

**ANNENBERG PRESIDENTIAL
OBAMA VOTERS
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MODERATOR: And I'll start out, we'll just go around, if you'll give me your name and tell me what you do for work. But don't name a company, just say, you know, I do this kind of work or that kind of work, so it's general. And then we won't identify you and your company specifically. Let's start, hello, Robin.

ROBIN: Hello, Peter. I am right now unemployed. I was in recreation and physical therapy, healthcare.

MODERATOR: Great.

JENNIFER: Jennifer, I have a couple different jobs. I'm a realtor is one. I also baby-sit and nanny and involved with a circuit of horseback riding organizations, and I substitute teach.

MODERATOR: And you've got a lot going on.

TY: My name is Ty. I just graduated from George Mason. I'm a premed student. I volunteer on the side in some local businesses and with federal government as a tax . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Great.

CAROLINE: Hi, my name is Caroline, and I'm in human resources.

MODERATOR: Great.

MARK: I'm Mark.

MODERATOR: And can you move your nametag to this side? Yeah, just so it, yeah, perfect.

MARK: Hi, my name is Mark. I've owned a restaurant for 16 years. I sold it a year ago, and I have not worked since then . . .

MODERATOR: Great, sold it at the right time, Mark.

JOHN: My name is John. I'm a, I manage . . . for a larger airline, and I'm also in the real estate business.

MODERATOR: Great.

VIRGINIA: Hello, everyone. My name is Virginia. I am a chiropractor assistant, and I'm a student at George Mason University.

MODERATOR: Good.

CARL: Hi, my name is Carl, and I'm a teacher at . . . school district. And I have a part-time job at . . . to make some money.

MODERATOR: Great. Okay. Good.

LIZ: Hi, my name is Liz. I'm a stay-at-home mom, and I have three children, and I do a little bit of tutoring on the side because I was a full-time teacher, well, for nine years two and a half years ago.

MODERATOR: Got it.

DESIREE: Hi, my name is Desiree. I work with the government in education. I help a select group of people get college degrees.

MODERATOR: Oh, great.

RON: Hi, I'm Ron. I'm in network support, and I work for the government.

MODERATOR: Great.

RICARDO: Hi, I'm Ricardo. I work for the local government too, and I'm on . . . leave for practical reasons.

MODERATOR: Great. Okay. Good. Let me start out by asking you a question, which is think about how you feel about how you feel about the way things are going in America today, just today, right now, and describe it in meteorological terms for me. In other words, if you're a weather forecaster, instead of saying I see things as good or bad, give it to me in weather terms. Robin, what term would you use?

ROBIN: Blizzard.

MODERATOR: A blizzard, okay. Liz, what was your word?

LIZ: I would say stormy.

MODERATOR: Stormy, and Jennifer would say . . .

JENNIFER: Foggy.

MODERATOR: Foggy. Virginia?

VIRGINIA: I would say foggy with sunshine coming through.

MODERATOR: Okay. John.

JOHN: The perfect storm, pretty bad.

MODERATOR: Okay, and what do you think, Mark?

MARK: Hurricane.

MODERATOR: Hurricane. Ty.

TY: My word is rainy now with a possibility of Armageddon.

MODERATOR: Ron.

RON: Tornado.

MODERATOR: Tornado. Desiree.

DESIREE: I would say partly cloudy.

MODERATOR: Ricardo.

RICARDO: Partly cloudy.

MODERATOR: Why so gloomy? Tell me why you say stormy, tornado, perfect storm, etc. What are you thinking, Liz, what are you thinking?

LIZ: Well, currently today, I don't think things are looking real good especially as I'm getting ready for the holidays with my family. I don't know how we're going to pay for our gifts this year. And the economy is a big issue for me, and, you know, just trying to make ends meet, that type of thing.

MODERATOR: Perfect storm, John?

JOHN: Well, I think what a lot of individual things, a lot of layoffs going on, people wondering if their pensions are going away, healthcare costs are astronomical. People are scared.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Caroline, what are you thinking?

CAROLINE: I would say basically the same thing, what you're saying. It's the jobs, layoffs, how are they going to eat? How are we going to eat? I mean, I'm a single, well, actually, I'm married, but no children, so I cannot relate to the ones here that have kids. So for me, it's not that bad. But for others, I really sympathize with them.

MODERATOR: And, Ty, how about you?

TY: Just going around the world internationally, I think we're about to see a big change, where we're not the defacto biggest kid on the block anymore. We've got a lot of nations that are really rising very quickly. And we're declining. We're not going to be able to compete.

MODERATOR: How many agree, we're declining? A lot of hands up around the table. And, Carl, what are you thinking?

CARL: I'm thinking that, I mean, I know the problem's really bad right now, and I'm just trying to be positive, but I think that we can pull through. I think that the . . . that is going to happen is . . . cycle. It's worse than other cycles, but we're going to get through and get out of it in a few years.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Robin?

ROBIN: I agree with Carl. We are going to come out. It's probably not going to be next Tuesday. But it will be, and we're going to lose a lot before we come back up. We're going to, we still have a lot more to go down.

MODERATOR: How many agree, we still got a lot more to go down?

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MODERATOR: Almost every hand around the table agrees. A lot more to go down, huh, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: Yes, I think so, I mean, I agree with everyone saying, just like the housing market slows and our homes, and how are they trying to . . . very homes. Where are they going to live? What are they going to do with these homes?

MODERATOR: Give me a word that you would've used to describe the country seven, eight years ago that you couldn't use today. Think back eight years ago, November of 2008, give me a word.

ROBIN: Happy.

MODERATOR: Happy would be the word, Robin. What?

WOMAN: Flourishing.

MODERATOR: Flourishing.

WOMAN: Stable.

MODERATOR: Stable.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: Comfortable.

MODERATOR: Comfortable.

MAN: Spoiled.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Tell me what you're thinking, Ron. Tell me what you're thinking.

RON: It seemed like everything was good. People were shopping, spending money like they didn't have a care in the world. And now it's all, the money's gone.

MODERATOR: Who's to blame?

RON: Government.

MODERATOR: Government. Caroline, and what's Jennifer want?

JENNIFER: One of the reasons why people are in debt now is because, you know, either as children they weren't taught how to manage their money, or as adults they were just careless and wanted to buy, buy, buy. And I think partially it's, you can't blame it all on the government. It's people.

WOMAN: And what about the big business also? I mean, they're asking for more handouts than we were asking for handouts. I mean, we're the poor people, and we can't get anything.

JENNIFER: Right, I think it's both ways.

RON: John said it earlier, and I think it describes perfectly, perfect storm. You know, there is no one group that's set to blame. And the world, a lot of circumstances that just met together at the right time to create the situation that we're in now. We could've

prevented it, but a lot of us would've had to work together and work counter to how we did operate to make sure that this didn't happen. But it is, it did happen, and we're here. And we are going to get past this.

MODERATOR: And Virginia, what did you want to add in here when you were listening to Ron talking?

VIRGINIA: I definitely believe that, of course, it's the government. But it's also us to blame. I still think we are spoiled. You know, you'll even see on some of these television shows children have diamond earrings, and they're not appreciating money. And I understand that parents want to give to their children, and they want to give them more than what they've had. That's completely understandable. But there still is a way to do that. Children still need to learn responsibility. And they need to be responsible for money, even various chores can be done to earn money. They need to understand how to manage and how to appreciate it.

MODERATOR: Yeah, thinking back eight years ago, tell me sort of what's changed. What are you concerned about that you were not concerned about back then? Carl.

CARL: Right now, for me living about 20 miles from work, it's cost of transportation, fuel costs, traffic.

MODERATOR: Yeah, what are you concerned about, Desiree, today, that you weren't eight years ago?

DESIREE: Definitely gas prices, the economy, am I going to have a job in another four years? Am I going to be able to get a home loan in two years and purchase a house and be stable?

MODERATOR: Mark, what are you concerned, glad you sold your restaurant, eight years ago . . .

MARK: Yeah, I'm concerned about getting back into the job market because when I did sell, it wasn't a permanent thing. My main concerns now is we're heading through all the government bailouts and the things that are going on with the stock market. I mean, I got a good chunk of money, and I put it in the stock market because things were going right. Then, you know, a lot of that just eroded away.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MARK: I'm also concerned with family values. I mean, I, earlier we were talking about, you know, who's to blame. It's like, yeah, big government and big business. But the family values just are deteriorating dramatically.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Caroline, what did you want to say?

CAROLINE: I'd like to say I agree with Mark, and I also agree with Jennifer. If we're not taught how to handle money, and then we're not going to be responsible how to handle the money. But in the cases with the big business, okay, yes, I will pocket, you know, a lot of money in my pocket. I don't care about my workers. I care less about you as long as I work and get it done. So if you have put back for a rainy day for your worker's compensation and all that kind of stuff, there's not any . . . one of the examples, but if you have put back as much for your company, then you won't be having all the big problems. So if you . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, Ricardo, what are you thinking about?

RICARDO: Actually, right now, as a county employee, I want to take a stable job. But we already got told by our board supervisors we have a furlough for this year. I didn't think I would have to worry about that eight years ago. So what's going to happen at our next fiscal year, are we going to have two more furloughs? And with a person who lives, is married, we live check by check, one day without pay, tough.

