

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES  
TRUMP/OBAMA VOTERS FOCUS GROUP  
OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN  
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*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: And, you know, those of you who talk a lot, you probably know who you are already. I'm trying to think if there's, well, yes, there's other things. If you need to use the restroom, that's fine. I just ask that people go one at a time, you know, as opposed to having, you know, multiple people leaving at once.

Also, I may say something like, Man, you get the last word on this, and then we move on. It's not, and even if I know other people want to talk, just because I've got a lot of questions for you tonight, but part of my goal is to make sure you get out of here, on time, at 8:30, no later than 8:30. And, you know, I'm good at that, so if I move along, don't take it personally. It's just, you know, a function of trying to get out of here on time.

Also, I don't have any opinions. My job is to ask questions. There are a couple of caveats. Sometimes when you're talking, I'll be nodding my head. It doesn't mean I agree with you. It just means that I'm listening. If I'm not nodding my head, it's something I'm working doing less of. And two is I doesn't mean I'm not listening, it's just something I do sometimes, but not always.

Also, I may play devil's advocate and throw out a point of view that seems contrary to everybody in the room, what they have. That's fine. It's just to see if a different perspective does anything. Don't feel like you have to agree with me just to make me feel better about myself. My wife will tell you I've got too much self-esteem as it is. But if you say, oh, I hadn't thought about that.

Also, if you have a different opinion than everybody else in the room, feel free to speak up. Keep in mind, there are plenty of people in this area who have that same opinion. They just don't happen to be here tonight. So don't feel like, well, you know, I can tell everybody's different, so, a different opinion, so I'm not going to. You know, like let's say sometimes I'll ask a yes or no question, and just to get a sense of it, I'll ask everybody, okay, raise your hand if it's yes.

And, you know, let's say, let's see, there's ten of you, let's say, you know, nine of you raise your hand yes. If your opinion is no, when I say no, don't be, oh, I raised my hand for yes just because. You know, stick to your opinion on that. I'm trying to think of there's, oh, I ask that there be no side conversations. Sometimes a person is done talking, you want to, you know, turn to him and whisper to him like I agree with you or that reminds me of funny story. I'm, you know, fine with side conversations, just not in here tonight, because it can be very distracting to the group as a whole.

Besides that, I think I've covered everything, unless there's something I've forgotten, in which case, I'll remember. Some of the questions I'll ask I don't need to hear from everybody. Others, I'll say I want to hear from all of you on this. And this first one, I do want to hear from all of you. And that is, if you could use one word or short phrase to describe how you think things are going in the country these days, what one word or short phrase would you use?

WOMAN: Scary.

MODERATOR: Scary. Okay. What else? Others?

WOMAN: Downhill.

MODERATOR: No, that's fine. Downhill, and then I heard another one.

WOMAN: Shaky.

MODERATOR: Shaky. Somebody over here said . . .

MAN: Unstable.

MODERATOR: Unstable.

WOMAN: Mediocre.

MODERATOR: Mediocre.

MAN: Can we repeat? Stable, or shaky.

MODERATOR: Shaky. Okay.

MAN: A little shaky.

MODERATOR: Huh?

MAN: Same thing, yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any others? Let's try not to use shaky again.

WOMAN: How about a hot mess?

MODERATOR: Hot mess.

MAN: Disastrous.

MODERATOR: Disastrous. And there's one more I haven't heard from yet, who's that?

MAN: Shaky.

MODERATOR: Try something else. We've got three shakies, so let's get one more.

MAN: Oh, what was the question again?

MODERATOR: One word or . . .

MAN: I had a, I've got bad block. Yesterday I developed a really bad ear infections, so you kind of have to speak up a little bit for me.

MODERATOR: Oh, okay. One word or short phrase to describe how things are going in the country these days.

MAN: Horrible.

MODERATOR: Horrible. Okay. So who said scary to start?

WOMAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Woman, tell us why scary comes to mind?

WOMAN: Let's see, because the President is tweeting and is speaking off the top of his head, not, not realizing, I don't think, what he is putting out there for the public to hear or anyone else in the world to hear. Because we're bombing, we've bombed Syria, and, yes, it was terrible that happened there, but it's terrible all over, so are we going to go on bombing other countries?

MODERATOR: Okay. I also, excuse me, I also heard down, don't know what the problem is, I also heard downhill. Who said downhill? Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: Woman. I pretty much had . . . the same opinion.

MODERATOR: Woman, I'm sorry. I'm, by the way, I'm terrible with names, so I'm going to screw it up again, and I apologize.

WOMAN: To me, Donald Trump is just like he's kind of a hothead. He flies off. Like right away, he doesn't think before he acts. He just acts. You know, it's like a spur of the moment kind of thing for him instead of going with his advisors or asking for opinions from other people in his cabinet.

MODERATOR: Okay. The first person who said shaky, who was that, Woman?

WOMAN: Just because it depends on what mood Trump is in. Sometimes the wind flies this way, sometimes it flies this way. And that's why I said it's shaky. You just never know what you're going to get with his temperament and what the flavor of the day is going to be.

MODERATOR: Okay. Unstable?

MAN: Me.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: Well, politically, I mean, with, like Woman said, I mean, getting involved in other country's businesses, the United States seems to be the first one to always jump into that, but I give us credit for that sometimes. We're trying to protect other people that can't protect themselves. But there's sometimes I think we could go at it a better way than just jumping right in and maybe throwing bombs at somebody.

So now I, I just think there is probably some better ways Mr. Trump can maybe take advisory, or maybe he's getting bad advice from whoever his cabinet is saying right now, but it just seems like nobody is on the same page, not the cabinet, not the President, not anybody. It just seems like there's a lot of unrest in there, and they're just kind of jumping at straws to throw stuff out.

MODERATOR: Okay. Mediocre?

WOMAN: That was me. Kind of the same, but he's, I mean, for as many resources as he has, it's just always like he could do better, you know. It's just kind of middle of the road.

MODERATOR: Okay. The second shaky?

MAN: That was me. Yeah. Because I think some of the things they're doing is okay. Like I'm glad that they did that bombing in Syria, because we needed to show the Koreans, you know, the whatever the, that we were powerful. You know, like for eight years, we haven't really, I don't know, from what I've been watching on the news, haven't done very much to show power, you know.

MODERATOR: Okay. The third shaky?

MAN: Probably me. Wars and rumors of war, just everything is kind of up in the air right now, I think, just because of what's going on in Korea, Syria, all over.

MODERATOR: Okay. A hot mess. Woman?

WOMAN: It seems like it doesn't matter what party you're standing for, everything is so divided, and just no one is being reined in. A topic comes up in the news, and you don't know which way it's going to go. You don't know what the President's going to do. You don't know what the news is going to report. It's just, it's like it's just crazy. It's like I don't even want to listen to any of it anymore, because I don't know what's going on or what's going to happen tomorrow.

MODERATOR: Okay. Disastrous?

MAN: Yeah. I just think it's been like that even before Trump got in, just with every race thing and everything's an issue, like people are always just, no one can get along. You know, I don't know.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then horrible?

MAN: Well, for one, we've always had an issue of us sticking our nose where it shouldn't be. I feel, at the same time, it's a horrible thing, you know, that happened, and I understand full conflict. At the same time, we've gotten ourselves in a lot of trouble in the past for stuff like this, you know. And it's a real horrible situation, because we don't, nobody really likes us anymore because of this stuff. I mean, our, we don't know who our friends are and who isn't anymore, you know, and I really don't like that. You know, it's a real scary thing.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask now about the economy, and I'm going to ask just for a show of hands first on three options, which one fits your opinion. Would you say that, and let me tell you what the options are first and then get the show of hands, would you say the national economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same since the election?

So since the election the national economy, how many think it's getting better, a show of hands? Okay. How many think that it's getting worse? Okay. How many think it's staying about the same? So everybody. When you say, let me ask this, when you say staying about the same, does that mean that, you know, things are okay now, or things are still pretty bad, or things are good, and, you know, but they're not, it's not like things are getting better?

MAN: I think it's gradually been getting better for quite a while, and the election really hasn't impacted it one way or the other.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Yeah. I think they're good. I mean, I don't think it's bad, but it's, like you said, slowly getting better. It really hasn't swayed it each, either way with the election.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts on the economy?

WOMAN: I just think it's real slow.

MODERATOR: Really slow. Okay. What about it that . . .

WOMAN: It's just like even when you buy stuff, like when you go to buy a car, like, which, like, it just doesn't, like the money's not there. Even though you have a normal job, like that kind of stuff that you'll run into. You know, everybody's working hard and working normal jobs, but the, they money is not there like when they need a car or something like major. That makes me believe it's like real slow still.

MODERATOR: Let me ask you this. If you put aside the economy and jobs, and put aside foreign affairs like Syria and Korea, North Korea, and all of that, what domestic issue, thinking about issues here in the U.S., what issue, besides the economy and jobs, concerns you most right now?

MAN: I would say all the racial tension.

MODERATOR: Racial tension. Okay.

WOMAN: Yeah. I think we're all just self-destructing, because there's so many opinions and so many, so much hatred among the Americans that we're just, we just are going to, I don't know, civil war or something.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other issues that come to mind that you're . . . concerned?

