

**Introduction:** The Presidential debates are exercises designed to allow your campaign team the opportunity to strengthen your skills in the areas of leadership, team building, group problem solving, and presentation. The debates give your campaign team the opportunity to present your ideas to your voters and opposition. The debates will consist of the Secretary, President and Vice President. Each member should be well informed and able to answer each of the questions presented.

### **Guidelines for the Debate**

30 second opening statement from each President

Question posed by Mr. Patten or Ms. Dennis

1-2 minute response from each of the Secretaries

2 minute crossfire between the Secretaries

This format will continue until the end of the debate. The Secretary, President and Vice President may take turns answering questions. At the conclusion of the debate, each Secretary will give a 30 second closing statement explaining why the voters should elect their campaign team.

### **Foreign Policy Questions**

#### **Opening Statement:**

**Our administration wants to serve the people of the United States in the best way possible. Decisions regarding our foreign affairs will be strategically thought out in order to choose the best and most effective solution. Our number one goal is to keep Americans both home and overseas safe when it comes to our foreign affairs.**

1. What role does your administration believe the United States should play in regards to international conflict?

- Be able to explain how this belief will influence your actions toward North Korea, ISIS, Syria and the War Afghanistan.

**My team believes that America should play a role in the international conflicts. We think we should get involved because the world is changing. Countries are getting stronger and more powerful. It has been predicted that in the year 2020, North Korea will acquire small nuclear ICBM that could potentially reach California. If we do not intervene, we will pay for it in the long run. This won't only affect us, but it could affect the world. This could start another world war. Also, if we don't get involved, we could put our national security in jeopardy. In the Ukraine, Russia is currently trying to take over some of the regions in that country. This may be leading to a dangerous conflict between Russia and the Ukraine. If Russia accomplished their goal, they can continue to move into other countries and take over other regions. In 1930, the British did not get involved in foreign affairs and multiple regions were invaded in their country. Many people were killed and the world plunged into another World War. The United States is a powerful country and we should not sit back and watch. We don't want to risk the safety of our nation. We would only get involved in these conflicts if it is absolutely necessary to the safety of our country.**

2. What methods have been used by the Obama administration and Trump administration to combat ISIS?

- Include specific examples.

**The Obama Administration and the Trump Administration used different methods to combat ISIS. The Obama Administration's objective was to degrade, and ultimately destroy, ISIS through a comprehensive and sustained counter-terrorism strategy. The first step in this strategy was to conduct a systematic campaign of airstrikes against these terrorists. While working with the Iraqi government, they planned to expand efforts beyond protecting our own people and humanitarian missions. The core principle of his presidency was if you threaten America, you will find no safe haven. The second step was to increase our support to forces fighting these terrorists on the ground. In June of 2014, he deployed several hundred American service members to Iraq to assess how we can best support Iraqi Security Forces. Now that those teams have completed their work and Iraq has formed a government, the administration planned to send an additional 475 service members to Iraq. These forces will not have a combat mission because we did not want to get dragged into another ground war in Iraq. These troops are needed to support Iraqi and Kurdish forces with training, intelligence, and equipment. This also included support to Iraq's efforts to stand up National Guard Units to help Sunni communities secure their own freedom from ISIS control. The third step was to continue to draw on our substantial counter terrorism capabilities to prevent further ISIS attacks. The fourth and final step of this strategy was to also continue to provide the humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians who have displaced by this terrorist organization. This included Sunni and Shia Muslims who are at grave risk, as well as tens of thousands of Christians and other religious minorities. The Trump Administration had a different idea. They**

have a “secret plan” which was a pledge “to bomb the hell out of the terror group in Iraq and Syria.” This plan consists of continuous bombings, “beefing up” support and assistance to local forces to retake its Iraqi stronghold Mosul and ultimately retake the ISIS capital of Raqqa in Syria. It also consists of drying up ISIS’s resources of income and to stabilizing the areas that were taken by ISIS.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the methods used by the Obama/Trump administration to combat ISIS?

- Include specific examples of actions taken that you support or oppose and be able to explain why.

**Our team agrees with the methods used by the Obama Administration to combat ISIS. For example, their administration planned not to engage in a war without a reason. Their role in Iraq was to educate, train, and assess how we can best support the Iraqi Security Forces so we can combat this terrorist group. We also agree with the Trump Administration's idea to dry up their resources of income. Like the Obama Administration, Trump wants to help stabilize the areas that have suffered because of ISIS. By using a mixture of these two plans, we could create a method that would help put an end to ISIS.**

4. How will your administration eliminate the growing threat of ISIS?

- You must address methods that you will use and how they will eliminate ISIS.

- If you do not believe ISIS is a threat, explain why and you will ensure that they do not become a threat in the future.