MODERATOR: Yep. Let me, I wrote down a whole bunch of different things that essentially have happened over the course of the last eight years. And I'd like you to just take a look at the list and tell me which sort of two or three have affected you most. Just put your name up at the top and just select the two or three that have had the greatest impact on you. And I'll take one of the blue sheets back when you're all the way around. I realized . . .

MAN: Just one?

MODERATOR: Yeah, and select two or three that sort of have, have the greatest impact on your feelings about America. It's your greatest impact on your feelings about America, not you just personally, but your thinking about America. Okay. Everybody got theirs? Give me what you put down, John, give me one of them.

JOHN: Financial crisis.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, how many others put down financial crisis 2008 as one of those? Yeah, one, two, three, four maybe. Okay. What have you got down here, Ron? Give me one of them.

RON: Virginia shooting.

MODERATOR: Okay. Virginia Tech and shooting, anybody else? Two or three have that. And who else has got one? What do you got for me at the top, 9/11?

ROBIN: 9/11.

MODERATOR: How many put down 9/11? Two, four, six, seven, eight got that. And why 9/11, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I think of it, I mean, we were always such a secure nation we felt. We all felt spoiled and safe and secure. And something like that is just, I mean, it just blows the mind that it could happen here, you know. We see it on the news everywhere else, and it's, oh, well, that couldn't happen to us. But it did.

MODERATOR: Yeah, and, Mark, you circled it?

MARK: I did. I think it was the beginning of a big slippery slope. I think that with terrorism, it created so many facets of government that if somebody wants to attack us, they're going to be able to attack us. And we've blown out tons of money in this, you know, venue that makes us feel good. But I don't know how realistic it is to protect us in the future.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Liz, any thoughts here?

LIZ: I didn't put 9/11, and listening that I probably should have. But I put Department of Homeland Security created because it kind of goes along with it. The fact that we needed to have another, you know, cabinet position, with Homeland Security to deal with that, that's a lot.

MODERATOR: Yeah, and, Robin.

ROBIN: The main reason is I've got an airline pilot husband. And 9/11, one year later, he lost his job or was furloughed for five years, lost pension, lost everything.

MODERATOR: Got it.

ROBIN: And it was all for the, we were a gentler nation until 9/11.

MODERATOR: Ron agrees with that, we were a gentler nation . . . 9/11. Desiree, what else did you circle?

DESIREE: I put the footage aired of the visas that the president . . .

MODERATOR: Anybody else do Abugrab(?)? A couple people on that, anybody else got something we haven't talked about?

MAN: Enron.

MODERATOR: Enron, anybody else talked about Enron? Okay. Anything else that's . . .

MAN: I put Katrina.

MODERATOR: Katrina, anybody else, Katrina? Let's see Katrina, hands up, please. One, two, three, four, five, six, a lot of people, why Katrina?

RICARDO: I think it's one of the most depressing things I've ever seen in my life. The United States as the big country we were, how we are, seeing our own people suffering without the services and the lack of leadership and organization really me humbled. And unfortunate that I couldn't go out and do something and this country couldn't do a lot more in Katrina.

MODERATOR: Okay. That's good, Ricardo. John.

JOHN: I guess I saw another side of it because working for an airline, I had the opportunity to go down and help people evacuate out of New Orleans. And everything you saw on the news was negative, that no one was doing anything. But I saw virtually every U.S. commercial airline down there volunteering, helping people get out. And everyone got out on a volunteer basis.

MODERATOR: And so that gave you a sense of pride in America. In other words, you circled that it was positive.

JOHN: . . . yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, so you saw it as a feeling in a negative way versus, who else circled it? Yeah, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I kind of felt a mix of what they were both saying. I mean, it's almost like seeing the media in a more negative light now. You know, you turn on the TV, and that's all that was on was negative, negative, negative. And where's the positivity of the good things that are going on?

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Virginia, you circled Katrina also?

VIRGINIA: Yes, I did.

MODERATOR: Why?

VIRGINIA: As, well, Jennifer was saying there was the negative and a positive, I mean, there were even celebrities and average Joes that were going down there to see what they could do. But I did see a lot of the negatives, I must admit. And, you know, I felt, like Ricardo was saying, there was a lack of leadership of what to do. They should know firsthand, it shouldn't have gotten to that point, and, you know, once again, to me it shows the lack of wisdom that Bush had as well in who he was choosing to be leaders. I mean, you just can't choose your best friend to run in certain agencies or be head of things. I mean, they really have to have sound judgment.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Okay. Interesting, anybody else want something from the list that they want to talk about that I haven't given you a chance to?

JOHN: I was kind of shocked, oh . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, go ahead . . .

TY: I was kind of shocked about the ENRON collapse. This, to me, was the warning sign for all the problems that we're having right now.

MODERATOR: Okay. Fair enough for that. Okay. John.

JOHN: I think the mortgage crisis too and what we do from . . .

MODERATOR: Anybody else have the mortgage crisis down? Lot of hands, two, four, six, seven, eight, nine, okay, go ahead, John.

JOHN: I'm concerned that what happens is things that are newer to us, we tend to focus on more. Like now that fuel costs are starting to go down, people are going to go back to the way we were before. But if we can stay focused on conserving out trips and so forth and maybe they won't. But as things start to get better, we kind of forget about them and go on to the next problem that comes along.

MODERATOR: Anybody else want to say something about the mortgage crisis?

MARK: My main thing on the mortgage crisis is it epitomizes what America has come to as a get rich quick, you know, the investors with speculation, you know. Everyone's buying a house. Builders were building rampantly, and people were buying them up to flip them six months later.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MARK: And a lot of people got caught up in that and got bit.

MAN: Or they focused . . .

RICARDO: They got bit, but . . .

TY: Yeah, we're throwing a lot of money to people that made a dramatic mistake. And that's very confusing to somebody that's not in government, that's not in finance, how we got here, and why are we still giving people money, bonuses, eight-figure salaries every year? That's incredible.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. I'm going to switch now. Thank you, that was great. What I'd like to talk about is if somebody were to ask you what you see the Bush legacy as, what would you say? What's the legacy of George W. Bush, Bush presidency? Liz, what's the legacy?

LIZ: That's a tough question, not a very positive one. I mean, you look on the list here, and you look at the mortgage crisis and home foreclosures and people just not being better off than they were. We're all worse off it seems than we were eight years ago.

MODERATOR: What's the Bush legacy, Desiree?

DESIREE: This is the Bush legacy, and none of these things are positive. I just want to point that out. But I'm not saying that he was a terrible president. I'm just saying that when I look back, I'm going to remember high gas prices, financial and mortgage crisis, global unrest.

MODERATOR: Let me just point out for the record, this isn't, I mean, there's obviously here Saddam Hussein being captured, the Iraq War beginning, which the Department of Homeland Security being created, John Roberts and Samuel Alito were nominated to the Supreme Court, the reelection of George W. Bush, and the surge strategy. So there are a lot of things on this list, which I don't want to think it's just aimed at negative. But your point being a lot of the negative things. Okay. Ron, what's the Bush legacy?

RON: It's what they all said, I think they just, he was all for the war. When he went in, he wanted to finish what his dad started.

MARK: Well, he took advantage of the American public unity after the 9/11 attacks, brought it in, and I'm a staunch Republican by nature and bred, and he's destroyed our economy, and he's brought in the beginning of socialism into the United States.

MODERATOR: Okay. Bush legacy, John?

JOHN: The Bush legacy, I would have to say, is the Iraq War.

MODERATOR: Anybody else, Bush legacy?

ROBIN: I agree with you. We are, right now, becoming a Socialist country. They're giving millions and millions of dollars to these banks, who basically are pocketing it themselves. They are not turning around and giving it to clients. But now look what they're doing with the auto. They're doing the same thing.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else?

[Simultaneous discussion]

TY: Despite the best of intentions, there are a lot of things, I'm sure, that were implemented to do good things, and they've not turned out well. You know, the . . . situation, let's get more people the American dream. Let's get them houses. It wasn't well thought through. I think most of us about a year ago were thinking there's a problem here. We're seeing a lot of foreclosures. We're seeing loans being made to people that just can't afford it. We got that . . .

MODERATOR: Virginia, Bush legacy?

VIRGINIA: I just, the first word that comes to mind is corruption and lies. I just feel a lot of the time the truth wasn't given to the people.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I would say the war. I mean, all I can think about is how long this has been going on, and all of our troops are still over there fighting for what? I mean, can they even quantify what they're fighting for anymore? They've been over there. They're dying. They haven't come home yet. So the, you know, been promised that they'd be allowed to come home a year ago, and they're still there.

MODERATOR: Yep. Carl, Bush legacy?

CARL: I'm sitting here. I agree with Ty and Virginia in that, I mean, there's a lot mistakes being made, that have occurred, and they may have meant well, but they didn't work. But then, when you come down to it, we made some big mistakes. We misjudged things, and things happened that they shouldn't have.

MODERATOR: Let me jump things. Thank you, this is good. Let me switch. And I asked you before you came into this room to write a little note or letter. And I asked you to think back exactly one year earlier, and I said focusing on presidential campaign a year ago and the issues of today, where was your mind? What were you thinking about, sort of to give us a perspective of where you started out in this election? Now I know, it's always hard to jump back a year and think.

I think John said the stock market would be down a 7,000 about today. I think you wrote that down. And you urged Mark to buy more stock. I think that's what he did.