WOMAN: Guns.

MODERATOR: Guns.

WOMAN: Yeah. I'm not opposed to people having guns, but it just seems like anyone can get a gun. And you're afraid to go someplace sometimes because of the neighborhood, because you don't know what's going to happen, you know, and you just have a connotation, not a connotation, a feeling when you go into some, to an area that things could happen there, and it ties along with the race and what Woman said.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other issues?

MAN: Immigration. You can't send 12 million or 13 million people back to wherever they came from, so we need to figure out what to do with the people that are here and what to do with those that are wanting to come here. We need a sound immigration policy, I think.

MAN: I'd have to say there's a couple things. Violence, drugs, the cancer rate that keeps going up. I mean, there's tons of things. I could sit here all night, you know, and discuss it with you. I mean, the world is definitely not what it used to be.

MODERATOR: Okay. Well, we're going to do some of that, by the way, sit here, not all night, but we're going to discuss some of these issues. Man, were you about to say something?

MAN: Oh, no, I was just thinking did you say something about healthcare?

MODERATOR: Nope. But healthcare is a domestic issue, so . . .

MAN: Yeah. I'm stuck in one of them things where I, if you work your full-time job, which I was working for a long time, I had to pay a major amount to have healthcare. But now that I quit, and I work part time, I can get it for free. But I'm afraid to go back to full time, because working part time, I make more money than I did working full time paying for healthcare for me and my wife.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other, any . . .

MAN: It's stupid. I don't know . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah. No, I . . .

MAN: I can think of another one, actually. I work every day. I work 11 hours a day. And just a couple weeks ago, as a matter of fact, I was in a store, and there's a lady in front of me. She's got prime rib, all sorts of stuff, crab legs, everything. She pays for it with food stamps. And then on the way out, she's asking people to buy the rest of her food stamps. That really irks me. I'm sitting there. I've got like \$15 in my pocket trying to get through the week, and I seen that, and I just I've been shaking my head ever since.

I mean, it's something that really stood out to me, like they've got to do something about that, selling food stamps for drugs or whatever, you know, the case says that it's. That's a big issue, because us hardworking people are, we're paying for that, you know, to happen.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else, another, somebody I haven't heard from in a little while?

WOMAN: I was going to say healthcare.

MODERATOR: Healthcare as well. Okay. How about globally, some people, you know, when you think about international foreign policy issues, some people have already

mentioned Syria and some people have mentioned North Korea, is there any other issues that concern you, you know, in terms of foreign affairs going on right now?

MAN: Imports and exports. We get taxed up the living bejesus when we send merchandise and stuff overseas, but, yet, they can send it back for free and get it in. You wonder why all the prices are lower on foreign merchandise when you're in the United States, but when we send ours over to them, and they want to buy our product, ours is up so high they can't even afford to buy it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other foreign policy or international issues?

MAN: I don't know why we give China all our money. I think we should produce more stuff here. You know, we're subletting all that work out. You know, like it's not right and there should be a lot more jobs here. And I understand trading agreements and all that good stuff, but, honestly, I mean, the love of money, how much money do, are we in debt with them right now? You know, and we could be here building all this stuff, building bigger factories, giving us more jobs, and instead we're just going more and more in debt with them, you know.

MODERATOR: William, I think you were about to say something.

MAN: Breakup of the European Union, I think, is a big issue that's coming up.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any others? Nothing else comes to mind? All right. Well, let me do this. Some of what we're going to do, not a lot, but some is I've got these workbooks here to have you fill some stuff out and get discussion going as well. They're called workbooks, but they really should be rebranded as fun books.

So let me get these going around. On the bottom of the first page you'll see there is a box. There might be one extra there. Don't, just don't worry about that. There's a box that says please put your first name and last initial. Actually, the first initial of your last name, not your last initial of your name, but you get the idea. And then turn over to page two just so I know where everybody is.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Okay. I think everybody is done and over to page two. And it says on page two, there you go . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]



MODERATOR: Welcome to the adult . . . please do not turn the page until you're told to do so. Okay. Turn the page. So a little creative thinking here. It says if Donald Trump were an animal, what kind of animal would he be and why? So write in the animal, and then you don't have to write out, you know, like long sentences, just a couple of reasons real quick why that particular animal comes to mind when you think of Donald Trump. When you're done, go ahead and put your pen down. I'm not rushing anybody, but just so that way I know who and how we're doing on time. If you're still writing, just be kind of finishing up your thought. All right. Let's see what folks have. Do you go by Man or Manald?

MAN: Man is better.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, I'll start with you and work our way around the room.

MAN: All right. I said badger. I said he thinks like he's not the biggest but acts like he is. Sometimes he moves in too aggressively where you should think before acting.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: I said elephant. He makes a lot of noise when he does things.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: Wild dog, unpredictable.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: I also put a dog, an aggressive dog. He's quick to attack and act without thinking.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: I put down a lion. He loves to show his roar.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: I was going to say buffoon, but that's not an animal, so I put monkey. A lot of action and bluster, really no results.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: I put dog . . . I didn't write anything yet. I was about to but . . .

MODERATOR: And when you think, when you, why did dog come to mind?

MAN: I don't know. I was trying to think of something, you know, because I notice everybody always has something to say to him about his hair. I was trying to think of which, an animal or something . . . I don't know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: Well, now he's got me picturing like a dog with the head out the window in the car. So, sorry. I just wrote down the first thing that came to mind was weasel.

MODERATOR: Okay. And why weasel?

WOMAN: He just seems kind of shifty, and, you know, if it's a little better over here, he's going to screw you over there if it's better for him. If something on this side is better for him, he's going to screw you over there to support his own interests, not really worried about anybody else.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I put a tiger, because he jumps forward without thinking, and he's sneaky.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, woman?

WOMAN: I said sneaky too, but I put chipmunk, because and then I just put it because over the last 20 years he keeps like popping up everywhere and just like . . . because he's always been in the media, like even when he's . . . he's always popping up for something.

MODERATOR: I was trying to figure out how chipmunk was, but . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . in the room. They're always in the yard everywhere.

MODERATOR: My, one of my dogs just goes crazy for the chipmunk in the backyard. He's always running around trying to find it. Don't turn the pages yet. What we're going to next is called a mind map. And I'm going to show you an example of one I did when I got here just setting up. It's just something really, what you do is you start with a word in a circle in the middle, and you'll get yours in a minute, but, and then you just jot down whatever thoughts come to mind about that.

So my word that I chose, just to show you as an example, is spring. And you'll see then I jotted down all this stuff, and it only took me about two minutes to do it. You know, first thing I think about, it's longer days, you know, we're getting out of the winter. We've got some sun, and it's warmer, obviously. I guess those would be connected as well.

Then, you know, baseball season starts, so that's a good thing. And flowers, my wife likes to plant flowers that are really kind of nice all summer long, and I help her with that. She kind of does the rest of it, keeping it nice once they're growing, but I do help with the kind of

planting and all of that, everything. And part of my job is with the birds coming back is to fill up the feeders constantly.

And then, of course, I've got to do battle with the squirrels. The squirrels often win, but what I find works is, you know, I've got a bunch of feeders on poles in the back yard, and I'll take Vaseline, and I won't start it at the bottom. I'll start part way up, because it's fun to watch them start up and then slide down. The problem is, especially with the travel, the Vaseline doesn't last that long, so a lot of times they do get to the birdseed. Anyhow, enough about me.

Hiking, I like to go hiking when I can, you know, now that it's warmer. Also, I do some kayaking, just flatwater, nothing, you know, dangerous or anything like that. And then, of course, grilling, I do like to grill all year long. But now, you know, with it warmer, you get home from work, it's still sunny out, it's warmer, you feel like, oh, okay, I do want to go out in the backyard and do some grilling. So that's mine.

Yours, if you go ahead and flip to page four, okay, now turn to page five, is, not surprisingly, that . . . topic most of tonight is Donald Trump. So go ahead and jot down some things that come to mind about Donald Trump. Take another 30 seconds or so to jot anything else down. And if you're done, just go ahead and put down your pen. Okay. I'm not going to ask you for everything on your page. I'm just going to ask you for one thing that you've got written down.

And, hopefully, and, woman, this makes your job easier, because I'm going to start with you, what I'd like is something different than what other people have. Now if we get towards the end and everything has been said, go ahead and say the one that kind of you think is most representative of how you're, you know, the biggest feeling or thought about it. Woman, what did you have?

WOMAN: I do think he's a family man.

MODERATOR: Family man. Okay. By the way, my penmanship is terrible, so I apologize. But it just helps to keep going. Woman?

WOMAN: Well, off of family man I put government job.

MODERATOR: Oh, for the family?

WOMAN: For the family.

MODERATOR: Government jobs. All right. Woman?

WOMAN: I just put blowhard.

MODERATOR: Blowhard. Okay. And we have Man next.

MAN: I put that he's a good father.

MODERATOR: Okay. Also connected to that. Also . . . that's not quite the same thing. Okay. Man, oh, do you go by William or Man?

MAN: Man, yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Liar.

