can't help but see a Viagra commercial at the same time you're watching a show with your child. And it's like, why? Why is this okay? And then like all the fast food commercials, yet, there's this big push to eat healthy. But there's been no subsidies at the grocery store for you to buy organic vegetables. It's three times the price for an organic orange versus regular.

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: So it's just, people see the double standards. And I think politicians think that we're less intelligent than some of us are.

MODERATOR: Man, what's your thoughts about the press's treatment of the President?

MAN: I think it's totally wrong. I mean, they've, they're just, you know, they've, they're giving opinions that aren't really true of him. And, you know, it's just the media blows everything out of proportion.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, how about you? What's your thoughts about the way the press treats the President?

MAN: Oh, they're just, the media, like Man . . . it's just unfairly and unjust on everything. It just doesn't seem like they tell the truth at all anymore about anything. Everything is slanted one way or the other, and like he said, it's always about money . . .

MODERATOR: Do you notice a difference in press coverage with this President compared to the last President?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: MSNBC did more to make me vote for Trump than anything on this planet.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else? Woman, what's your thoughts on how?

WOMAN: I think the media is full of liberals, and that's why they're all pushing their agenda. And like he said, they're sold out. I don't think you can get the truth. But, again, I don't think you get the truth from either side. I think we're guilty too. I mean, I'm sure there's a few things that should have gone the other way that, you know, Fox News is not always 100% truthful, or they, they're truthful, but in a roundabout way.

MODERATOR: A show of hands. How many people here use Twitter? Okay.

MAN: We're going to . . .

MAN: Is that a Republican thing? No, I'm kidding.

MODERATOR: Do you know, do you feel like you know what Twitter is, or you've just kind of heard?

WOMAN: . . . can't say it in 25 characters or less or whatever it is. I don't have time for that . . . enough with Facebook and everything else.

WOMAN: I'm too old.

MAN: I'm trying to minimize my waste of time on technology. I mean, LinkedIn and Facebook is more than enough for me. And I just don't see value in Twitter or Snapchat. Let the kids have it.

MAN: I refuse to answer on grounds that it may come back to bite me, you know, in the divorce proceedings.

MAN: . . . my dad is 81 and has Facebook.

WOMAN: Oh, does he? I have Facebook. My . . . Twitter, I don't know. My dad is 86 and has Facebook, yeah.

MODERATOR: Why do you think President Trump tweets so much?

WOMAN: I think to reach a generation of new, high-level Millennials . . .

MAN: The younger folks.

WOMAN: I really liked what Woman said. I had not thought about, about just, it's a rabbit trail. And I think he's that smart to think that far ahead. I really liked that perspective

MAN: Him, or him and his staff . . .

WOMAN: He's a strategist. He's definitely a strategist. He knows how to lay the groundwork to get. He didn't get where he is by not seeing how things, how the, you know, how to play the game.

MODERATOR: So, wait, I'm sorry. But taking this into consideration, do you think that his tweets help him or hurt him?

WOMAN: I think they're just his way of . . .

MAN: I think it helps him.

MAN: Okay. I honestly think it helps him just . . .

MODERATOR: Woman, I'll come back to you in a second. I'm sorry.

WOMAN: Oh, it's okay, I'm . . .

MODERATOR: Man and . . .

MAN: As crazy as that sounds, because it drives some people nuts, like I felt like it's un-presidential, as Man said. But the fact he's tweeting, the comments he makes that stir controversy, I mean, Obama tweeted. No one ever really talked about that, because he only did it a few times. But President Trump's tweets spark controversy. And I don't have Twitter, so I

can just listen to the news and find out what he tweeted. And I think, for the younger generation, it ruffled some feathers. I think he caught some votes in the process.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, you were about to say?

WOMAN: I just think it's his way of maybe putting his two cents in. When there's all these different media stations saying their two cents, it's his way of putting his own spin on something.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do me a favor. Go back to the workbooks, and please turn to page nine. And just jot down brief, two, three, four, maybe four issues you think is most important for President Trump to be successful on, you know. Okay. Just be jotting down the last thing or so. Do me a favor. I'm not going to, just in terms of time, I'm not going to talk about this now. So I'll look at them later. Go ahead and close up your workbooks for now. There's going to be one more thing later, at the end, but please keep them closed up.