Okay. So with a little bit of windage for maybe something you remember that may not have been just exactly right, let me start off. And I think what I'm going to do is I'll start with Virginia, and we'll try and go pretty quickly around and hear what you were thinking about a year ago. Start with you, Virginia, what did you write down?

VIRGINIA: I said . . .

MODERATOR: And, Caroline, you might write down at this stage.

CAROLINE: Okay.

MODERATOR: Okay. Because the others have. Okay. Good, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I said lots of, I hadn't given much thought to particulars of the candidates, but I had on Bush leaving office. That was really my primary concern. I remember around this time Oprah had introduced Barack Obama as a possible candidate. And because I'm an avid Oprah viewer, it caught my attention. He just seemed very poised, calm, collected, and just listing more about his background further caught my attention, that here was a man that I really hadn't known that much about. I mean, I didn't, I knew he was a senator, but beyond that, I hadn't really paid much attention. My top issues have always been and continue to be education and the future of our children.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. So that's what you were thinking a year ago. What was Carl thinking a year ago?

CARL: A year ago, I was, agree with Virginia, that I was looking for a different leader out of the Bush and actually out of Republican presidency. But the candidate was, for me, at that point, Edwards, I think because he was younger. He was, I felt that he was looking towards the environment, looking towards transportation costs, looking towards fuel, and he was well known. And he seemed like a decent candidate at the time.

MODERATOR: Good. Anything else you were thinking about, or that what you wrote?

CARL: That's what I wrote.

MODERATOR: Great. And, Liz, what were you thinking?

LIZ: I focused on economy, gas prices, and more specifically as far as candidates go, I knew I didn't like Hillary Clinton even though she's a very strong woman . . . I just personally, in my opinion, I just don't trust her. I know that might not be your . . .

MODERATOR: That's all right. That's why we're all here. Okay. Good. Anything else, so you didn't have a candidate, you knew here's a candidate I didn't want. And did you have any feelings about the Republicans one way or another at that stage.

LIZ: I put down McCain would be a strong candidate.

MODERATOR: So you had some favorable feelings about McCain at that stage. Great, Desiree.

DESIREE: I had the same feelings she had except I was a supporter of Hillary. And I trusted her, only because I had nothing to complain about the eight years that her husband was in the presidency.

MODERATOR: Right.

DESIREE: And I knew that she would take that, pick it up, and try to revamp the country with that.

MODERATOR: Good.

DESIREE: So I was definitely looking toward Hillary as a candidate.

MODERATOR: And anything else that you were thinking during the period?

DESIREE: Just happy to get Bush out of office and turn the economy, the whole country around.

MODERATOR: Yes, good. Ron, what were you thinking?

RON: I was thinking we need someone in there that would focus on elderly healthcare and education. And I was following Huckabee for a while. And when he didn't make it, I kind of switched over to the . . .

MODERATOR: But early on, Huckabee had some appeal. And he appealed to you for what reason, any particular . . .

RON: He was focusing on the healthcare and . . .

MODERATOR: Yep, good. Okay. And, Ricardo, what were you thinking a year ago?

RICARDO: A year ago, my main issue was comprehensive immigration reform. And I was so put up on the fence because I usually lean Democrat, but in this instance, I like McCain because he was a signer of the confidence and Immigration Reform Bill. So it was either that or Clinton or Obama. So I was truly, truly torn.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good.

RICARDO: But that was my main issue a year ago.

MODERATOR: Yeah, that's good. Okay. Good. Robin.

ROBIN: A year ago, the main issues were the whole global warming and healthcare. And I was also, as far as the candidates, there were way too many of them.

MODERATOR: We got rid of them. Okay. Did you have anybody that you liked particularly back then?

ROBIN: No, I didn't have any that I liked. I did not want Clinton because I was afraid that we would have Billy back in the office again. And I did not like Bill Clinton.

MODERATOR: Okay. Great. Okay. Jennifer, what were you thinking a year ago?

JENNIFER: I was thinking mostly about our troops in Iraq, oil production, and our need for those resources here. Although it seems like environmental issues, global warming, wondering why we weren't focusing more of our time and energy on finding alternative sources of energy and renewable options. So I thought McCain was sort of a strong candidate, not necessarily on the environmental issues, but on other things. But at the same time, I thought Obama seemed like a very fresh perspective. And I like his enthusiasm and passion on issues he cared about. And I thought it would be great to get a new, fresh person. He wasn't like embittered yet by the whole thing.

MODERATOR: Okay. But this was a year ago, you has seen a little something of him. Okay. Good, Ty.

TY: I was looking at civil rights and tolerance issues all across the country. I think we, this country was founded on that, and I think we need to get back to that.

MODERATOR: Yep.

TY: Healthcare has always been an issue for me, and it's always one they just quickly put on the back burner. But I'd also started noticing home foreclosures in the neighborhood. I thought that was a local concern, and I had no idea it would balloon to be this national concern.

MODERATOR: Yes.

TY: Candidate-wise, I was looking at McCain. But I had been reluctant to look at any candidate that far out because of the Howard Dean effect. You just don't know until the last week.

MODERATOR: Okay. But there was something about McCain that appealed to you early?

TY: I have a lot of respect for McCain. I think he's, you know, vocal and has traditions for open about his positions. But I really didn't have much more to go on at that point.

MODERATOR: Good. Caroline.

CAROLINE: Me, myself, I was thinking about, like he said, the healthcare. But my strongest thing was the soldiers. I'm a former soldier myself, spent 20 years in the military, and I expect them to come home alive and taken care of when they get back here.

WOMAN: Definitely.

CAROLINE: And I was looking for a president that would do that, would bring them home and not just fight every war. But you look into the situation, and you go and sit down first and say, okay, before you actually go out and say, hey, I'm a maverick. Two mavericks in the White House, only equal to one, you can't do that. Because I have to think about it and say what's going on? And somebody has to . . . come back here, otherwise you can't just go out there and just start a war just because you can. So our war pressure was . . .

MODERATOR: Did you have any thoughts about any of the candidates, anybody appeal to you or anybody that you didn't like early on?

CAROLINE: Sure, somebody appealed to me. I mean, I, at first I was leaning towards, not because Barack Obama because he was African American, not because of, I mean, John McCain, I was listened to the abuse.

MODERATOR: But I'm saying a year ago, did you have a candidate?

CAROLINE: Not really have a candidate when I, Hillary Clinton was one of my favorite people. I had been voting for them. And at the time, I have voted for Republicans because they did do well in the war, you know . . . the government.

MODERATOR: Right, so Hillary Clinton had some interest to you and at this stage of the game.

CAROLINE: Yes.

MODERATOR: Mark.

MARK: I had two main concerns a year ago, which totally have changed since then. Capital gains was a big concern back then, not as much now. And the second was the war in Iraq. I was very concerned that with a Democrat coming in, a lot of them were saying we're going to pull our troops out immediately. Although, I don't necessarily agree that things have gone the way they should, I don't think we should just drop and run.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MARK: And I did appreciate McCain's position on that, having a, you know, some sort of forward-thinking as opposed to just, you know.

MODERATOR: Good, and, John.

JOHN: Fuel costs were a big concern for me a year ago, and I guess the point background, 23 years in the airline business, we were told several years ago, deal with it. And if you go out of business, you go out of business.

MODERATOR: Right.

JOHN: And a lot of airlines have. And it doesn't only affect the airline business. It's the trucking business and everything else, the price of groceries.

MODERATOR: Right. Did you have a candidate?

JOHN: My candidate, kind of torn between McCain and Obama. I was getting a little bit tired of hearing about McCain being a POW. And though horrible that must have been, that doesn't necessarily make a good president.

MODERATOR: And this was a year ago though that you were, okay. And anybody else that appealed or had strength one way or another?

JOHN: Anybody but Hillary.

MODERATOR: Anybody but Hillary, okay, good. Great, I mean, this is a good, it's a good starting point so we know where everybody's coming from. And there's a lot of Hillary voices here . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Tell me one thing, how important was this election? Was this an important election? Did you see it as, it's 2008, it's another election, or did you see it as an important election? Did it have something that had a greater meaning than any other election?

DESIREE: Yeah, it did.

TY: It's critical.

MODERATOR: It was critical to Ty. Go ahead . . .

DESIREE: Possibly a turning point.

MODERATOR: And why did you feel that way, Desiree?

DESIREE: Because it's so bad that it has to get better. And you really have to look at the issues and the candidates and see who's going to take us in that better direction and who's not.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, Virginia?

VIRGINIA: This election was so important to me because, as Desiree was saying, we are in critical times. But not only that, but it was so unifying, what I was seeing.

MODERATOR: Yep.

VIRGINIA: I had never, even in our history, American history or even the world history, where they had just so many people that had come together for one cause. It was spiritual for me. I mean, this . . .

CAROLINE: . . .

VIRGINIA: . . . it went beyond just . . .

MODERATOR: And why was it spiritual, Virginia?

VIRGINIA: Because we know what our history is. We are all a product of, you know, the good and bad decisions that our ancestors have made. And we're always going to different conflicts because we have such diversity in this one nation, you know, whether it's racial or other prejudices. And I felt that it was spiritual not only on that level but also just us all trying to figure out what is most important to us. As Mark was explaining about family, family values, how important that is, not just materialistic things and working day and night just to get more money.

MODERATOR: Okay. Robin, another election, or did it seem very special to you?

ROBIN: To me, it was just another election. It was an extremely important election. But I was to the point with the two of them, it was almost, it wouldn't have made a difference which one of them won.