MODERATOR: Okay. I'm going to connect that to blowhard.

MAN: Oh, it depends what he's lying about.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Contradictive.

MODERATOR: Okay. And?

WOMAN: Insensitive.

MODERATOR: Insensitive.

WOMAN: Hard headed.

MAN: Aggressive.

MODERATOR: . . .

MAN: Casinos.

MODERATOR: Casinos. Okay. All right. What I'd like you to do next is, let me just, as you probably realize, everybody here, one of the reasons that you're here is that you voted for two people in the last two elections. One is that you voted for Donald Trump. The other is that you voted for Barack Obama in the one prior to that. So what I'd like you do is, and we'll talk about the 2012 election a little bit a little later on, but go ahead and flip over to page six. Okay. Go page seven, and just quickly, finish these two sentences, well, quickly, but take your time.

The thing that I, that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most proud about my vote for him is? And then the thing that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most unsure about my vote for him is? So take a couple of minutes. And you're going to put your pen down when you're done so I know how people are doing.

By the way, the reason I'm pacing is not to make you nervous, it's because I own one of those Fitbits, and when I travel, I almost never get to the 10,000 steps. I need about five

miles. So I'm trying to get there tonight. So if you see me pacing, don't take it personally.  
Woman, I'll start with you. Tell me proud and unsure.

WOMAN: I would say for proud I was at least happy that he was bringing in some of his family to help consult along with people that have been in top politics for a long time.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then unsure?

WOMAN: I'm unsure about the whole declaring war and all the unfiltered opinions that he likes to spew.

MODERATOR: Unfiltered opinions spew. And let's go the other direction.  
Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: It was really hard for me to think of something that I'm proud of him right now, so I don't know. You know, he said he wanted to bring jobs back to the U.S., all the promises, but I don't know what I . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. So would you, should I leave that blank for you, or . . . just kind of grow . . .

WOMAN: Yeah. Right now. And most unsure, I mean, the bombings, and, again, how our Senate is so divided. I mean, they can't make a decision to save their soul.

MODERATOR: Okay. Is that his fault?

WOMAN: Well, I don't know if it's his fault, but maybe, not directly his fault, but the Republican Party. And it's not just the Republican Party, because it could, it's the Democrats as well. Right?

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: For most proud I just put sticks to what he believes in, and then most unsure was unstable healthcare.

MODERATOR: I'm sorry. What was that about healthcare?

WOMAN: For unsure, it was unstable healthcare.

MODERATOR: Unstable healthcare. Sorry. This thing rattles as I write on it, so I'm sorry I missed that, the first word there. And over to Man.

MAN: I'm going to be the opposite a little bit. Actually, I was proud that he was trying to get healthcare fixed. And then I guess the other one is like kind . . . you have it up there just moving in too quick in the conflicts.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Man?

MAN: Most proud for change.

MODERATOR: And?

MAN: Unsure about his tweeting.

WOMAN: Most proud that he's trying to figure out the ISIS stuff and how to keep our land safe. Unsure about the bombing.

WOMAN: I put implementing steps to protect our homeland for proud, and creating a war with Syria and Russia for the unsure.

MODERATOR: Man?

MAN: I put down his assertiveness about bringing more jobs to us.

MODERATOR: And?

MAN: And he is about to start another world war.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Cabinet choices, in particular, Generals Mattis and Kelly.

MODERATOR: Mattis and Kelly. Okay. And then?

MAN: And then unsure, support for a healthcare plan that wasn't going to get passed.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Man?

MAN: I like that he was threatening companies to tax them if they move to Mexico. And then I was unsure that he could get healthcare fixed.

MODERATOR: You're hoping he can get it fixed, but you think it's off to a bit of a rough start?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do me a favor. Go ahead and close up the books for now. We're going to put them aside for a while. And let's talk a bit. The next two questions I'm going to ask are related. And that is, if you could pick one personal quality, which, the first question will be, and we'll focus on this first, if you could pick one personal quality, which personal quality do you like most about Donald Trump? And you can probably guess the second question, which is, which personal quality that Donald Trump has concerns you most about him? Let's stick with the positives of his personal qualities. I don't have to hear from everybody. Just tell me what you like.

MAN: Support for his family.

MAN: Yeah. Family orientated.

WOMAN: Yeah. I would agree.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

WOMAN: He sticks to what he believes in.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other personal qualities you like?

WOMAN: He's a businessman.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: Very successful.

MODERATOR: Anything else come to mind? Okay. How about the personal qualities that concern you most about him, or a personal quality that concerns you most about him?

WOMAN: Hotheaded.

MODERATOR: Hotheaded.

MAN: Yeah. Takes action before thinking.

WOMAN: Impulsiveness.

MODERATOR: Impulsiveness. Okay.

MAN: Lies.

WOMAN: Headstrong.

MODERATOR: Headstrong. Anything?

WOMAN: Some of the people that he did put in his cabinet that he was so sure he was going to, I'm not sure on all those people.

MODERATOR: Okay. Is there anybody in particular that comes to mind, any position?

WOMAN: Betsy DeVos, yeah, education, Secretary of Education.

MODERATOR: But, excuse me, anybody else in particular?

WOMAN: No. Not right now.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other personal qualities that concern you most about him?

WOMAN: His paranoia.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let's talk a little bit about the election. First of all, did you consider your vote in the presidential election more for Donald Trump or more against Hillary Clinton? Let's see a show of hands. How many were more for Donald Trump? One, two, three, four, five, six. How many were more against Hillary Clinton? Four. Okay. Good. It adds up to ten. That always works.

Regardless of whether you voted for him or against her, did you think, and I want to hear from pretty much everybody on this, did you think that Donald Trump would make a good President before he became a presidential candidate, or when he announced, or was it after he started running for office that you thought he would be a good President?

MAN: After . . .

MAN: After.

WOMAN: After.

MODERATOR: Did anybody?

WOMAN: I kind of thought before, because I knew he had like financially had come back from like loss, like, so I thought maybe, you know, that way before he even really started.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many did, so kind of, right at the beginning, either before or just when he announced along with woman, how many others?

WOMAN: I thought it was funny when he announced he was running for President, to be honest with you. Yeah. I really chuckled. I was like is this seriously who we have to vote for?

MAN: Yeah. When he started, and it was all the candidates, you know, and I . . .

MODERATOR: Let's go one at a time. Man, and then I'll got to Man, and then others. Man?

MAN: I just would have never thought he would have got that far when he first announced his, you know.

MODERATOR: What? When, at what point did you say, yeah, this is who I'm going to vote for, was it in the voting booth, was it during the debates with Hillary, was it in the Republican debates?

MAN: The Republican debates. Yeah.



MODERATOR: Okay. How about you, when did you kind of decide you were going to?

WOMAN: Well, the voting booth, to be honest with you.

MODERATOR: Okay. You looked at both names, and . . .

WOMAN: Yeah. And then I was like I'm going for Trump.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, how about you?

MAN: I was a little bit leery about the whole thing, because he really has absolutely no background with this kind of stuff. I mean, he's sold houses and made hotels, and, you know, he really doesn't know a lot about this. And I'm still, to this day, amazed he's our President. I think about it sometimes, and I can't believe it. Like I'll see him on TV, and I just can't believe he's the President. So, you know, it's, and I didn't think he was going to win, personally. I really didn't.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you, did you think from the get-go he would be a good President, or did you?

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: Okay. When did you?

WOMAN: Probably the Republican debate that was, I was, my, that was the true deciding factor. I didn't want Hillary, but it, he stood out more.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: I really didn't want to vote for either one of them, and it just kind of came down to some of the debates, which were so hard to watch, because it was like watching something on entertainment television versus something that was going to tell me what they're going to do for me.

MODERATOR: When you say, sorry, just to clarify . . .

WOMAN: It's okay.

MODERATOR: . . . when you say the debates, were you talking about the debates or the debates against Hillary?

WOMAN: The Republican debates. Yeah. The Republican debates.

MODERATOR: Republican. Man, how about you, when did you decide?

MAN: My family is real heavy in the military, and I've got a Lieutenant Colonel, my uncle, and we, and when they started the burning of the flags, he got behind that and was for

it, you know, because it's the First Amendment that you're allowed to burn the flag. But I don't like anything that has to do with burning of the flag, because that's what they do when you die. They give your wife the flag. And I don't, I just, I was behind him right when that happened, so I'm not . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Man? Oh, sorry. Man, how about you?

MAN: Probably halfway through the Republican debates. The thing that stuck in my mind was draining the swamp. For whatever reason I thought there's too much going on among everybody in Washington. They had to get rid of a lot of that.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: I would say during the presidential debates.

MODERATOR: Okay. And Man?

MAN: Mine, it was probably during the Republican debates is when I made my decision on that.

MODERATOR: Okay. So most people, not everybody, but most people either decided right away or still pretty early, I mean, before it was, the nomination process. Let me ask this, thinking back to Election Day going into the election, did you think that Donald Trump was going to win, or did you think Hillary Clinton was going to win?

MAN: Hillary.

WOMAN: I felt it was going to be close, very close.

WOMAN: I didn't know.