**We will combat ISIS with rational decisions since we are putting many peoples lives on the line to attempt to achieve peace amongst countries in the middle east, however if this does not work out, and there is a serious threat to our country, we will have our military ready to go. ISIS is a huge terrorist organization that is recruiting people from all around the country not just in the middle east. ISIS is growing everyday and are estimated in bringing in about \$2 million dollars per day due to the control of various oil fields, power plants, and factories. We will attempt to try to contain ISIS by asking our fellow allies to help us. We need to stop ISIS from spreading and gaining followers and money. It is a good idea to consider taking out the things that ISIS controls so that they won't be able to get back on their feet and will soon crumble. The international community must come together to defeat ISIS because the US can't do it by themselves. If ISIS is directly threatening our country or one of our close allies then we need to take on new measures. We would need to take immediate action and use missile strike against their main camps with drones. We would need to break them up into smaller groups and eliminate them then. By breaking them up into smaller groups little by little, they will become weaker and less of a united front which will then make them less of a threat to the United States and other countries. If we take the reasonable route for plan A we also need to keep in mind these strikes as a plan B because ISIS is very unpredictable.**

5. What does your administration plan to do in regards to the growing tensions with North Korea? Explain your plan and why you believe it will be successful.

**My teams plan in regards to the growing tensions with North Korea is to try to ease the tensions and come to an agreement. The tensions between North Korea and America has been around for decades. We have deterred North Korea from starting a war and contained the threat. This has worked for over 64 years. We need to continue to contain the large threat North Korea holds against us, but we also must start making changes. The first step we must take to ease these tensions is to stop threatening them and to recognize that they have nuclear power. By threatening them back, we are increasing tensions and making matters worse. King Jong-Un has dozens of nuclear weapons and his regime has advanced due to missile technology. Any threat or strike we make on North Korea can lead to a world war with millions of deaths due to this technology. The second step we must take when dealing with North Korea sit down with them to discuss a agreement when it comes to their nuclear weapons. This discussion should also be about reducing or halting their nuclear weapons strikes. North Korea will probably not abandon their weapons altogether, but they may be willing to stop producing them. This has to be done slowly and with caution. We must take our time and be patient with North Korea. Another issue we could try to solve is the joint military exercises. North Korea has proposed joint military exercise with the United States and ally South Korea to be suspended, but we have ignored this proposal. 28,000 of our troops are currently sanctioned in South Korea. In the 1990's team spirit, which was a joint military exercise between US and Korea, was cancelled and in response North Korea halted their nuclear tests. We need to make sure we ensure the safety and trust of our nation's first, then we should bring up discussions about nuclear weapons and economic issues.**

7. How do you plan to ensure that Americans are safe both at home and overseas? Include specific information and ideas to support.

**I ensure that our administration will make the right decisions at the right times to make sure our citizens are safe from any terrorist attacks. We plan to take into account all options in order to choose the one that will effectively eliminate the problem, but also making sure our citizens and military personnel are safe. Our administration will make sure that the Americans that are already overseas are safe and we will not send them into any situation that we know we can't take on. My team and I are ready to take on this huge agenda and will look at these situations with open minds. As Americans we are strong as a whole and we can't let anyone shake our foundation.**

8. Operation Enduring Freedom (The War on Terror) began in Afghanistan began in October 2001, shortly after the September 11th attacks. We are approaching the 17th year of our involvement in Afghanistan. While the combat mission may be over, the U.S. continues to work to stabilize the region and fight terrorism. If elected, does your administration plan to continue the War on Terror (Operation Enduring Freedom) in Afghanistan? Explain.

**Operation Enduring Freedom (The War on Terror) is a metaphor of war referring to the international military campaign that started after the September 11 attacks on the United States. U.S. President George W. Bush first used the term War on Terror on September 20th, 2001. My team and I believe that we should stay involved in Operation Enduring Freedom because if we withdraw from this mission, we could possibly suffer another unexpected terrorist attack such as 9/11. We also worked really hard on this mission and we as Americans, would not want it to be for nothing. We feel that it is best if we stay involved.**

9. How do you plan to improve America's image around the world? Explain with specific examples.

**My team and I believe that we want America to be thought of as the safest country in the world. There have been so many tragic shootings in the past year and years before. The constitution states that an individual has the right to bear arms. We can't go against the constitution, but we are in need of stricter gun laws. When an individual goes to purchase a gun, there should be a thorough background check before proceeding with the purchase. If the check reveals that they have a criminal past or mentally ill the purchase will not be complete and there will be no sale. By doing this, there will be less gun owners and therefore more lives will be saved thus creating a safer, stronger America and overall we will be improving our image to the world around us.**