MODERATOR: Okay. We'll come back around to that. Yeah, Mark, real quick.

MARK: I mean, I pictured, I think it was major. I pictured it as Kennedyesque. I mean, it's time changing. It's generation changing, you know. The baton has been handed down. It needed to change. And I think, hopefully, it'll go in the right direction.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Ricardo.

RICARDO: I think it's definitely a generation changer, but at the same time, with eight years of the same ideas, I think now, there's a fresh look on our future.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Ron, how important an election was this? I mean, I'm sure you've voted in quite a few elections. Did this seem any more important than any other?

RON: I think it was more focused on first woman being a president than first black guy being president. I think it was focused more on that. It wasn't that important for me to, it was just another election.

MODERATOR: Yeah, how many agree, just another election, didn't seem that important? You would agree, Robin, and you would agree, Ron. But most of the rest of you say this had a special importance, Liz.

LIZ: Absolutely, I totally agree with Mark. I was thinking the same thing about, I wasn't alive during the Kennedy era, but I was thinking the same exact thing from studying the time period. And Obama seems like that kind of person who could inspire people and motivate people. And he knew there had to be a change in office, obviously, with Bush leaving. But he seemed like the kind of guy who was going to kind of light a fire underneath people and make you kind of pay personal attention, look at yourself for some responsibility and make yourself better too.

MODERATOR: Yes, let me tell you how I got this group together besides your being smartest and most brilliant and best-looking group I've ever had on a Saturday in November. Okay. The one thing that I wanted to do is I knew the election was over. I wanted to look back. And I wanted to look back with people who ended up and voted for Obama. And everybody around this table voted for Obama. But they were not people who started with Obama, but moved over the course of the election. I'd like to, first of all, have you raise your hands if you voted for George W. Bush in 2004.

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: No, just those who did, those who did. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight people. How many did not vote or voted for somebody other than Kerry? Two. So 10 out of the 12 of you did not vote for a Democrat in 2004 and essentially either voted for Bush or for another candidate. The reason I start here is because I'm interested in your process of how you came to Obama.

In other words, some of you may have been on the fence all the way until you reached Election Day. Others of you may have reached a point of view at a different point. I'd just like to get a quick sense without going into great detail. What did you think of him at the start, and what sort of got you to him, if I could get one's sense of that? Carl, where did you, what got you there, where did you start, and what happened?

CARL: With Obama it started, and I'm not going to lie, the media has to do with it, but you see, or I saw so much publicity around him. And I think the publicity took my attention, it brought my attention towards him. And from there, I looked to him. It was, I, there was a focus on him.

MODERATOR: And was this was during the primaries?

CARL: This was during the primaries.

MODERATOR: Yeah, right.

CARL: Iowa, I mean, I'm sure people would hear about it, and then, being a teacher, we'd talk about it in class at times for the students, I would try to watch the videos online, and more and more drew from January to February. I listened more and more, and it just, he intrigued me. His ideals intrigued me. It wasn't the media so much saying what they were, this is good, this is bad about them. It was me listening to what he was saying.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. And you were a Bush voter 2004.

CARL: 2004, yeah.

MODERATOR: Yeah. Okay. Mark, give me a sense of how you looked at Bush, I mean, how you looked . . .

MARK: Thank you for outing me on voting for Obama, past Republican.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MARK: My daughter to this day, she watches this on TV.

MODERATOR: You didn't let her know.

MARK: I did not, no.

MODERATOR: Why didn't you let your daughter know that you voted for Obama?

MARK: I don't know, because she knows that I'm such a hardcore Republican. My wife, I was on the fence until I went into the voting booth, actually the day before. My wife went to them and asked this rally and just was totally in awe. For the most part, for the last, you know, all our voting years that my wife and I have been together, I've led, you know, this is what we should do, you know, trying to formulate things for the family, which, you know, we have very equal relationship. I don't want you to think otherwise.

MODERATOR: Good. You go home.

MARK: And she was still enthralled. Mine was more of a vote against Bush and the establishment as well as for Obama and voting for Obama himself. Although, I found a lot of good characteristics and a lot . . .

MODERATOR: So it literally came down to the last moment, and it was your wife that did it. Okay. That's Mark, but Jennifer, what was your journey?

JENNIFER: I kind of liked McCain from the beginning, but I thought Obama was kind of a fresh perspective. And once I, you know, started reading information on him and what he has done, his track record and all that, and what he stood for and listening to him speak really, it was just, it's like a fresh perspective. I know I said that before, but he really seems to care about what he's talking about. He's not just politics running his mouth, you know, blah, blah, blah. He really seems to have . . . convictions about these issues. And that's important to me.

MODERATOR: And you voted for Bush in 2004. Do you consider yourself a Republican or independent?

JENNIFER: I'm independent, but a little bit more conservative usually.

MODERATOR: Okay. And so what allowed you to sort of switch over? What is it that, I mean, when did it occur and what allowed you, how did it happen?

JENNIFER: Hmm, I can't point to one thing in particular. But, I mean, really listening to him speak and just reading and seeing what, that he was going to follow-through, knowing that he would have the follow-through about these things that he was talking about. It wasn't just the same issues that they usually talk about, like abortion and gay rights and that sort of thing, where they talk about them, but nothing ever gets done.

MODERATOR: Right.

JENNIFER: It was, you know, new things that here in the U.S. need to be said, you know, healthcare, social issues, schools, all that. And he really believed in what he was saying. And that really switched it for me.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Ron, how did you get to it? You voted for Bush.

RON: I'm a Republican.

MODERATOR: Yeah, you're a Republican.

RON: And I was going to go with McCain until he picked Palin. And once he picked Palin, I couldn't see her as vice president.

MODERATOR: Yes, and did you get over to Obama on the basis of anything he did, or was it mainly that you just could not see that ticket in the White House being McCain/Palin?

RON: I believed he was a true force of his word. He was able to speak, and you felt that he was sincere about it. I didn't really actually see that much on McCain. It was like Obama took over.

MODERATOR: Yes, okay, good. And did I get you, Liz?

LIZ: No.

MODERATOR: What was your . . .

LIZ: Yeah, first thing was I do remember Oprah coming and backing him, and that was kind of eye opening but . . .

MODERATOR: Why?

LIZ: I admire and respect Oprah, and for her to go out on national TV and say that she endorses him definitely, and I didn't know about him otherwise.

MODERATOR: Okay. So . . .

LIZ: But I'm like you. I waited until the day before to make my decision. I was going to vote for McCain, and it wasn't so much Sarah Palin as vice president. It was Sarah Palin as president.

WOMAN: Yes.

LIZ: I admire and respect her. I think she's a great person and great mom. Also her, Obama, watching him during the debates, and any time he spoke, so poised, so believable, like and he, I think, again, can inspire people to do things, to be better people, to be a better nation.

MODERATOR: Yes, great, and Caroline, you voted for Bush in 2004.

CAROLINE: Yes, I did.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, and so tell me your, we're not doing retrospective . . . okay, tell me how you evolved into an Obama supporter.

CAROLINE: Like I say, I was for McCain at first until he chose his running mate, which was Sarah Palin. And I felt that, okay, he knows a little bit about the military because he was in the military. He was a POW in the military, but that doesn't make you a great president, like you were saying. But McCain did not reach out for my vote. McCain did not come to the African-Americans and say, or the poor people or one of the, that's . . . and say, could you please give me your vote? Okay. Barack did. He came to me and said, can I have your vote?

I mean, and that's, basically the only thing that I could see about McCain, so then with Barack, it's like you say. I mean, he, when you start throwing stones at someone, you say, okay, I am a believer in Christ, but Christ don't throw stones at anyone. So if you are a believer in Christ and say let the devil throw the first stone, and I didn't see that. I mean. McCain started throwing stones, and me, myself, I don't like throwing stones at anyone. If I'm going to fight a good fight, I'm going to fight a good fight. And I didn't like that. That turned me off.

MODERATOR: Yep, good. Okay. Anybody else . . . give everybody a little shot if they, and let me start with Ricardo and then Virginia.

RICARDO: I think I changed to Barack Obama during the day where he, the issue was supporting drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants. And it was Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. And for a while, Hillary Clinton did support it. But because she started getting popular, and the mainstream turned, so did she.

And Barack Obama stood to his conventions in genuine because when he was state senator in Illinois, he supported drivers' licenses for undocumented people because of the state issue. And I think that that makes a good leader, even though that you're out there and millions of people, and you're able to say, I did support it, and I still would. That makes you a strong leader.

MODERATOR: Yes, that's interesting. Virginia. And you voted in, yeah, you voted for Kerry in 2004. So you continue your Democratic support.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Okay. Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I have to define myself as being independent, leaning more toward Democrat. In 2004 election, I voted for Bush. And my main reasons were I felt that I was being beaten over the head about Christian values. I, my family, big time for the . . . Christian, especially my mother. And to . . . Christian, we're the best people on this earth.

MODERATOR: You too can go home for Thanksgiving.

VIRGINIA: And so those are my, that was my only reason, just that, that so many people around me, the influences were showing me that the Republican Party is all for Christian values, and Democrats are not.

MODERATOR: Now bring me into 2008, where the Obama thing came together for you.