MAN: Hillary.

MAN: Yeah. I didn't think he was . . .

MAN: See, I didn't think . . .

WOMAN: I didn't think. I thought he would somehow pull it off though.

MODERATOR: Let me ask this, the people who thought Hillary was going to win, well, first of all, just a show of hands, because I've heard, how many people think that, thought going in that Hillary was going to win? One, two, three, four, five, six. So four then thought that Trump would win. Those of you who thought that Hillary was going to win, why did you think that?

MAN: Just the media.

MODERATOR: The media.

MAN: Name recognition.

WOMAN: They made Trump, I think, I, well, I shouldn't say it was the media's fault. It was pretty much his mouth's fault, but he made himself look like a very mean, cruel person that just was very racist, and I thought he would, everyone was going to vote for Hillary because of that.

MODERATOR: So let me ask you this. When you say he came across as mean, cruel, racist, that doesn't sound like somebody who is enthusiastic about their vote choice. Why did you?

WOMAN: I told you, I decided when I got in the booth. I just don't like Hillary, everything that she's done, you know, so I voted for him.

MODERATOR: Oh, okay. Man . . .

MAN: And I think what hurt her too was when the FBI came out with all that, the leaks and all that e-mail thing. So she may have won if that didn't happen. You know, who knows?

MODERATOR: Okay. Who else thought Hillary was going to win? Man?

MAN: It seemed, I kind of flipped a coin.

MODERATOR: Okay. But why did you think she was going to?

MAN: Her name recognition. She was well known.

MODERATOR: Oh, right. And, Man, you also thought she would win?

MAN: Yeah. I'd get up real early and I watch *The Morning Joe* and the other thing every morning, and they had it all the time that there's no way he can win the blue wall. He has to win this state, this state, this state, this state. You know, so you automatically in your head thought the guy can't win, but we'll go for it, try voting for him anyway. You know, that's what I thought, he was going to for surely lose. But, you know, by what the news feeds into your head.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: But then it's funny how you watch, you know, on Fox, and then you see how different Fox and CNN is, and then you think, wow, I'd better watch both to find out who's bullshitting, you know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, you thought Donald Trump would win.

WOMAN: Yeah. I just thought he could pull it off somehow, because I, I mean, just even years ago, when he wasn't in politics, like he always was able to come back from like

losing a lot of money and stuff. So I thought that somehow he was going to pull this off. And she did, like, I don't know . . . my friends and stuff like that, they didn't always, I didn't always like listening to Hillary. I didn't always agree with what he said, but I could listen to his like speech and stuff a wee bit more than Hillary's. Like anything she said just turned me off.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you, how did you, why did you think Trump would win?

WOMAN: Because I think people wanted change, a shakeup in the government, and he was the only one there.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

MAN: Yeah. The Republicans didn't want him.

WOMAN: I would say he was probably the only candidate I've seen that actually came out and said, hey, you know what, this is stupid, we need to fix it, instead of kind of making it soft and nice and then, you know, trying to get both sides of the vote. So in one sense, it was nice that he's blunt.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, why did you think he was going to win?

MAN: Well, for one, I knew a lot of people hated Hillary, you know. And another thing is he's a very successful man, and some of the things he said, you know, did make a lot of sense to me at the time. But to be honest with you, every time we go through this with the votes and everything, they all come on and . . .

MAN: Tell you what you want to hear.

MAN: . . . make 100 promises. But you don't generally see half of them, one-third of them, you know. So like he said with flipping a coin, that's pretty much almost where I was too, but he just, he made more sense to me in some ways. You know, and I liked about protecting us and the jobs, and I just looked at how successful he was. And part of me, like I said, I'm still amazed he's even our President or he even got this chance, you know, to do this. I mean, one minute he's on this thing, you know, you're fired and all that stuff, and the next thing he's, you know, we're sending missiles over to Syria, and I just, I'm just, I'm wowed.

MODERATOR: Woman, you thought Trump would win?

WOMAN: No. I said Hillary.

MODERATOR: Oh, I'm sorry. Man, you thought Trump would win, or did you think Hillary?

MAN: No. I think I was the last . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: After listening a little bit, agreed with change. But I think the people were looking for somebody to stand up and have a voice more than the last couple of Presidents that we've had that kind of went through the stuff. And definitely the lesser of two evils, when it got down to the vote, as any normal person would have probably been thrown in jail for what Hillary did.

But because of the Clinton name, she didn't get thrown in jail. She got bypassed with all the secrets and e-mails and crap that went out. But I think, I thought Donald could be a different view from a businessman as a President than coming up through all the political chain to get up there and get there, and maybe he could kind of, hopefully, get the cabinets to work together. But it remains to be seen yet, you know. He's got a lot of work to do yet.

MODERATOR: Woman, then I think I missed you. Why did you think Hillary was going to win?

WOMAN: I just didn't, I didn't see Trump pulling it off. I don't know. And I think, because I thought of the Clinton name, that she's just, she's going to get it. She's going to do it. Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Were you, thinking back again to the, you know, the time prior to the election and election day, were you, and just a show of hands, were you reluctant to tell others you were voting for Trump? A show of hands, how many were reluctant?

WOMAN: It depended what circle I was in.

MODERATOR: So you were reluctant? So about six. Why were you? Those, if you said, yeah, I was reluctant, why were you reluctant?

WOMAN: The blame, you know.

MODERATOR: What do you mean?

WOMAN: Well, you know, what Trump will do to this country, and, hey, you voted for him, so here you go.

MAN: . . . racist to vote for Trump.

WOMAN: You know, so I really never, ever tell anybody who I vote for.

MODERATOR: Okay. Others? Man?

MAN: His lack of experience, I guess, kind of bothered me, even though I voted for him. And I didn't want people to know I voted for somebody with no experience.

MODERATOR: Okay. Others?

WOMAN: Mine was pretty much, like she was saying, well, it depends on what circle you're in. You know, I mean, depending on the race of people I'm around, I, he was very racist, and he came on national television and said he wants like a wall built and he wants this done. And that affects a lot of people that I know, so I didn't want them to know who I voted for, them thinking like I'm the one that's, because of me that their family is being sent back or something, you know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, you said also you had some concerns about telling people. You were reluctant.

WOMAN: Right. It, again, it depended on what kind of circle, what circle I was in, if it, and because it's such, it causes so much controversy, it causes so much anger in people these days that if you say you're, you voted for Trump, and this group was not for it, I mean, you just better stand back or vice versa. Why would you ever vote, why wouldn't you vote for Trump? He's going to do this, this, this, this, this. You know, but everyone makes promises. I don't know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: Well, one was my line of work, probably not a good idea to talk anything politics. And then even amongst my family, there was a huge divide. And then in my immediate household, my dad is not a U.S. citizen, so he can't vote, so there are, were interesting discussions from his point of view from someone who can't vote.

MODERATOR: How was Thanksgiving?

WOMAN: We tried to focus on my niece, who wasn't even a year yet, so.

MODERATOR: Babies will bring the family together.

WOMAN: Right. Yeah. You try to stick with that.

MODERATOR: Thinking back to election night or the next morning when you got up, what emotions did you feel when you found out he had won the presidency?

WOMAN: Oh, my God. You're kidding.

MAN: Surprise.

MAN: Yeah. It's, yeah.

WOMAN: Surprised.

WOMAN: Worried.

MAN: Change is coming.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other emotions, thoughts?

WOMAN: I was just like get this ship going in the right direction. I was like come on.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, how about you, how did you feel?

MAN: I was happy. I'm not going to lie. I didn't like Hillary at all, because Hillary meant Obama, and that was it. You know, I didn't like what was happening before.

MODERATOR: Man, how about you?

MAN: Surprised, happy.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other emotions people had when you found out he won? Okay. Is there any point since the election which you've regretted voting for Donald Trump? Man, you kind of nodded your head.

MAN: Yeah. I don't think he tells the truth about a lot of things. That bothers me. One week he says one thing. The next week he's saying something just the opposite. There's no consistency.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else have regrets? Okay. Again, I mentioned, oh, I shouldn't say again, but I did mention this earlier, which is you voted for Barack Obama in 2012 against Mitt Romney. What are some of the reasons you did not vote this time for Obama's endorsed candidate?

MAN: . . . a liar.

WOMAN: Change. We need a change.

MAN: She had a lot of baggage, I think.

MODERATOR: Any other reasons?

WOMAN: I just couldn't listen to her.

MAN: She is annoying.

MODERATOR: What was it about Obama or Romney that caused you to either vote for Obama or not, you know, vote against Romney in 2012?

WOMAN: Me, personally, I think Obama seemed to be a very family-oriented person, very happy. I always liked the looks of him versus Romney.

WOMAN: I think he was a very good speaker.

WOMAN: Yeah. He talked very well, and he was very, he was easy to understand, and he didn't seem nervous at all when he was up there. He felt comfortable, and he . . .

WOMAN: Confident.

WOMAN: . . . yeah, confident. And he had like he would use slang sometimes like he was a normal person like us. And, you know, he didn't seem to hold that power like on the President like, you know, where other people do.

MAN: Very positive, I think, in his approach in 2012.