But what I want to do now is I want to ask about some controversies that have been in the news lately, since he has become President. And I'm going to just ask yes or no, just a show of hands. And I might do a follow-up just depending on time and how people react and everything. But it's, again, yes or no. Do you believe President Obama ordered Trumps on the, Trumps, let me try this again, ordered wiretaps on Donald Trump before the election? How many say, yes, they believe that he, Trump, that Obama did? One, two, three, four, five, six? How many say no, he did not? One. And then . . .

MAN: I don't know that we'll ever know the truth on that. I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but I just, I mean, if the President can't hide what they did or didn't do from the general population, who can?

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I think that, you know, we'll never know.

MAN: My caveat is somebody below Obama.

MODERATOR: So it wasn't he that . . .

MAN: Somebody was trolling.

MAN: My deal was I wouldn't put anything past him. Seeing him the last eight years, it's like I don't think he'd stoop too low to do anything, him or his people that he's with.

MODERATOR: Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: Yeah, I think he probably did it. I think they all do it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do you believe the Trump campaign team worked with people in the Russian government during the campaign to impact the election? How many say yes?

WOMAN: Could you read it again?

MODERATOR: Do you believe the Trump campaign team worked with people in the Russian government during the campaign to impact the election?

WOMAN: I don't know. Trump does love Russia.

MODERATOR: Yes, or how many say yes?

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: How about no? Okay.

MAN: Is there a third? Can we say that Russia might have done it on their own?

MODERATOR: That's not the question. The question is, did the Trump campaign team? You say yes?

MAN: That's Russian for yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, what do you think? No. Okay. Woman, you were, I think you were . . .

WOMAN: I wouldn't put it past them.

MODERATOR: Okay. So it's possible then. And, Man?

MAN: Plausible. I'm like on the fence.

MODERATOR: Anybody else either on the fence or say, yes, they could have?

WOMAN: I'm on the fence.

MODERATOR: You're on the fence. Okay. How come?

WOMAN: I, like he said, anything is possible. Anything can happen. And if he did, he did, and if he didn't, he didn't.

MODERATOR: Do you think the press, yes or no, do you think the press purposely lowballed the estimate at the crowd at Trump's inauguration? How many say, yes, they did?

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And then, Man, are you a no?

MAN: I'm, it doesn't matter. It's like, okay. There were, because the news story was that there was people all over the place, protesting, saying you couldn't get through. So,

therefore, there could have been more people at Trump's inauguration. But you're not going to get the whole story.

MODERATOR: Okay. For those of you who think that the press did purposely lowball, why do you think the press would do that?

WOMAN: Because the press has been out to get Trump, I feel like, from the beginning. And I feel like they took that picture earlier in the day, because there's pictures later in the day where there's double the size of the . . . gets back.

MAN: And I think most conservatives work during that time.

WOMAN: I was going to say, Republicans got off of work later in the day . . .

MAN: Conservatives were at work. Democrats were at, you know, the rally being bused around.

WOMAN: And I think later it came out that they also counted the Republicans, also counted all the people who were tuning in on their TVs, which most people, during any election, I mean, I would never watch an election, but this, for sure. You know, this one was so important that more people watched it than ever before. And the people who listened to it on the radio or live on their computers, they're counting all those people, who we didn't even see.

WOMAN: Well, I think some people were afraid to go because of the violence and then . . .

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Who would be the violent ones, the Trump supporters or the Trump opponents?

WOMAN: As a Trump supporter, I'd be afraid to go, just because there's people that are crazy. And, I mean, I think they're crazy on both sides of the fence, but just, you just have to be so careful nowadays.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do you think that Attorney General Jeff Sessions intentionally misled Democratic Senators when he said he hadn't met with Russians about the campaign? Yes, he was, he intentionally misled the Democratic senators, or, no, he did not. So how many say, yes, he did? One, two, three-ish. How many say, no, he did not? Okay. Some others. All right. I'm going to pass on that anyhow.

And then do you think it is nepotism and wrong for Trump to allow his daughter and son-in-law to have official positions within the U.S. Government? How many say it is

nepotism and wrong? I mean, it could be nepotism, but it doesn't bother you. Okay. And then how many people say, oh, it doesn't bother me? Okay. Why does it, I mean, why does it not bother you, Woman?

WOMAN: I have, I work with people that have multiple generations in the health field. My husband is also a third generation that works for his, the company his family works for. And I think you have a sense of pride of carrying on your name when they know you're a strong worker. I think you, it could be a positive thing, you know, if you, that you, I don't know how to word it right, but that you're sharing the morals, and you're passing down your family, and they're proud to work for that company, and maybe you learned from them some things, and you're just passing it down.

MODERATOR: Man, how about you, what do you think?