VIRGINIA: Okay. Even as I've grown as a person, I'm trying to be more spiritual. I'm trying to, I do classify myself as a Christian, and I'm more into the Word. And so I look at how Jesus walked and the things that he represented, feeding the hungry, caring for all nations, regardless of race, regardless of culture, or regardless of religion, believe it or not. And a lot of people don't understand that, who claim to be staunch Christians.

Jesus, you know, said present Christianity to them, and if they want to walk away from it, that's their choice. It's not by force. And so I started to view that in this election, you know, I'm going to look at a candidate who I feel encompasses these values, these characteristics. Obama, you know, he's a Christian, and so I'm not going to just completely say that it's the party that I . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, and, Robin, last point. You voted for Bush in 2004.

ROBIN: In 2004.

MODERATOR: And the reason, what got you interested in Obama? Where did that all fall down?

ROBIN: I was almost right up to the curtain.

MODERATOR: Yeah, you, Mark, and Ron, was it Ron? Liz, right, were the, okay, and tell me sort of what happened at the end of the day?

ROBIN: I got to the point where I did like the sound of Obama. He seemed very, very honest. So what, I basically voted for Obama. What I didn't do was I didn't vote for McCain.

MODERATOR: Yep.

ROBIN: And the two things that really pushed me away from McCain was the idea of taxing health insurance and he still is really a big push with the big business.

MODERATOR: Yes, okay. Good. This leads me, and we're going to have to pick it up a little bit. Everybody's interesting, you know. It really is, you're just marvelous. Here's what I want to do. When you voted, think about that act of voting, that one second, that split second when you hit the lever or made an X or whatever on the ballot. Tell me what one word would you do, use to describe what you felt when you cast your vote for Barack Obama. I'm going to go around the room very, very quickly, one word.

RICARDO: Excited.

RON: Anxious.

DESIREE: Excited and nervous

LIZ: Change.

CARL: Happy.

VIRGINIA: Excited.

JOHN: Hopeful.

MARK: Hope.

CAROLINE: History.

TY: Relief.

JENNIFER: Prayerful.

ROBIN: Nervous.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, those were excellent. And let me do one other thing quick here. And Robin actually gave me the idea, but think of a scale that goes from zero to ten, and ten means it was totally a pro-Obama vote. And zero means it was an anti-McCain vote. Okay. So you could be anywhere in between. Five would be in the

middle, so it was some pro-Obama and some anti-McCain. Give me the number where you think you were. And you would be what, Robin?

ROBIN: I'd say one.

MODERATOR: A one for Robin. Okay. Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I'd say it was like a seven.

MODERATOR: Seven, so it was more towards the pro side. Okay. Good, and, Ty.

TY: Four.

MODERATOR: Four, good, okay. Where were you, Caroline?

CAROLINE: Five.

MODERATOR: Good, and, Mark?

MARK: Four.

MODERATOR: Good. John.

JOHN: Six.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I'd say nine.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, who else we got, Carl?

CARL: Seven.

MODERATOR: Liz.

LIZ: Seven.

MODERATOR: Okay. Desiree.

DESIREE: Seven.

MODERATOR: Yep, okay, Ron.

RON: Four.

MODERATOR: Where am I?

RON: Four.

MODERATOR: Ron would be at four, and, Ricardo?

RICARDO: Ten.

MODERATOR: Okay. We used up pretty much of that chart. So what it says to me as I look at it, and tell me if I misinterpret, yeah, Barack Obama may have gotten 12 votes out of this table, but half those votes are much more tenuous, that many of them were for him because they weren't, he wasn't a Republican candidate, or he wasn't John McCain, correct?

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. That's helpful to know. Okay. Could John McCain have won your vote? Some people have already said that. How many said he would have won my vote?

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Hands up, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, so at some stage of the game, either from the beginning or from the end, and what are the things he did that angered you? We've gotten some of them out. Sarah Palin was a problem. Okay. What else was a problem for you?

MAN: Healthcare.

DESIREE: Taxing healthcare.

MODERATOR: Taxing healthcare. Okay.

RICARDO: The flip on his immigration reform.

MODERATOR: Immigration reform.

MARK: Negative campaign.

MODERATOR: Negative campaign bothered. How many people said negative campaign bothered?

MAN: Oh . . .

MODERATOR: Did Obama do negative campaigning?

MAN: Yes, but not . . .

WOMAN: Not as much as . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Anything as far as anything else for McCain?

ROBIN: Big business.

MODERATOR: Big business.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else? Okay. That's good. And I'm not going to go on to this. Okay. The other thing that happened in this election is we ended up with a Democratic Congress, more senators that are Democratic. I think there was up to about 58. The House of Representatives has over 20, I think around 25 new members that are more, so it makes it more Democratic. Do you have a message to the Democratic Congress? I mean, do you have some feeling here of what you expect from the Democratic Congress?

RICARDO: Action.

WOMAN: Yes.

RICARDO: Definitely since there's a dent in the population and the majority, I think it's time for us to get something accomplished, ends the gridlock.

ROBIN: And the cleanup, they've got to clean up Congress.

MODERATOR: Clean up Congress, what does that mean, Robin?

ROBIN: Get rid of all this pork belly spending.

MODERATOR: Okay, pork belly and pork barrel.

ROBIN: It is a wonderful thing, and get the priorities back.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Liz, any expectations from the Democratic Congress, any message you want to deliver.

LIZ: Yeah, I do think the, get off your butts and do something. Now's the time to get the job done.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, Caroline.

CAROLINE: I expect them to straighten up some of this mess that we're in. I know they can't do it all by themselves. Presidents can't do it all by themselves, but with his help, and with us, I'm sure he can do it.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

TY: Work together and get the job done. We need to not, we need to stay away from extremism and stop polarizing everything. We just need to work together and get this job done.

MODERATOR: Anybody else?

CARL: I say without being, and not directly, but don't lie to us. Just do it and take care of it, let us know what you're doing as you're doing it. Don't make some smokescreen . . .

MAN: Transparency, too.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

JOHN: I think become accountable for their, it seems like . . .

MAN: . . . absolutely.

JOHN: . . . for, that, one, who's left to blame now because . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, what else? Anybody else got something? Okay. Good. Republicans lost by a wide margin. How many of you were Republicans in here? Raise your hands even if it's a low number. Okay. Mark, what's the message you want to send to the Republican Party?

MARK: They just got to change the, the old-boy network needs to change. I mean, that's the reason, one of the reasons why I did vote for Obama, for change.

MODERATOR: What's the message, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: They need to pull it together. I mean, it's sad. It's pathetic when I look at them and how Bush ended up, and I just, almost to the point of being disgusted, change.

MODERATOR: Ron.

RON: They had several years to get it right, and they just can't seem to do it.

MODERATOR: And your message to them is what?

RON: Make good on their promises.

MODERATOR: Should they support Obama?

RON: Yes, they should.

MODERATOR: Carl, are you Republican?

CARL: I lean towards the . . .

MODERATOR: To the . . .

CARL: . . . liberal side.

MODERATOR: Okay. Liz, you're a Republican?

LIZ: Yes.

MODERATOR: What's the message?

LIZ: Yeah, work with the Democrats now, yeah. I understand party politics, but let's try to work together to get something done for the good of the country.

MODERATOR: Do you agree with that, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Was this election any different from any others? I mean, you know . . .

WOMAN: Yeah, they knew . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. You said it from a young voter. Virginia says the youth were empowered.

[Simultaneous discussion]

RICARDO: I think that Barack Obama campaign was also very inclusive.

MODERATOR: Inclusive.

RICARDO: Everybody was at the table when . . . when I followed them, and you have all spheres of the world there. It was a very global and diverse campaign. And that's what I like to see.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Okay. What else made this election different? What did they do . . .

JOHN: I think they drew attention on a woman, and Barack Obama. I mean, they're either biracial or they are . . . American, but . . .

MODERATOR: We're breaking barriers.

JOHN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, what else?

CAROLINE: I think it was getting, a lot of people weren't voting at the time. So now you get back to the beginning, and encourage people that never voted before or thought of voting before to go to the polls to vote for a reason.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good.

CAROLINE: And I'm sure they followed the race.

MODERATOR: Good, okay, so there was more involvement in the race. What else? Anything else, Desiree?

DESIREE: No, I just agree with Caroline, a lot more people went out and registered to vote that hadn't before. A lot of youth came out to vote because if you went to the different universities, everybody was really passionate about this election. Whether they supported McCain or whether they supported Obama, they wanted to be included. Because they were looking at us, thinking what did you guys do? Now we seem to get involved . . .

MODERATOR: Did anybody here attend an event?

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: A couple of you, two or three people did. And anybody contribute? Okay. One person. Did anybody put up a sign or a bumper strip or anything else? One person, okay.

[Simultaneous discussion].

MODERATOR: Did anybody go canvassing or phone banks or anything else like that? Anybody do anything in this election in any way except what we talked about?

TY: I really worked, I wanted people to vote. Where I was, where I was in school, there were a lot of people that thought this was a done deal.

MODERATOR: I see.

TY: And I was really concerned right up until the election results were rolling in that people were going to stay home, thinking this was a done deal. The media made it seem like a done deal. It was not. This was, this was close. Everybody says this was a huge margin. It wasn't.

MODERATOR: Let me turn and ask you, how about the Internet? Did the Internet play a role at all in this election? Well, on a scale of zero to ten, just for yourselves, okay, the role of the Internet in this election, I mean, a lot of places that would get information and a lot of things that go on, numbers, zero to ten, ten would be very important to zero, in your vote, not important.