MODERATOR: Woman, I'm sorry. What were you saying about why you voted for Obama?

WOMAN: It, a good speaker, very confident, portrayed himself very well, you know, and you felt good with him. And I can't even say I felt good with his ideas though, you know, I guess I didn't really . . .

MAN: I think I've always voted Democrat until this year, basically. That's pretty much what I did.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: He had a good resume, I mean.

MODERATOR: Would you consider your vote back then, thinking back, and I know it's five years ago now, almost five years ago, probably four and a half, was your vote more for Obama or more against Romney? How many voted for Obama? Okay. Everyone. Okay. Then so you voted for Obama, but then you also felt four years later it was time for a change. What was it that caused you to say, hey, you know what, it is time for a change?

MAN: Four years later?

MODERATOR: Yeah. Because if you voted for him in 2012 against Romney.

MAN: Yeah. Okay. I was thinking . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Like in my line of work, I go to different gas stations, and I deal with all the owners. And they're all most of Indian descent and whatever, and what I started to see was all them, they see it all the time, is these guys coming in, like he was saying, with the food



stamps and all that and driving like a Caddy, they come in, and they're buying a bunch of stuff with food stamps.

And then the guy, the store owner sees like their balance, like \$5,000 or whatever, and they're driving a Caddy, but they're getting this. And so all these, you know, immigrants and everything, they're voting for Trump, but they're like really quiet about it. Once they found out that I was voting, they, we'd talk about it, but so that kind of . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I voted for Obama too, because, I mean, there's always been a white person, obviously, in office. I mean, he was of African descent, so I voted for him thinking I would change a little bit of the race issues that we had going on and make the colored people feel better, like they have a black person in office.

And then when it came to Trump, I liked the fact that he didn't have all the political background. He didn't have that stacked against him kind of thing. He didn't have a lot of history. He was just, well, like I said, a businessperson, so I think voting for him I looked at Trump being more of like a normal person like us, you know, like someone that doesn't have a chance to get in office. Now he's able to give the normal people, everyday people a voice.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other reasons you vote, you wanted change after voting for Obama in 2012?

WOMAN: I just think there wasn't enough, like I was telling her, I just, you know, wanted more.

MODERATOR: Okay. Are there ways in which Obama and Trump are similar, and, if so, what are those, you know, what similarities do you see between the two?

MAN: Family.

WOMAN: Family.

MODERATOR: Anything else? How about different, in what ways are they different?

WOMAN: Twitter.

MODERATOR: Let me follow up on that. When you say Twitter, what?

WOMAN: Just every day there's . . . yeah.

WOMAN: He's way more vocal.

WOMAN: Yeah. That's a good way of putting it.

WOMAN: Except that Barack didn't ever say what, but he didn't blurt it out like Trump. I mean, he kind of just he can't help himself.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other ways they're different?

MAN: I think they all lie, but Trump was more, is more obvious.

WOMAN: Because he doesn't have the political background of how to lie.

MAN: Yeah. They all lie . . .

WOMAN: Yeah. Barack is more, was more tender with us.

MAN: . . .

WOMAN: Yeah. Right.

WOMAN: Trump, he doesn't care. He'll just, here it is.

MAN: Go straight at you . . . when he was . . . he got straight at you. Right?

MODERATOR: Any other ways that they're different? Okay. Everybody, not everybody, but a number of you have mentioned change as a reason to vote for Donald Trump. Do you think that Donald Trump is changing or will at least be able to change the way things work in Washington?

WOMAN: I hope so.

MAN: I hope so. I would like to see us all, like we were talking before, the House and the Senate, I don't care who's the President, the House and Senate rule this country. And until the President can get them on the same page somehow and work for the people, whoever is there, it's never going to change. They've got to start working for us, because we're the ones that put them there.

WOMAN: Right. And that's what I was saying before about how we're just self-destructing. I mean, the Senate can't even be on the same page. And so, you know, it's, everybody is just, I think half the Americans are so against everything that Trump has to say that they're not even attempting to listen to what he's going to do or trying to do. And I don't know. I hope change is coming, but.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this question, again, a show of hands, sticking to the change question, how many of you think, yes, Donald Trump will be able to change Washington, the way things work in Washington, or, no, Donald Trump will not be able to change the way things work in Washington? How many think that he will be able to change the way things work in Washington? So, okay, nine. And then, Man, you're skeptical?

MAN: Right. I hope he can, but I don't think he will.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this question. Does anybody remember the Trump campaign slogan?

MAN: *Make America Great Again.*

MODERATOR: Okay. *Make America Great Again.* Everybody familiar with that? So people remember that? When you hear that, what does *Make America Great Again* mean to you?

MAN: Bringing jobs back from overseas back where they belong in the United States and make it go that way.

MAN: Unity.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: Resurgence of the middle class, I think, middle class coming back.

WOMAN: I think of family. I do not like daycare, so when he says *Make America Great Again*, I think back to when the father, husband whatever was the one working. Mom was staying home with the kids, cooking dinner, cleaning house, doing laundry. I think of that kind of thing. Like, to me, that's still where a girl should be is at home with the kids or whatever, taking care of the family kind of thing. And when he says that, that's like what I think about is when it was great, you know, when we could live off of one full-time income, which you can't do anymore.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts when you hear *Make America Great Again*, what does that mean to you?

WOMAN: That's what I think of, just make it, like she said, just making things like more economical, and it's easier for people to buy a house. Like now it's like it's still, even if you have a normal job, it's still hard for people to buy a home.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else? Anything else come to mind? Is it, what are some of the reasons that you think, at least up until this election, that America, when you're thinking about America, you say, well, *Make America Great Again* means it's not great right now. What is some of the things that, to you, that why America was no longer great?

MAN: Wage stagnation, I think.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

WOMAN: Yeah. Nothing was happening.

MAN: No. People were working more, getting paid less.

MAN: Unemployment, definitely, job opportunities out there.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else, other reasons America wasn't great, isn't great, or wasn't great? Mostly then kind of jobs, wages.

MAN: Money.

MODERATOR: Money. Okay.

MAN: I think there's a lot of racial tension.

MAN: Yeah. That's what I was going to say.

MODERATOR: Let me ask you this. There was a discussion among his opponents that when he said *Make America Great Again* that was kind of like code for, oh, he wants to go back to the days of segregation. America wasn't great for a lot of people back then. Did you take that to have a racial element to it when he said it?

WOMAN: No. I didn't.

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: Let me ask this. I'm going to, I'd like a show of hands on this one too, two different options. Let me read it to you first. Was your support for Donald Trump more based on his issue positions or more based on his focus on bringing change to Washington? So how many think, how many say, oh, my support for Trump is more based on his issue positions? Okay. How many on bringing change to Washington? Okay. I can count real quick. That was ten up.

We've already talked about change. Let me ask this. How many think, I'm going to give you two options again, bringing change to Washington, which I just mentioned, or his willingness to tell it like it is instead of worrying about being politically incorrect? So how many say, no, I, you know, it was more important to me that he, I think he'll bring change to Washington? Show of hands. One, two, three, almost everybody. And then Man and anybody else, it was more he tells it like it is?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else that I missed who said he tells it like it is? Okay. Let me ask this. Not everybody here is a Republican, and, you know, some of you are Independents and Democrats. This election, did you vote a straight Republican ticket, or did you split your ticket and vote for some Democrats?

MAN: Can you repeat that, please?

MODERATOR: Did you, in this past election, back in November, did you vote a straight Republican ticket where you voted for all the Republicans on the ballot, or did you split your ticket? How many voted straight Republican? One, two, three, four. Okay. And then how many split their ticket? So six. Okay. That adds up again. If, now that you've voted for Donald Trump, do you think of yourself as a Republican, if you weren't a Republican before? Nobody. Okay. And then if Hillary Clinton had won the election instead of Donald Trump, would you be more supportive of the Republican Party or less supportive of the Republican Party? Again, if we had President Hillary Clinton.

MAN: Neither.

MODERATOR: Neither. You're not thinking about party so much as . . .

MAN: I want the best person to do the right job. That's what you want. And it doesn't matter who's out there. I think that's what you're finding out nowadays. Not everybody is a Democrat, and not everybody is a Republican back like the old days were. It was . . . now they, I think we all speak this, we want the right person that's going to go and make change and do the right thing for all the people, you know, and not just the voted Republican or Democrat.

MODERATOR: Okay. I have one more question about party politics, and that is about the Democratic Party. They have a new chairperson they just elected. His name is Tom Perez. I don't care about him. That's not who I'm asking about. I'm going to ask you, in your mind, who is the new leader of the Democratic Party?

When Barack Obama was President, you know, guess what, he was the leader of the Democratic Party to most people, because he was the biggest front and center. He kind of dropped back a little bit when Hilary was running so that she was the leader of the Democratic Party. But she's lost, so you have somebody out of office and then somebody who didn't win. So turn the page on them. When you think of the Democratic Party, who do you see, in your mind's eye?

MAN: Bernie Sanders.

MODERATOR: Bernie Sanders.

MAN: Yeah. Actually . . .

WOMAN: Bernie Sanders.

MODERATOR: Anybody else come to mind?