MAN: Yeah, I think that I don't have a problem with it, because I think he's got, you know, he's got family that are very intelligent people and that can do the job. And I just don't have, I mean, I just think that they're capable people. I mean, why should you, just because they're family? I mean, there's a lot of successful family businesses out there and . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Well, let's see. Ronald Reagan had Nancy. Jimmy Carter had his wife. You've always had presidents that went to their wives as their chief advisor. I . . . the gatekeeper, but the chief executive's advisor was always the First Lady. That's why we've always had a husband and wife combination as President in the modern era. So, basically, yeah, you have nepotism all over the place.

MODERATOR: So is nepotism, let me ask the whole group this, is nepotism okay for other politicians too?

WOMAN: I think so. I think if it shouldn't be allowed there, it shouldn't be allowed anywhere. I mean, it's like a double standard . . .

MAN: Because if the person can do the job, if they're qualified, I don't think it should matter that much who they are.

MAN: Yeah, if one of my sons or daughters were working for me, if anything, I'd be a little harder on them than I would somebody else. I don't want them to . . .

MAN: Them . . . man.

MAN: The Kennedys, the Bushes. I mean, the political names, there's generations involved in our politics.

MAN: At the local level, Kwame Kilpatrick had everybody in his family on the payroll.

WOMAN: Yeah, well that was a bad case there.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I think the President of the United States should be able to pick who he wants his advisors to be.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask. It's two questions. Illegal immigration, which came up earlier, do you think that Donald Trump means it when he says we are going to build a wall along the border with Mexico?

WOMAN: Yes, absolutely.

MAN: Definitely.

MODERATOR: Anybody say, oh, it's more symbolic? Because I've heard that too from . . . supporters.

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MAN: Woman, why do you . . .

WOMAN: Definitely, I think it's just symbolic, exactly. He wants to do something about immigration, but to literally build a wall, I think the opposition is so great, I don't think, I don't know if that's the best way to go.

MAN: I think there's been a shift. People are much more concerned with who's coming in the country, especially with watching what's going on in Europe and anywhere near the Middle East versus Mexico was the prime target before, because they were stealing jobs. Now it's more I just want to know that my family doesn't have terrorists living next door, or terrorists . . .

MODERATOR: Since he became President, has illegal immigration increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

WOMAN: It's stayed the same.

MAN: I don't think it's increased. I don't know about . . .

MAN: They have that . . . going on . . .

WOMAN: I think there's more awareness. There's always been illegal immigration. If you travel at all, you talk to people who realize that what we have, and so much of it that we take for granted, people literally die trying to get. And we just were never really, for the most part, we were never really aware of it until we started seeing terrorism on the home front. We started seeing a lot of people speaking languages that weren't English.

MODERATOR: Well, I'm sorry. Let me ask the group. This, would it surprise you to learn that immigration, illegal immigration is down significantly since he became President, like many fewer border crossings?

MAN: No.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: Why do you think that is?

MAN: I think he's starting to enforce things. Everything was on the books, but they never enforced it before.

WOMAN: Or they weren't allowed to.

MAN: Yeah, they were, yeah.

MAN: Right.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: They were on the books, but if you . . . the law, you can't do it.

MAN: If you change one word in the sentence, it goes from legal to illegal, if you change that one word in the sentence. So you could say, yeah, there's 20,000 people coming . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Sorry. Let me just, so you've got more enforcement. Is there any other reason that you can think that there's less illegal immigration going on?

WOMAN: Maybe because of the media. I think before, when other presidents put more of a restriction on getting in, it wasn't talked about as much. I think with Trump, it's been made a big deal, and I think maybe that might people turn people away from wanting to push their luck of sneaking in right now, because knowing there's so much about focus . . .

MAN: I think there's a spotlight on it.

MAN: He's shown, he's showed the ICE raids, these ICE raids that are occurring. It might have drove fear into the people that would be coming and going.

MODERATOR: Okay. So more enforcement and less . . .

WOMAN: Spotlight.

MODERATOR: . . . willingness to take the risk, I guess. Okay. Well, how come the repeal and replacement of Obamacare hasn't happened yet?

MAN: Republicans are fighting against each other, I guess.

MAN: I know we're stuck on time, so I don't want to get on my soapbox. I think the American people didn't get a good solution. It was a very quick solution. And to give a tax credit to people who are check to check isn't the answer. And so when you have these high-deductible plans, Paul Ryan, to me, showed his flaws with that plan. I mean, he just, it's just not hitting home to the people who are making, I have clients who make \$100,000 a year, but they have four kids. They're still check to check. So a \$2,000 tax credit is not the answer.