ROBIN: Zero.

JENNIFER: Ten.

TY: Ten.

CAROLINE: Ten.

MARK: Four.

JOHN: Nine.

VIRGINIA: Nine

CARL: Ten

LIZ: Nine.

DESIREE: Seven

RON: Ten

RICARDO: Ten.

MODERATOR: So why was the Internet so important?

JENNIFER: Any question I would have, I could go on and immediately find out what is their stance, what is this person's stance, how did the follow through, what is their track record, have they proven themselves, and have they stuck to what they said they were going to do?

WOMAN: Right.

LIZ: Obama even had in his commercial to go to . . .

CAROLINE: Right, laid out his plan.

MODERATOR: Okay.

TY: This is the first election where I had to go and research not just the candidates, but who was talking about them. I don't trust the media anymore to tell me what's going on.

MAN: Had to do your own research.

TY: Yeah, there's a definite bias, so you can't trust the TV anymore.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, Caroline, was it ten for you, or . . .

CAROLINE: It was a ten for me.

MODERATOR: Why? Why did it play such an important role?

CAROLINE: Because he was very intelligent, and so when you put it out on the Internet, and with someone confronted him, he was like, okay, I will sit down here. I'll lay it out for you. I mean, it's like here's the question. Here, here's your answer, A, B, C, and D. No one ever has done that before.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, Mark, what is, oh, you were low.

MARK: No, I was low, but I went with my daughter. She was getting some conflict at school from supporters from her friends. And we went online and did the comparison

with the candidates so she could see what she could make her own decisions. And it was helpful, but it wasn't . . .

MODERATOR: Yep, and, John, it was high on yours.

JOHN: It was helpful for me because what I didn't want to do was, say, have one candidate tell me what the other one's not doing. So I thought if I go to your website, I can see where you stand on what issues. And I'll go to this one, and I'll compare.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Stop that question. Here's a question I want to ask. And that is we always learn something about America from every election. It tells us something about who we are and what type of country we are and where we're about. What did we learn about America from this election? What did we learn about America from this election?

TY: All the different groups can come together.

JENNIFER: Yes, especially at a time where we're hurting, and we seem to be falling apart. We can all come together on one big event and pull together as a country.

RICARDO: And, oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

CARL: No, I was going to say that I think that we, I mean, this election still made us see that we believe in our government, that our government can change. I mean, the government in our history, whatever happened in lots of years, it can be changed, wanting to change that.

RICARDO: But I also feel our reputation as a nation is better now around the world. I mean, it's understanding our history like Virginia was talking about, for the world to understand that we could vote for Barack Obama, that's just an amazing feat for us. And I think that makes us a stronger nation. And I think that's what's important.

TY: The people in bars in China watching the election . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

TY: No one here has ever gone to a bar . . .

WOMAN: . . .

TY: Right, no one's ever gone to a bar to see how another election in another country has gone. That's incredible to me that it's . . .

WOMAN: It is.

TY: . . . when you get that level of coverage.

MODERATOR: Others, what did we learn about America from this election? Other thoughts, Ron, any thoughts what we learned about America?

RON: We're not as racist as everybody thinks we are.

MODERATOR: Not as racist as everybody thinks we are, good.

RICARDO: And we can come together.

MODERATOR: Yes.

JOHN: As people want, a lot of people I've spoken to are saying that they hope Obama has not been bought and paid for by the lobbyist groups. So that's why a lot of people liked him too.

MODERATOR: Good. Anything else people learned about ourselves in this election?

MARK: That if I can vote Democrat, anybody could.

[All laugh]

MAN: That's really cool, Mark.

MODERATOR: Liz, did you learn anything else about America from this election?

LIZ: Absolutely, just having the option of an African-American president out there and vice presidential candidate as a woman, I just think we've come a long way. And there's even more we can do, but making the strides.

MODERATOR: And the message that sends if we're going to have an African-American as president and a female as vice president, what's the message out of all of that?

LIZ: We are open-minded people, and we are looking at the person, not . . .

DESIREE: And the issues.

LIZ: Right.

MODERATOR: Okay. We're going to the lightning round. Okay. Here we go. I'm going to give you different people in public life, and I want you to give me a word or a phrase to describe your feelings about that person.

WOMAN: Oh.

WOMAN: Uh-oh.

MODERATOR: Okay. Word or phrase, very, very quick, and don't give me a description of that person. I mean, if I were to say John Kerry, don't say to me he ran for president or he lost or whatever else, or a senator from Massachusetts. I want a feeling, okay, and we're going to go very, very quickly. I'm going to start with George Bush. Ron, word or phrase?

RON: Failure.

MODERATOR: Failure. A word or phrase, Caroline?

CAROLINE: I'll say failure too.

MODERATOR: John, word or phrase?

JOHN: Gave up.

MODERATOR: Robin.

ROBIN: . . .

MODERATOR: Lightning round.

ROBIN: Yeah . . .

MODERATOR: Liz.

LIZ: Disappointing.

MODERATOR: Desiree.

DESIREE: Shortsighted.

MODERATOR: Carl.

CARL: Many problems.

MODERATOR: Joe Biden, John.

JOHN: Old.

MODERATOR: Good, okay, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Discerning.

MODERATOR: Good, Ty.

TY: Reassuring.

MODERATOR: Reassuring, Desiree.

DESIREE: Confident, liberal.

MODERATOR: Ricardo.

RICARDO: Foot in mouth..

MODERATOR: Jennifer.

JENNIFER: Abrasive.

MODERATOR: Abrasive, and Liz.

LIZ: Strong.

MODERATOR: Strong, good. John McCain, Caroline.

CAROLINE: I would say John McCain is, need help.

MODERATOR: Okay. Carl, John McCain.

CARL: Same as it has been in the past.

MODERATOR: Okay. Robin, John McCain.

ROBIN: His word, maverick.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, Ricardo.

RICARDO: Needs to retire.

MODERATOR: Ron.

RON: John's answer, old.

MODERATOR: Okay, Ty.

TY: Wrong choice.

MODERATOR: Liz.

LIZ: Patriot.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Henry Paulson, Mark.

MARK: I don't know Henry Paulson.

MODERATOR: How many know Henry Paulson, the name Henry Paulson? Okay. Ty.

TY: It's a rough choice.

MODERATOR: Carl.

CARL: He's trying.

MODERATOR: Ricardo.

RICARDO: Lobbying, tied to too many outside groups.

MODERATOR: Okay. Tied to too many outside groups, Barack Obama, Desiree.

DESIREE: Hopeful.

MODERATOR: Liz, what?

LIZ: Hope.

CARL: Cares.

VIRGINIA: Charismatic.

JOHN: Fresh.

MARK: Straight shooter.

CAROLINE: Peace.

TY: Good job, U.S.

JENNIFER: Sincerity.

ROBIN: Honest.

RICARDO: Genuine.

RON: Honest.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Bill Clinton.

MARK: Sleazy.

MODERATOR: Bill Clinton, Robin.

ROBIN: Liar, thief, adulterer.

MODERATOR: Okay. Liz.

LIZ: Ditto.

MODERATOR: Caroline.

CAROLINE: Muddy.

MODERATOR: Ty.

TY: Creepy.

MODERATOR: Jennifer.

JENNIFER: I second that.

MODERATOR: Ricardo.

RICARDO: Political maverick.

MODERATOR: Ron.

RON: No good.

MODERATOR: Carl.

CARL: Really unimportant today.

MODERATOR: Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Intelligent.

MODERATOR: Who did I miss, Mark.

MARK: Sleazy.

MODERATOR: Okay. Sarah Palin, Desiree.

DESIREE: . . .

MODERATOR: Word or phrase to describe your feelings about her, Sarah Palin.

DESIREE: Removed.

MODERATOR: Removed, Liz.

LIZ: Very strong.

MODERATOR: Jennifer.

JENNIFER: Feisty.

MODERATOR: Robin.

ROBIN: Gosh darn cheerleader.

MODERATOR: Ty.

TY: I say psycho hockey mom.

MODERATOR: Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Personable.

MODERATOR: John.

JOHN: Creative.

MODERATOR: Mark.

MARK: Unfortunate.

MODERATOR: Caroline.

CAROLINE: Less educated about the country.

MODERATOR: Carl, did I get you?

CARL: No, out of touch with the rest of the country.

MODERATOR: Okay. Hillary Clinton.

RICARDO: Sharp, feisty.

MODERATOR: What?

RON: Strong.

DESIREE: Strong.

LIZ: Dishonest.

MODERATOR: Dishonest.

CARL: Why president, unimportant.

VIRGINIA: Power hungry.

JOHN: Travel office scandal.

MARK: Bad.

CAROLINE: Knowledgeable.

TY: Send her home.

JENNIFER: Abrasive.

ROBIN: Abrasive, yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Rob Emmanuel, anybody know that name? Four hands up. Three for Henry Paulson, four for Rob Emanuel, phrase?

RON: Intelligent.

MODERATOR: Intelligent.

DESIREE: I know the name, but I don't know enough.

MODERATOR: Okay. That's, who was the other?

CARL: Same, I know the name, but I don't know his background well enough to say.

RICARDO: Getting things done.

MODERATOR: Getting things done, and . . .

ROBIN: I'm not sure.

MODERATOR: But you knew he was chief of staff?

ROBIN: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Michelle Obama.