MAN: Maybe Elizabeth Warren a little bit.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many people have heard of Elizabeth Warren before Man mentioned her? One, two, three, four, so some awareness of her. Anybody else? Okay. Does the name Chuck Schumer ring a bell? Okay. A couple of people, but not too many. Nancy Pelosi, does her name ring a bell?

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: So more. Okay. Let's move on from that. When you hear what is often called the mainstream media being critical of Donald Trump, does their criticism make you question your support for him, or does it reinforce that he's on the right track in terms of shaking things up in D.C.? Let me, I'm getting looks like what are you saying. Okay. Thinking about the mainstream media, they're critical of Donald Trump, when they're critical of Donald Trump, does their criticism make you question your support for him like, you know, they've got some really good points there, or does it reinforce to you that he's on the right track in terms of shaking things up in Washington?

MAN: I'm not sure who the mainstream media is.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: Yeah. I don't know how much of that you can believe, so I'm always skeptical on what's being reported and . . .

WOMAN: Or what channel you're watching?

WOMAN: Right. Yeah.

WOMAN: Man, you had said that about Fox News.

MAN: CNN and MSNBC and then you go Fox.

WOMAN: Yeah. You change it, and it's a whole different . . .

MAN: They're bad.

MODERATOR: Other thoughts about the media and its treatment?

WOMAN: I don't really believe them that much, I mean, I just ignore it.

MAN: I don't think I really heard of mainstream media before Donald Trump. It's just, it was just more media.

MODERATOR: Any other thoughts about the media and how they treat Trump?

MAN: Well, it's like anything in the news though, if you're the President or somebody in higher up . . . businessman, if you fall out of line or say something stupid, they're

going to be all over it. They're, somebody's got video cameras or the tweet right away, or they've got you all in. Yeah. It's hard to believe. The news can blow anything out of proportion if they want to blow it out of proportion when reporting.

MAN: You can't get away with anything anymore.

MAN: Not even golfers.

MODERATOR: Back in, you know, I think it was late January or early February, Donald Trump said in an interview that the press is, and I'm quoting him directly now, quote, the press is the enemy of the people. What does that mean to you, and what do you think of when you hear him say that or when you hear me say that he said that?

WOMAN: I think the press, obviously, is getting paid by somebody, and they try to make us against each other. They create a lot of the racism that's out there, a lot of, you know, like some, well, like somebody got pulled over, and that person got shot by a cop kind of thing. And they go out like looking for that kind of stuff. They look for it to be a white cop that shot a black person versus what about all these white people that are getting shot by white cops or black cops or whatever else? I mean, it's happening in places, but it's like what they pick to report on, it's causing a lot of controversy between us as a whole.

MAN: I don't think the press is the enemy of the people. I guess that's my feeling.

MODERATOR: Okay. So what is your reaction to his statement?

MAN: I don't agree with him.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts about the press and Donald Trump?

MAN: I'm totally confused about the Russia thing. How we can be, the last presidency, he's at the White House, the guy that, with Flynn and the other guy, and we sold them our Uranium, 10% of the, or Hillary made a deal with the . . . whatever? But now it's such a big deal that if someone talked to this guy, when before it was okay to talk to him. I don't know what's happened, but it's just confusing.

What happens if since June he's been under, I think everything gets leaked? How come nothing has been leaked with him connected to Russia? It's every day Russia, the *Rachel Maddow Show*, every single night, Russia, Russia, Russia, but there's nothing really, you know, concrete that will mess up his presidency. I think they should just give that a break or find out if, you know, it's getting old, Russia, Russia, you know, to me. I don't know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other thoughts on?

WOMAN: I think sometimes they just want to stir up controversy. I mean, like I don't, they know they're not going to get people to watch if they just sit there and say something good.

MODERATOR: A show of hands, who here uses Twitter? Who here is on Twitter? One person. Okay. Do you follow Donald Trump?

WOMAN: I'm on it, but I'm not on it every day or anything. I follow celebrities. I'm like, oh, that's nice. And I follow nature and wildlife stuff on there. How exciting is that, you know?

MAN: Everything he twitters goes on Facebook.

WOMAN: Nothing political on there. I want it for fun.

MAN: If you're hooked on with Facebook, everything that goes on . . . Twitter goes on his Facebook feed.

MODERATOR: But I was wondering, so you people, you are aware of when he tweets, and you see it or you hear about it in the press or on Facebook or something? So most people are aware of his . . .

MAN: Usually, in the press later than . . . yeah, or the newspaper.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Why do you think that Trump tweets so much? Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: Because he's impulsive. He just can't hold back. I don't know. I mean, half of me believes that he does it so that he can avoid all this press stuff, but it doesn't do him good.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else in terms of why do you think he tweets so much?

MAN: He gets his unfiltered opinion out there. In his mind, that's what he wants to do.

WOMAN: Doesn't his, the, who's the little, the youngest kid he has, Barman? The youngest son, I think he's on there too, so I don't know if he's trying to get dad on there and doesn't really realize the effect, or maybe he does. I don't know.

MAN: He loves the attention.

WOMAN: That too. But I know they're both on there.



MODERATOR: Any other reasons you think he tweets so much? Do you think that his tweets help him or hurt him?

MAN: Hurt.

WOMAN: Hurt.

MODERATOR: Anybody have a contrary view and say, yeah, you know, actually, I think they help?

WOMAN: No. I think it's like anything else. When you do it in excess, it's probably bad for you.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask you to do this. I'm going to run to the little moderator's room, which is your, I'm going to ask you to flip to page nine in your workbook. And just write down three, four, or five issues you think it's most important for the President to be successful on. You know, whether you're happy with him or not, what would you like to see him be successful on? And I'll be right back.

Okay. If you're done, we're actually, this is one of the parts we're not going to talk about, so just close it up. I'll take a look at it later on. If you're still writing, you know, that's fine. I don't want to rush anybody. But do you trust government more now that Trump is in office than you did when Obama was President?

WOMAN: No. I trusted him too.

MODERATOR: So no real difference. Okay. Others, how do you feel about government now that . . .

MAN: The same.

WOMAN: No change.

MODERATOR: No change.

MAN: No change.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask you about a few controversies that have been in the news, and I'm going to ask for a show of hands yes or no on these. Excuse me. Do you believe that President Obama ordered wiretaps on Donald Trump before the election? Yes? Raise your hands. Okay. How many no? Okay. And some people aren't sure. Man, you're unsure?

MAN: Yeah. Unsure.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do you believe the Trump campaign team worked with people in the Russian government during the campaign to impact the election? And, again, this is the Trump campaign team working with the Russian government during the campaign dating back to the election. Not did the Russians try to impact the elections, but did the Trump campaign team work with them?

How many say, yes, they think that the Trump campaign team did work with the Russian government? Okay. How many say no? Okay. Do you think the press purposely lowballed the estimate of the crowd at Trump's inauguration? How many say, yes, the press lowballed it on purpose? Okay. No? And then some people are unsure. Okay. Good to know.

Do you think that it is nepotism and wrong for Trump to allow his daughter and son-in-law to have official positions within the U.S. government? It is, yes, it is wrong, or, no, it is not wrong? So, yes, it's wrong? One, two, three, four. How many say, no, not wrong? One, two, three, four, five, and then somebody else is up in the air. Let me ask that. Is, for those of you who say, yeah, it's fine, it's not wrong, it's not a problem, is the, are you fine with nepotism for other politicians then, as well, just like, eh, you know, it happens? Woman, I see you kind of like . . .

WOMAN: Well, I think when Bill Clinton was our President, Hillary was . . .

WOMAN: Pulling the strings.

WOMAN: Yeah. Unofficially behind the scenes, but, yeah, I don't have an issue.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts on nepotism in the White House for other politicians? I mean, it's not something people feel strongly about. All right. Oh, here's what I've got next. During the campaign and right after he was elected President, there were kind of five big things that, you know, people feel about or saying this is what President Trump or President-elect Trump really ran on. And let me make a quick list of them.

Hang on a minute. I've got it here. And these are in no particular order. It's just what I wrote down beforehand as I remembered it. One was fair trade. One was national security, terrorism. One was illegal immigration. One was Obamacare. I'll call it R&R, and that is for repeal and replace. And then one was, the fifth one, and, again, these aren't in any particular order, but tax reform.

So there's five options. I want to know which one would be your first, second, third, fourth, and then fifth, which is last. So when I ask for your first, just raise your hand once.

How many say fair, which do you think is the most important to you, should be his top priority?  
How many say fair?

MAN: You know, I don't think those are what most people voted on.

MODERATOR: Right. There are other things, but in terms of the issues.

MAN: The wall, drain the swamp.

MAN: That's in immigration though.

MAN: Immigration, yeah, I know, but it's, and it was the wall, yeah.

MODERATOR: These are more issues than drain the swamp. You know, yes, drain the swamp was obviously important, change, *Make America Great Again*, but when you talk about specific issues, these were the ones that were talked about the most.