WOMAN: It's not affordable.

MAN: Affordable is back to pre-2011 annual max or lifetime maximums, not annual maximums.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other thoughts on . . .

WOMAN: I think he should just let Obamacare hit bottom. I think it was on its way to hitting bottom, and I think he tried to just put an end to it quicker and sooner, and that didn't happen. And now it's kind of in the air, so I don't know.

WOMAN: Until they, Congress and everybody has to accept the same healthcare that I have to accept, I don't want it. When they say it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me and my family.

MODERATOR: All right. Woman and then Woman.

WOMAN: I forgot what I was going to say. I'm sorry.

MODERATOR: I'll come back to you. Woman?

WOMAN: I think that also, I think the people are more gun-shy, because Obamacare was passed. It was a 1,200-page document that nobody read, and they just, oh, yeah, Obama said it. Let's pass it. And then they realized what they've really opened a can of, made a can of worms. And I think when you go back, and you can't just throw it out because of the way the law was written, it's got to be redone. And I think that it's going to take some time, and you can't just throw something together.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I think it was too quick.

MODERATOR: Too quick.

WOMAN: Yes, absolutely.

MODERATOR: Okay. So now he promised to get it done first on day one, he being the President, President Trump, then, you know, within the first 100 days, which is coming up at the end of this month. Is your sense that, you know, hey, this is too important an issue, let's slow it down and make sure that we get it right, or do you say . . .

MAN: Table it, and move to tax reform.

MODERATOR: So you won't be shaken. What if it takes longer? The next elections are 2018. The President is not up, but you've got the Republican Congress is up. You'll have a new governor, I think, right? Does Michigan? You've got to get a new governor after this next one, yeah, he can only serve two terms here, right?

MAN: Right.

MODERATOR: If you, if it's not done before 2018, in your mind, is that a problem or as long as it's by 2020?

MAN: I, honestly I'm going to put it to you this way. They're basically saying it's going to fail. 2018, it's going to fail, and the Republicans will . . .

MODERATOR: I'm sorry, you mean Obamacare is going to.

MAN: Obamacare is going to fail by 2018. I think the script was written this way. It's going to fail in 2018, and they're going to say, look, we'll give you whatever we want you to have. If we want you to have an Obamacare light, you're going to get Obamacare light. If you want nothing, you're going to get nothing. So, basically, what they're going to do is they're going to let it destroy itself, and then they're going to say, okay. We're the ruling party. Here's what you're going to get, take it or leave it.

MAN: I, personally think a lot of people are uninformed on this topic. We changed healthcare for everyone for 23 million people. Everyone who has group health insurance has not been as adversely affected. I sell health plans where groups are getting reductions this year for the first time since 2009. So for me, okay, the individual exchange, yeah, it's going to blow up. It's a train wreck, and the subsidies are not what Republicans would ever want. But in my opinion, whether they repeal and replace before President Trump is done or not is irrelevant, because it's about getting it right, not getting it done in a timeframe.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. We haven't talked about this issue very much, but, you know, kind of social or values issues, moral values, but should President Trump allow same-sex marriage to continue to be legal, or should he work to change it back.

WOMAN: I think he should just leave it.

MAN: Leave it.

WOMAN: Leave it.

MODERATOR: Man, you mentioned earlier family values. How do you feel about this?

MAN: It's right in the Bible, men should not lay with men, and I don't believe in same-sex marriage is at all . . .

WOMAN: But I think that's God's place, not Trump's place.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: Yeah, I'm a God-fearing Christian, but I don't know that we put that in the books.

WOMAN: Well, it was in the books. That was the DOMA thing that the DOMA Marriage Act that marriage is between one man and one woman. It was law for a while. It was ratified and . . .

MODERATOR: I'm sorry. Let's go back to the question, which is, I've heard one person say change it back. I've heard a few others say continue to be legal. Anybody else say he should change, work to change it back?

WOMAN: I do.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, why?

WOMAN: I do, because it is not, it's not been the history of this country, for one thing. It is also what the Bible says that marriage is between one man and one woman. And I think when we stray from that, because those are values that our country was founded on, when you stray from that, you're going to have a lot of other issues.

And if you leave the whole Christian aspect out if it, you're looking at the Muslims. They kill people for that. And there's countries where they will, they kill them on sight. Oh, you're this? Okay. Then, boom, you're gone, and you get your 72 virgins on your own private planet, because you got rid of this, horrible, you know, deficit that was on the face of

the earth. You're, you've got other issues, because it's not just a Christian value. That is, there's most of your major religions, that's a value.