RICARDO: Energetic.

MODERATOR: Michelle, I need a word or a phrase.

RON: Reminds me of Jackie Onassis, of Kennedy.

MODERATOR: Okay.

DESIREE: Intelligent.

LIZ: Inspiring.

CARL: Change the face of the White House for the first lady.

VIRGINIA: Humble.

JOHN: Down to earth.

MARK: Personable.

CAROLINE: Caring.

TY: Good asset.

JENNIFER: Strong.

ROBIN: Caring.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Nancy Pelosi.

CARL: Wow, I don't, I can't think of a word, needs some help.

LIZ: Feisty.

VIRGINIA: Leader.

JOHN: Ineffective.

CAROLINE: Outspoken.

TY: Out of touch.

JENNIFER: I would say out of touch too.

ROBIN: Abrasive.

RICARDO: Powerful.

RON: Seeker.

DESIREE: Out of touch.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Tell me what you most admire about Barack Obama in terms of what you think he'll bring to the presidency. Why do you think he'll be a good president?

TY: I think he's going to do the right thing regardless of the party lines. He strikes me as a gentleman and somebody who will, you know, do, make the right decisions.

JENNIFER: I think courage and conviction.

ROBIN: And honesty.

LIZ: I think he's going to help bring different groups together.

MODERATOR: Okay.

CAROLINE: I think he thinks things out before he actually reacts.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good.

VIRGINIA: He's very wise . . . so I think that's really important. He's even, like she said, he thinks things through, and he's wise enough to determine who he should select for his cabinet. I mean, that's possibility of a big step.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

JOHN: I'm hopeful he can control the ego of the cabinet people he's picking.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

ROBIN: Young.

MODERATOR: He's young, and is that good?

ROBIN: It's, at this time, yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good.

VIRGINIA: Energetic.

MODERATOR: Energetic, yep, what else do we think, what's he bring to the presidency, what special qualities?

WOMAN: He's smart.

MAN: He believes . . .

MARK: . . . part of the global charisma.

MODERATOR: And why is global charisma going to be important, Mark?

MARK: I think it's important because, you know, the world keeps getting smaller, and everything's intertwined. I mean, we have the economy is collapsing all around, and the change that we've made hopefully can be a leadership role worldwide.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else.

JOHN: People will want to do business with him.

MODERATOR: They'll want to do business with him says John, good, what else?

TY: We've lost a lot of friends overseas, and we've made friendships hard with us overseas.

MODERATOR: Okay.

TY: He can build it back up.

MODERATOR: Good.

RICARDO: I think we'll be more respected too. I think he brings out the new, fresh diplomatic face towards the world. And I think they'll want to work with us more.

JENNIFER: And because he's well spoken too.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: And what personal qualities does he bring?

CAROLINE: Soft spoken . . . get a lot done.

MAN: Humble.

DESIREE: Humility.

MODERATOR: Humility. How do you know he's humble?

DESIREE: Just how by the way he speaks, from the way he interacts with other people. He never puts himself above anybody. He just brought himself down and said, hey, I'm going to go over here and talk to these folks. It was never too much for him to do that.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Carl.

CARL: I think that, and this was from his 60 Minutes interview. He was talking about when he was in college, and his car had a hole in the bottom of it. I just don't see that coming from many presidents. I mean, you know, they're joking about it now, and he's made his way now. But you don't see that, you know what, I was like a poor college student. I had the car that was beat up, very limited funds, and it's . . .

MARK: He's more a man of the people.

CARL: Yeah, I could see him sitting here with us talking to us. And there's nobody else out there that I could see doing that.

MARK: That's one of the things my wife said at the Manassas Rally. It was like he was talking to me in his living room as opposed to, you know . . .

MAN: Speech for . . .

ROBIN: One of us.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, what other personal qualities will he bring?

JENNIFER: Family values.

TY: He's not jaded.

MODERATOR: He's not jaded. He's got good family values. Okay.

MARK: He's sincere.

MODERATOR: And throughout our history, any president he reminds you of?

WOMAN: Kennedy.

MAN: That'd be the best, Kennedy . . .

MODERATOR: How many say he reminds me of Kennedy? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, so a lot of, and in what way does he remind you of Kennedy?

MARK: Not as much him as a person but as the change that's going to come.

MODERATOR: Change, okay. Anything else?

JENNIFER: The inspiration he's going to . . .

MODERATOR: Inspirational, anything else?

CAROLINE: Basically, it's his same character. He knows his way, and, you know, he knows somewhat about the Kennedys. He trusted the Kennedys, so basically they go hand in hand, so that's why I think he'll do the right thing.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else? Yeah, okay. Do you have any sense of his style of leadership? In other words, you know, we've had all kinds that we've seen in our recent years. We could characterize George W. Bush in one way and Bill Clinton in

a different way and Bush 41 in a third way and Clinton and, I mean, Reagan and Carter in a different way. Do you see a style of leadership that he has, something that you say, yeah, I think this is how he will do his job from day to day. Any sense of what he'll be like?

MARK: I think more casual.

MODERATOR: More casual, okay. How about in terms of decision-making and how he'll approach problems, etc.?

JENNIFER: I think that since he's so wise and we can see him sitting down with his advisors like this and actually sitting back and listening to other people's advice because he hasn't been everywhere and seen everything. He doesn't know all the answers. So I think he can be humble and wise and sit back and take other people's opinions to make . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. What else?

RICARDO: I think he'll be more responsible because of the role he's now taken upon fixing all of our problems. I think he's going to have to be more wise and listen but also be responsible for each vote he casts, which bill he has to sign, the weight of the world is on him.

MODERATOR: Ron, any sense of what his style of leadership is going to be like?

RON: Trustworthy.

MODERATOR: He's what?

RON: He's going to get a lot of people trusting in him.

MODERATOR: He's surefooted, is that the word you used? That's interesting. Mark, any sense of his leadership style?

MARK: I mean, just the casual, I think that he is down to earth. I do have some concerns about some of his advisor picks already . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MARK: . . . dabbling into the Clinton era.

MODERATOR: Okay. And anything else just about his style of leadership, Virginia, any sense of how his decision?

VIRGINIA: As we've all been saying, I really do think that he's just such a fantastic listener that he's really going to be able to be processing very quickly and make great decisions based on his ability to look at the whole picture.

MODERATOR: Just out of your guess, do you think if we got together in a year from now or a year and a half from now, do you think we'll have the same partisan gridlock that we've had in the last couple years or in the last quite a few years, or do you think that you'll be able to unite people?

I mean, you know, none of us know exactly how it's going to go, but obviously, the Congress has a strong will, and all the special interests haven't gone away and all of those things that exist in our political system. But as you see him as a leader, do you think that we're going to stay with this partisan gridlock, or do you think we'll move from that and you said be able to unite us? Does anybody have a sense on that?

MAN: I hope he can do it, if we stay with what we're doing.

MODERATOR: Liz, do you think . . .

LIZ: I kind of think there's always going to be partisanship, but I think he's going to make it a little bit better.

MODERATOR: Okay. Carl, any sense on this?

CARL: No, I think that he will, basically I think that he will bring into Congress more hand shaking, working together type . . .

MODERATOR: John.

JOHN: I think at this point, the American people feel like their backs are against the wall, and we have to come together. And we're hopeful that he can do it.

MODERATOR: Yep, Mark, love to hear you on this. How do you . . .

MARK: I think it'll come together. I think the Republicans will use it as a scapegoat. If he can't get things together, they'll use that against him in the future.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me try one thing, and we'll do this very quickly. I just figured a whole series of things that a president's responsible for, and I'd love you to maybe check the two things that you think he will be best at. Okay. So put your name up at the top and then just, when you think about what he will do best as presidents, a lot of different responsibilities, maybe which two or three on here, one, two, or three.

TY: What he will do best or what he needs to do best?

MODERATOR: No, what he will do best, in other words, this is where I have the greatest confidence in him. Okay. Good? How many checked serving as commander in chief? Two. How many negotiating with foreign leaders? Two, four, six, eight, nine people. Working with congressional leaders? Two, four, five. Helping the country deal with a national tragedy? One, two, three, three.

Leading the country on economic issues? One, two, three, four, five, all Republicans, I would note. Okay. Dealing with ceremonial events? Anybody check that? One. Okay. Being a good manager? One, two, three, four, five. Dealing with civil rights issues? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Okay. Good. And why do you think he'll be so good associating with foreign leaders?

TY: We're looking at a change from George Bush, who said this is the way it is, deal with it, get behind us. We have change.

MODERATOR: Okay. So why would he be good at negotiating with foreign leaders?

MARK: I'm married to an English woman, who has family over there, and just the European community looking at us, they totally favor him. They are in love with Obama over there, and hopefully, that will, you know, roll over to the upper-level management of every country.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, why . . .

JENNIFER: He has some ideas in place too already for how to do that. Instead of just saying like Bush, here's how it's going to be, this is how we're going to do it, he says, you know, if you give up your nuclear weapons or you stop this and do this, then we'll let you in the World Trade Organization. He's giving them positive things.

MODERATOR: Okay . . . okay, Caroline?

CAROLINE: And he's not forcing them. I mean, I think when he gets there, he's not going to demand anything on them. He's going to use that soft voice and say, okay, guys, how can we work together with this? But if you're going to force me to do it, then I can do it. But I prefer working this way.