So, okay, so of these five, and, again, you may say, well, there was a sixth one or another one or whatever, but in terms of specific issues, and when you think of illegal immigration, if you're thinking about the wall, that's part of that. But I wanted it to be, because some people are like, oh, you know, and we'll talk about that a little bit more, but some people are like, oh, I don't care whether he builds this wall, but I do want him to do something about border security.

So how many of you, fair trade is the most important, a show of hands? Okay. National security, terrorism, most important? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Okay. Illegal immigration? We've got two people left, so illegal immigration? Obamacare repeal and replace? We've got one on that. And tax reform? Okay. Did I miss somebody on national security and terrorism, or did somebody not raise their hand for which one is most? Okay. Then I'll go back and change that to nine. Okay. How about second most important, how many say fair trade? One, two, three, four, five, six. And, Man, you're kind of . . . okay, I want to make sure.

MAN: Sorry.

MODERATOR: Oh, no problem. Now only one person, and I know who that person is. Woman, would national security, terrorism be second for you or not? And . . . it's fine if it's not.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: I just don't want anybody else to raise their hand again, because, you know, you've already picked that one. Illegal immigration, how many would put that second? One, two, three.

WOMAN: No, I already, sorry, I already, it thought you were on the next one.

MODERATOR: Okay. One, two. Okay. And then we still have two more people. Obamacare, repeal and replace? Okay. I almost said rest and relaxation. And then tax reform? Man, is that your hand up for tax reform?

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: No. Okay. So I've got nine people. Did I miss somebody?

MAN: You missed me for the illegal immigration.

MODERATOR: Oh, okay. So it's three. Okay. Third place. And, by the way, these should add ten going down, and then eventually ten going across too. Third place, how many would say fair trade? One, two, three, four. Okay. So fair trade is done. You know, six people picked it second. Four people picked it third, so nobody can pick it fourth or fifth. Third place, national security, terrorism. Okay. You just picked that, so you're the only ones a no. Illegal immigration how many would pick that third place?

MAN: No. I picked that already.

MODERATOR: Nobody? Okay. Obamacare? One, two, three, four, five. Okay. And then tax reform? One, two.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: We're just going to keep moving on. Woman, are you fourth or fifth on national security, so I can just fill that box?

WOMAN: I'd say fourth.

MODERATOR: Fourth. Okay. So that's done. Illegal immigration, who put illegal immigration fourth, if you haven't picked it yet? Okay. So that means that six people put it last. Right? Okay. Obamacare, R&R, three people haven't chosen it. How many would put it fourth?

WOMAN: I'd say fourth.

MODERATOR: One. Man, is that your hand up?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Two. And then tax reform? One, two, three. Okay.  
Wait a second, five, six, seven.

WOMAN: No. I didn't . . . I think for the fifth one. Sorry.

MODERATOR: Oh, that's okay. And then you've got six . . . last. We're missing  
some for four. That's fine.

WOMAN: I was picturing . . .

MODERATOR: Obamacare, repeal and replace, how many would put that last?  
One, two. And how many would put tax reform last?

WOMAN: That's what I was, I was in the wrong column.

MAN: That's where I was last.

MODERATOR: So that's one, two, three, four, five. Okay. That means we've  
got everybody. Okay. I'm going to put that down to three there. Okay. It doesn't add up, but  
that's okay. National security is up there high, pretty high. Fair trade is also up there pretty high.  
Tax reform is pretty low, as is Obamacare repeal and replace, but people feel strongly about it,  
because that adds to 11. So, okay, you get some idea.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Yeah. We're just going to move along. Well, let's talk about a  
couple of those issues and then some others as well specifically. And how are we doing on time?  
Oh, about a half hour, so we're in good shape on time, maybe even get out of here five minutes  
early or so. It's possible. Illegal immigration, do you think that he means it when he says he's  
going to build a wall on the border? How many say, yeah, he's going to build a wall?

MAN: Oh, yeah.

MODERATOR: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

MAN: Of some kind.

MODERATOR: Of some kind.

WOMAN: Some type of barrier.

MODERATOR: Man, you're skeptical.

MAN: No. I don't believe it. I mean, I think he wants to beef it up so it's not so  
easy for illegals to get in and maybe push them to get in the right way. You know, I just, who's  
he going to hire to build the wall? You'd have to go to that south side.

WOMAN: I think he wants to, but whether he'll get it done. . . I don't, he might continue . . .

MAN: It's going to cost too much.

MODERATOR: For those of you who want the wall built, do you feel like there has to be progress, because it's not going to be built in a day, but do you feel that there has to be progress by the next election, by 2020, presidential election, by 2020, or that you'd feel like he was breaking one of his promises?

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: I think it's a waste of time, because he's, they're just going to use tunnels underground.

MODERATOR: But you want him to build the wall, but you just think it's a waste of time, I mean, but . . .

MAN: Well, yeah, but, you know, they're always going to find a way. If there's a will, there's a way.

MODERATOR: Man, you were saying that you'd be disappointed?

MAN: I think so. Yeah. If he doesn't make any progress, I don't, yeah, in four years.

WOMAN: And me, I think if it's not done by 2020, like what was the point of starting then, because whoever, if he doesn't get elected in the next election, they're just probably going to tear it down anyways.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, what's your thoughts about the wall?

MAN: Oh, I don't know. I guess, for a long time now, they've been trying to build the wall and put money in the budget for building it and stuff or, you know, reinforcing it. So I don't know. I don't know. Here in Wisconsin it doesn't seem to bother us, I mean, bother me as much, immigration. I'm sure it's different in Texas and . . .

MODERATOR: Woman, how important is the wall to you?

WOMAN: I don't know about a physical wall, but some type of structure in place to regulate it. You know, if you're a Canadian citizen and you cross the border, you're only allowed to cross the border and stay here so many times before they want you to be out. And they have a lot of regulations, so I don't know exactly how that works, but something, I don't know.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you, what's your thought on the wall?

WOMAN: Well, when he first started talking about it, I just thought figuratively he's talking about a wall, not to actually build a wall. You know, I don't know. I mean, I'm not for it. I don't know. I think it's crazy to spend all that money on that. I don't agree with that.

MODERATOR: Since he became President, do you think immigration, illegal immigration, not legal immigration, has gone higher, stayed about the same, or gotten lower?

WOMAN: They're illegals. We don't know what's going on with them, how they're getting in.

WOMAN: It's probably the same.

WOMAN: I agree. It's the same.

MAN: The same, yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah. I don't think it's changed any.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I would say it would probably be important . . . that has been put on it, I think it's probably dropped it a little bit.

MAN: Maybe lower, because there's so much talk about it, so . . .

MAN: But I don't know who keeps those figures either, you know . . .

MAN: I think it was going down before he was elected. What I hear from people, there's jobs in Mexico. They don't need to come here as much as they used to because all of our jobs are there now. So they can make money. Yeah.

MODERATOR: And, Man, what were you saying earlier?

MAN: Some guy . . . Jeff Sessions, didn't he come out the other day and say that it was down 20%? So who knows with that, you know.

MODERATOR: Why do you think, it is down 20%, why do you think that it is down since he got . . .

WOMAN I think people are paranoid.

MAN: Yeah . . . ISIS or ICE.

WOMAN: They don't want to put their families at risk and . . .

MAN: Well, I think the border patrol has been beefed up a little more too. They, at least what I heard today, beefed up the border patrol a little more.

MODERATOR: Okay. Obamacare, how come repeal and replace of Obamacare hasn't happened yet?

WOMAN: I think it's just messy, like it's hard to straighten out.

MODERATOR: Other reasons why it hasn't passed yet?

MAN: I don't think they know what they want to do either, the Republicans, the Senate, in particular.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other . . .

MAN: It didn't even get out of the House.

MODERATOR: Anybody here would be hurt if Obamacare, or them or their family would be hurt if Obamacare is repealed?

MAN: As long as there's something to replace that's not better, you know, and more affordable for everybody.

MAN: And it depends on what you're talking about Obamacare. I mean, preexisting conditions is part of Obamacare. Insurance for kids up to age 26 is part of Obamacare. So if you take those, all those types of things away, I think it impacts a lot of people.

MODERATOR: Okay. Now the Republicans and including President Trump has said, that reminds me of another question, let me write that down, has said that they want to keep those things that, I'm sorry, is it Man or Man?

MAN: Man.

MODERATOR: Man. It is Man. Okay. Good, I've been calling you the right thing. Man mentioned the preexisting conditions and having people on parents' health insurance until 26.

MAN: No cap, you know, that type of thing.

MODERATOR: Yeah. They, you know, he says that they, he wants to keep that part of it. Is doing that important? Is that something that they've got to do if they're going to be successful, they've got to keep that, those, the popular parts of Obamacare?

WOMAN: I think it helps a lot of people with the, you know, keeping your children on until they're 26, at least until they're out of college. I mean, I would say probably lower a little bit to maybe like 22, 23 or whatever for a 4-year college or something. But, I mean, it makes sense. I mean, we want these, our kids and stuff to go to college and become



successful, working individuals. I mean, it's kind of hard for them to go to college full time, work full time, to be able to pay, you know, insurance fees and stuff like that, so I would definitely say that should be something that's kept.