MAN: Universal.

WOMAN: That's a universal value in the . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. So I'm sorry. I'm slightly confused in that. Are you saying then that we should do away with same-sex marriage legally because Muslims also are opposed?

WOMAN: No, I am saying that if you don't have to just base it on the Christian aspect, I'm saying that that is a value held by other major religions as well, yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. I'm sorry. I missed that. Since the election, the stock market has gone up more than after any new president was elected in history, with one exception, and that was John F. Kennedy in 1960. Why do you think it has gone up so much?

WOMAN: The businesspeople trust him.

WOMAN: His experience with business . . .

MAN: Tax reform, if he reduces taxes for small business, that's immediate revenue. That helps people get more opportunity for jobs, higher-paying jobs here in America. It just seems like he's opened the door for small business, not just large corporations.

MODERATOR: How many of you feel more confident about your economic future since he won? Everybody. Okay. Here's what I'd like to do. Finish this sentence for me. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if. Okay. So fill in that blank, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if.

WOMAN: Nobody kills him before he gets the job done.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if.

WOMAN: He sells healthcare.

MODERATOR: Okay. Go ahead, Man.

MAN: He avoids a major war.

MODERATOR: Okay. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if.

MAN: The media lets him.

MODERATOR: Okay. Would the media ever let him?

MAN: And he keeps it . . .

MAN: Well, basically, his story.

MODERATOR: I'll come back to you in a second, Man.

MAN: It's history. When you look at history, one person tells a story different than another person tells a story. We'll all probably say, yes, Donald Trump was the greatest president ever. And MSNBC will say, boy, that was the worst president ever. I mean, he made Jimmy Carter look like a saint.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, you said, finishing the sentence, Donald Trump will, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if?

MAN: He continues, or he keeps his promises.

MODERATOR: Keeps his promises. Okay.

WOMAN: I agree.

MODERATOR: Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if.

WOMAN: If it were yesterday, I would say if we can elect the Supreme Court Justice today.

MODERATOR: So it's already.

WOMAN: To me, I think that's huge.

MODERATOR: Finish this sentence for me. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on.

WOMAN: Healthcare.

MAN: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: Healthcare. Okay.

MAN: Immigration.

WOMAN: Immigration.

MODERATOR: Immigration.

MAN: Tax reform.

MODERATOR: Tax reform.

MAN: Tax reform.

MAN: Infrastructure.

MODERATOR: Infrastructure. Okay. Tell me a little bit about why infrastructure is important to you.

MAN: Well, that's one of the first things that he said, you know, before he came into office, he was going to do something with the infrastructure. And I'm just curious to see if that's going to happen.

MODERATOR: Okay. Now a lot of people say conservatives don't like infrastructure spending, because it's government spending. But President Trump, as Man pointed out, is saying we need an infrastructure program to get things going, jobs and all that. Which, to you, is more important? Is it more important to not spend that money, or is it more important to boost the infrastructure?

MAN: Boost the infrastructure.

MODERATOR: Anybody feel differently?

WOMAN: I think there's like a happy medium. I don't know. Just, I guess it depends on what you're spending it on. I think sometimes you have to spend to make other things better.

MODERATOR: Okay. All right. Don't take this personally, but driving the roads up here today.

WOMAN: Oh, we know about that . . .

MAN: Michigan roads, yeah, Wayne County roads.

MODERATOR: That was as potholey as, I mean, I was just, and my niece got married north of Boston, so I was up in Massachusetts, which, you know, they get hit hard by bad winters too. The roads there weren't great, but, boy, the Michigan roads were terrible.

MAN: That's a testing ground for Ford . . . they don't have to buy a testing ground. They just drive down the street.

WOMAN: It's actually a deliberate thing, because Michigan is a shipping state. And they allow, there's less of a weight restriction in the state of Michigan because more people will then ship. They'll drive their trucks through our state to get where they need to go. And because there's more of that, then our roads break down faster.

WOMAN: . . . the weather too.

MAN: Yeah, the weather does not . . .

WOMAN: Yeah, but you can build. I mean, look at Rome. Those roads lasted 2,000 years. They're still, some of them are still there.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: But . . . our weather change, how it changes too, like . . . weather . . . hot, cold, hot, cold, hot, cold, different days. It changes so fast . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: You can't keep up.