MAN: It's even more than just college. Most young people don't get jobs that have healthcare, so you've got to give them time to work their way up. They're, the other big piece is that Medicaid expansion should, it's all part of Obamacare, so if they do away with that, you're going to impact a lot of people, a lot of state budgets.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. This is off topic, but I thought about it, and probably I should have asked this sooner, but is, in your minds, when it comes to policy ideas and stands on issues, is President Trump a traditional Republican, or is he more different than, you know, most Republicans? Does he have different views on issues? Like do you think of him as a typical Republican politician, or do you say . . .

MAN: Different.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: No, I'd say different.

MAN: I'd say different.

MODERATOR: Okay. What makes him different? What are some of the issues where he differs from traditional Republican issues?

MAN: I think he's looking to make America great as trying to help the middle class. I guess we're, you think of Republicans, they're always the ones that are looking out for the people that make the big money and the big corporations so that they can get their more breaks. I think, really, he's one, he's made his money. He knows, really, what's going on and maybe trying to help the middle class raise up a little more.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other ways he's different than Republicans?

MAN: He was a Democrat in a prior life.

MODERATOR: Other ways he's different than Republicans?

MAN: Doesn't he say he doesn't want to take Medicaid or something, Medicaid? And then I guess all the Republicans want to take it off or whatever.

MODERATOR: So he wants to keep Medicaid and want to . . .

MAN: I don't think he's as conservative as traditional Republicans are.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this question. We haven't really talked about these types of issues. But should president Trump allow same-sex marriage to continue to be legal, or should he work to change it back? How many think he should allow it to continue to be, same-sex marriage to be legal, a show of hands? One, two, three, four, five, six. How many think that he should work to change it back, a show of hands? So those of you who didn't raise your hands for yes, what do you, Man, what do you think about the issue?

MAN: It doesn't bother me at all, I mean . . .

MAN: It's their, it's a person's choice. You know, I guess how is the government making a person's choice? You know, I thought they were supposed to work for every person that's in the United States. I shouldn't say should they make it the same or keep it the same. I guess it never should have been that way. I mean, it's a person's choice. If they choose to go that way, that's their choice. Why is the government getting involved?

MODERATOR: Okay. Since the election, the stock market has gone up more than after any new President was elected in history, except with one exception, and that was John F. Kennedy in 1960. The market went up even higher in terms of percentage, not in terms of points, but that's too much math. Why do you think the stock market has gone up since Trump was elected?

MAN: Optimism. People believe he is going to make America great again.

WOMAN: I think the way he comes from like a business background too, so . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Other reasons that you think it might've . . . it went up, might think it went up?

MAN: So much talk about infrastructure. I think that they're going to do a lot of building . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else?

MAN: Tax reform, I think, plays into that.

MODERATOR: Tax reform. All right. Well, let me ask this. In two years, a little less than two years, you've got November elections in 2018, so next year. Those are for Congress, and, also, here in Michigan, for governor, which . . .

MAN: Wisconsin.

MODERATOR: Oh, sorry. I was in Michigan last night.

MAN: Man, good call.

MODERATOR: Yes, Wisconsin. It's right here. Sorry. I've been doing, on the road a lot, so . . .

MAN: No more water.

MODERATOR: Yeah. Maybe it should be spiked.

WOMAN: Well, you'd get us talking.

MODERATOR: It's true here too though. You've got Congress elections as well as governor. Right? Isn't the governor up . . . he's not a, they're not up in presidential years, they're up in non-presidential. So I got it right except for the state of Wisconsin . . . Kyle is back there laughing at me. What was I going to, oh, so, look, not everybody votes in midterm elections. How about you, do you traditionally vote in midterm elections, or do you skip midterms? How many of you skip midterm elections, just a show of hands? One, two, three, four, five. Okay. Will you be more inclined to vote this time because Trump is President, or it doesn't make a difference? Man, I saw you nodding your head.

MAN: Yeah. I probably will.

MODERATOR: Okay. And for everybody, do you think that the election in 2018 will be more about the Republicans who control Congress or more about President Trump, even though he's not on the ballot?

MAN: Congress.

MODERATOR: Congress. How many think it might be more about Trump? All right. Are you more inclined, now none of you vote straight ticket, or at least not in 2016, are you more inclined to vote Republicans to reinforce Trump or vote for Democrats to provide a check and balance for Trump? How many would be more inclined to vote Republican, if you vote? One. Okay. How many are more inclined to vote Democrat? Okay. One, two, three.

MAN: It's kind of too early though, really.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: A little early, yeah, and that's fair. That is. Yeah. I mean, he could be doing a great job in a year, and you'd say, oh, you know what, I do want to vote Republican to reinforce him, or he could be not doing a great job, doing a bad job, and you could say, yeah, definitely, we need a change. All right. I want you to, how are we doing? Oh, we're doing great. I want you to finish this sentence for me. And I'm going to say it several times just,

I want, you know, different people to answer me each time. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if? So finish that sentence.

MAN: He follows through.

MODERATOR: If he follows through on?

MAN: Everything.

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

MAN: He can get congressional support.

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

Woman, you had started to say something.

WOMAN: No. I wasn't going to say anything. I'm still thinking.

MODERATOR: Oh, Woman. I'm sorry.

WOMAN: I was going along with what Man was saying, just working together again and being united.

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

WOMAN: The economy improves.

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

MAN: He sticks to everything he promised.

MODERATOR: Okay. One more time I'll ask, and then I'll move onto the next one. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if?

MAN: If he gets the people in Congress to work with him like Pelosi and Schumer, the Democrats.

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

MAN: National security.

MODERATOR: Okay. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on?

WOMAN: Bringing jobs back.

MODERATOR: Bringing jobs back. Okay. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on?

WOMAN: Improving healthcare.

MODERATOR: Improving healthcare. Okay. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on?

MAN: Fair trade.

WOMAN: Making America great again.

MODERATOR: Fair trade. Woman, what . . .

WOMAN: I said making America great again.

MAN: Fair trade, imports, exports . . .

MODERATOR: Making America great again, oh, and fair trade. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on? Okay. Well, that means people are out of gas on that question. That's my cue, even if I don't know what state I am in, to move on. Go to page 11, which is the last page. And I'd like you to write a postcard to Donald, to President Trump that is either some advice for the President or asking him to work on a certain issue.

So here's your chance to say what you think. If you're still writing, that's fine, but you'll kind of be finishing your last thought. Then when you're done, just go ahead and close up. Okay. Be kind of wrapping it up. So was one of your favorite, one of your four-letter words Man, golf, or no?

MAN: Actually, I didn't use that name but . . .

MODERATOR: I was trying to think of a four-letter word that still would be, you know, clean but pointed.

MAN: Golf is clean.

MODERATOR: Let me ask this. I only have a couple more questions. And so we are going to be done a little bit early, and that's good, but early on, people talked a bunch about Syria and everything. First, I mean, look, people can have different opinions on this, I want to see how many people, by a show of hands, approve, and then how many disapprove of him sending the Tomahawks into Syria. How many approve? One, two, three, four, five, six. And how many disapprove? Okay.

One thing that sort of surprised me, and this was not a question I had prepared or anything, but a number people said it was like he implied that he had started a war. Did you think that that's like, you know, we're going to continue to be involved in Syria, or do you think it was kind of a one-off thing, and he wouldn't do it again unless they used chemical weapons?

MAN: I think it's more than Syria. It's North Korea, Russia.

WOMAN: It's like a snowball effect. You know, somebody else is doing, you know, the pictures that we had seen on of the kids and the women, the families. You know, it, there's, it's happening all over the world. Are we going to go there and bomb them? You know, that was his premise.

WOMAN: I'm sure he has another agenda though, maybe.

MODERATOR: Man, you were going to say?

MAN: I think it shows that we're strong, and we're just not going to take no crap.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts on Syria?

MAN: They used a chemical weapon that's against the, you know, fighting that should be taken care of whoever they, he took out the airport that's taking the chemical bombs out of there that's, I thought, the smartest thing in the world. He might save thousands of lives.

MAN: I agree with Man that it sent a message. I think, in reality, we're not going to be able to do anything about Syria. I think that's, they've been fighting with each other for hundreds of years. A few missiles isn't going to change that.

MODERATOR: Woman, what are your thoughts on Syria?

WOMAN: I think he's more like sending a message.

MODERATOR: Okay. Well, that's all I've got for you tonight. So before, but before you walk out the door, two things of note. One is the nice folks who checked you in, three things, the nice folks who checked you in will have your payment on the way out. Secondly, if you could pass up the workbooks, just that way I don't have to, yeah, I'll be lazy, but . . .

MAN: That's not lazy, it's organized.

MODERATOR: I do need to get my steps . . . and then the last point would be please drive home safely. So thank you.

MAN: No problem. Thank you.

MAN: No, we just want to make sure you get home safely.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Remember you're in Wisconsin, not Michigan.

MODERATOR: If I put in my GPS.

MAN: Where do you live?

MODERATOR: Virginia. I put in my GPS to the Detroit airport, and I've too far  
to go . . .

MAN: You are a little ways away.

MAN: Yeah. You probably go back to Detroit, don't you?

[Simultaneous discussion]