WOMAN: Yeah, it was 60, then we had snow the same day.

MAN: Trust me. I'm working in construction, and the concrete can't withstand all that constant weather change.

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: So go ahead and turn to page 11 in your workbook, which, by the way, is the last page of the workbook. And I'd like you to write a postcard to President Trump . . . some advice for the President or asking him to work on a certain issue. And we're just starting on page 11. It's a postcard. It's the last page, and it's a, either a postcard to Trump on, you know, some advice, or asking him to work on a certain issue. And I'm going to use the little moderator's room. I'll be back in a second.

WOMAN: Will he actually ever get to see these?

MODERATOR: No.

MAN: . . .

MAN: By the way . . . 125 characters.

WOMAN: I thought it was 35. Oh, maybe that's . . .

MAN: I heard they were going to expand it.

WOMAN: That's hilarious.

MAN: But I don't know about that.

WOMAN: I still don't have time for it. I get enough watching my students argue that way.

MODERATOR: A little bit more time. If you're finished, go ahead and close up. If you're still writing, you just kind of be finishing up. And let me ask the group this. Syria, he sent the Tomahawk missiles last week, Thursday night, I think it was. And how many of you approve, and how many disapprove of his bombing in Syria, using the Tomahawk missiles? How many approve? Okay. Everybody. Okay. So that means, if I'm doing the math right, nobody disagrees. What was it about his bombing of Syria that you say, yeah, that was the right thing to do, or, yeah, I think that he did, well, he did the right thing, I approve . . .

WOMAN: I think he sent a message to Assad. He drew the line in the sand.

WOMAN: The punishment fits the crime.

MODERATOR: Okay. And what was the crime?

WOMAN: The chemical warfare. I think something so extreme shouldn't be handled lightly.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, I think you were about to say something, or was that Man? Oh, sorry.

MAN: I was about to. It just sort of sends the message to the world that, hey, this is a new administration. We're not going to talk and then not doing anything about it. You know, we're going to back up our, you know, what we say with action. You know, this is going to happen, or there's going to be consequences, and then follow up on it. Just don't talk about it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other thoughts, Man?

MAN: I feel as though Obama avoided conflict as much as possible, and I think that's slightly un-American. We're not in a rush to go to war, but as a world superpower, if someone is going to use chemicals on their own people, they should pay the price. They should lose their military. And he targeted military objects, such as planes and other equipment. I think he did the right thing.

WOMAN: The people that are being attacked, they want someone to come in and help them. They want it to end.

WOMAN: That's right.

WOMAN: And they always look to the United States. That's the time that we're in.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other thoughts on this?

MAN: I don't think he did enough. I think he should have called in the Air Force and bombed them back to last week.

MODERATOR: Okay. So if Syria does another chemical attack on its own people, do you think that Trump will do something similar or even step it up a notch or . . .

WOMAN: I hope he does. I would expect he does.

MAN: If you go back to Clinton and Kosovo, he did all air raids, no boots on the ground. And then the Marines came through, and just anything that was breathing was taken out. And I believe that was done quietly. I think with Trump, things are going to go back to being

done quietly, which our military action shouldn't be judged by the masses, in my opinion. It's military. It's war. It's not going to look pretty. Women and children are going to get hurt. It's unfortunate, but it's the way it works. If you drop a bomb, you can't undo the people it harms.

WOMAN: And not to mention, innocent are used as shields. They are. They are being used against their own people . . .

WOMAN: Yes, they are.

MODERATOR: Okay. I want to thank you for your time tonight. Do me a favor. Go ahead and pass up the workbooks, just so I can be lazy and not have to walk around and collect them all. A couple of things as you're about to go. Number one is the nice folks that checked you in will have your payment for your time on the way out.

Secondly, we have another group after this. We're going to talk about a lot of the same stuff, not all the same, but a lot. So I would ask that as you're leaving, you're probably done talking about this anyhow, that you not talk about it, because there are some people waiting already in the room, so that you don't kind of give them any ideas. And the last thing would be please drive safely. So thank you.

WOMAN: Thank you.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . the election was rigged.

WOMAN: I know, right? That's hilarious.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: They'll collect them . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . ask, did you go to Cody High School, by chance?

WOMAN: No, I did not.

WOMAN: Oh, okay. Because you look like one of my mother's friends.

WOMAN: Oh, how neat.

WOMAN: And I'm like, hmm.

WOMAN: Yeah, that would have been great.

WOMAN: I know. My mom . . . different things too.

WOMAN: Oh . . . yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.