MODERATOR: Okay. Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Mirroring what Caroline was saying, I think part of negotiation is approach. And I feel that, once again, just his qualities will help with negotiations with other leaders. He's not looking at them like they know nothing, like I've witnessed other leaders, you know, or that they're beneath them. You know, we're all of one accord. We're trying to make change in the world, you know, and so I think that there's opportunities.

MODERATOR: Yeah. I want to jump, and you raised your hand on leading the country on economic issues. Is that a hope, or do you think that . . .

MARK: It's a necessity.

MODERATOR: Okay. John, do you have confidence in him on leading on economic issues?

JOHN: I agree with Mark. I think that's probably one of the biggest issues that faces everybody in the country now. And if he doesn't do that, then he will not be successful.

MODERATOR: Yeah, and, Carl.

CARL: I, see, I actually didn't choose that one.

MODERATOR: Oh, okay, let me get Ron if I could. You chose it.

RON: It's something he has to do. He doesn't have any choice.

MODERATOR: And, Jennifer.

JENNIFER: Good answer.

MODERATOR: So it's not necessarily that you're saying, I mean, when you talk about his being good at negotiating with foreign leaders, that's something you'd project about him. But I didn't get any positive feeling except that you hope that he'll be good on economics, is that correct? Okay. That's fair. I just wanted to get the difference. I'm going to jump from this to ask you, he's picked a number of senior staff people and rumored secretary, cabinet secretaries. What do you think of his selections? Go ahead, Robin.

ROBIN: They're very, Hillary Clinton as secretary of state . . .

MODERATOR: Let's do this. Let me do Hillary Clinton right now as secretary of state. And we'll leave everything else out. Let's just talk about Hillary Clinton as secretary of state. Reaction?

ROBIN: She might be very good. We have to be concerned with her husband and all of his, what he's doing. I mean, he's in all these foundations and . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I agree, I mean, I think they're just tying a bull dog in there to get things done.

MODERATOR: Okay. Ty?

TY: Zero confidence.

MODERATOR: Zero confidence, why?

TY: I just don't feel that she is, I don't think she's a good leader. I've never been comfortable with her as a leader. I don't think she's going to get the job done, and I don't think she's going to be building bridges the way that we need that position to build.

MODERATOR: Caroline.

CAROLINE: I think she's going to do some good, but I don't have that much confidence in her. But being the president, because Barack is the President, I'm sure she going to have to do something or likely he'd fire her.

MODERATOR: Mark.

MARK: If it happened, I'd like to renege my vote on Obama.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MARK: I mean, just the fact that I don't trust her.

MODERATOR: Okay, I don't trust her . . .

MARK: I don't trust her, I mean, she said she wasn't going to run for New York, and she wasn't going to run for president. It's like tell me straight up what you're going to do or nothing.

MODERATOR: John.

JOHN: I don't think her ego will allow her to have Barack Obama as her boss.

MODERATOR: Okay. Virginia.

VIRGINIA: That might be an issue, what John's saying. I need to think more about her selection to tell you the truth. I really don't have that much of an opinion on it.

MODERATOR: Carl.

CARL: I think that they've had a very rocky past. So . . .

MODERATOR: They, meaning who?

CARL: Obama and Hillary through the primaries and jabbing each other, and I'm hopeful. I don't know. I'm hopeful that there's a logic behind choosing her that we're not seeing.

MODERATOR: Okay. Liz.

LIZ: I think she's just using it as a platform to try to run for president again sometime in the future. I think the Bill factor is scary. I agree with you about the ego too, being, working for Obama, I don't think . . .

MODERATOR: Desiree?

DESIREE: I love Hillary, but I have to agree with John. I was surprised that she would even consider accepting that position because of her ego.

MODERATOR: Okay. Ron.

RON: She has experience. I think she'll be okay.

MODERATOR: Okay. Ricardo.

RICARDO: Yeah, I think she's definitely qualified for the job. I think her experience and also her issues on women's issues. I think the world needs to hear that as well.

MODERATOR: Things that interest me is that when we talked about Hillary Clinton and words and phrases, a lot of the people used words of strength, confidence, etc. And I definitely heard the divisiveness about her when we originally talked at the beginning, and I understand that. But do you see her as somebody who's confident, who can do the job? Leave aside the other elements, Bill, etc. Do you think that, how many say if she's the secretary of state, put it another way.

If I said to you do you think that Sarah Palin could make a good vice president, people would have different votes, certain ways. I'm interested in doing the same question. Can Hillary Clinton do the job as secretary of state? How many raise their hands and say, yes, she can? Okay. One, two, three, four, six, eight, nine. So you think that she can do the job. There are other considerations, some of them being her husband, some of her, can she work with Barack Obama, etc., but it's not a question of is she competent or not competent?

CAROLINE: No.

MODERATOR: I heard where you're coming from, Ty, and where she's there, at least satisfied, that's very helpful on Hillary Clinton. Turn around and tell me what do you

think about the rest of the selections that you've seen, what does it tell you, what does it say to you? Liz, what does it say to you? I mean, there haven't been that many, but . . .

LIZ: Yeah, the only one that's coming to mind right now is probably obscure, Health and Human Services, is Daschle, right?

MODERATOR: Yeah.

LIZ: And I know the, I went to high school with his son, and it's a nice family, upstanding people, good moral values, but I don't have much more to offer there.

MODERATOR: Yeah. Anybody have any sense of the people who are coming in and what's he choosing?

RICARDO: I like Janet Napolitano for Department of Homeland Security, being a governor of a border state, I think it's important. But at the same time, she was also very interested in finding some help in amnesty and some comprehension reform for the immigrants here.

MODERATOR: Okay. Again, other, in terms of broad or anything that people feel? I mean, do you get a sense of sort of a direction? I know it's a little early because here we're doing it on Saturday. He's going to make a lot of live announcements on Monday just before Thanksgiving. And I'm just wondering, does anybody else have any feeling about, I mean, Mark, you made a comment, I think early on, which was too much Clinton.

MARK: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. That concerns you.

MARK: It does concern me.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else have a concern?

TY: I've heard that, I've been wrapped up. I haven't got to see if, I have heard, literally, too much Clinton.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, any sense of anything at this stage?

ROBIN: Well, what's the name of the one for the Senate? He's with New York.

MODERATOR: Right.

ROBIN: Now he's very young too. A lot of these, we're getting back into the young again.

MODERATOR: Okay. Okay. I don't get an awful lot of feeling. When I say somebody famous like Hillary, everybody is talking. Now I'm not getting as much.

TY: I think, real quick, one thing that bothers me, you mad me think of, we do see a lot of young, and we're going to have people who are, we're going to have people who are involved in this system 60 years from now. They're going to be buying into the system, and I think we need that right now.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Here is a key question, and I want to get people's point of view. I think I'll start with Virginia. Virginia, what will be your judgment of how you determine whether Barack Obama has lived up to expectations? How are you going to judge him?

VIRGINIA: Hmm, I would judge based on how our people are being taken care of, the American citizens, if he has been able to make wise decisions about the economy and things have actually been effective in place within the next four years. So basically, issues dealing on the economy, foreclosures, housing, knowing where to put the money into a lot of the things, the pork . . .

MODERATOR: Pork barrel.

VIRGINIA: Yeah, not just the excessive spending, you know, we can't afford any more of that.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Liz, how are you going to judge whether Barack Obama has earned your vote and that he deserves your vote?

LIZ: We're looking at four years from now?

MODERATOR: Sure, I mean, what's going to be your standard of . . .

LIZ: If the economy has turned around, and we're better off than we are now.

MODERATOR: Anything else you're going to judge him by?

LIZ: If he does stand by his word, if he does . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, Ron?

RON: I'm anxious to see what he does about the war.

MODERATOR: And what you expect for him to do?

RON: Hopefully, bring our guys back . . .

MODERATOR: Okay.

RON: . . . I wish he could.

MODERATOR: Okay. Jennifer, how are you going to make this judgment on Barack Obama?

JENNIFER: Like Liz said, if he follows or if he sticks to the things that he said were important during this election process, and he follows through with it and gets things, you know fixed.

MODERATOR: Anything particular?

JENNIFER: Troops, that government spending, and again, you put things in place. He said what he was going to do, so if he follows through with those things, and reinstating pay as you go, contain spending.

MODERATOR: Robin.

ROBIN: Same thing, see, in four years, do I still have money in the stock market? Do I still, will I still be able to retire and put gas in the car?

MODERATOR: Bread and butter.

ROBIN: Bread and butter.

MODERATOR: Caroline.

CAROLINE: Like Ron said, I mean, taking care of the troops, that's my thing, and healthcare.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Mark.

MARK: I would like to see him keep the U.S. unified and keep us going as a nation forward as opposed to, you know, lowest approval ratings in history for any president.

MODERATOR: John.

JOHN: That he will at least attempt to do what he said he will do, and to see how he responds to things that we don't know about, haven't confronted them yet.

MODERATOR: Two years from now, I come back here, and things aren't going well, okay. And his ratings are down, not as low as President Bush, but they're below 50%, etc. And we come back, and you say to me, I warned you. I told you this in November of 2008, and you can point back to it as being pressing. Ricardo, things don't go well, what can we point to that you will have said today?

RICARDO: What would I point to?

MODERATOR: Why would the president not be popular? What will he have failed to do? What's going wrong?

RICARDO: Well, I mean, I have specific issues.

MODERATOR: Yeah, but you're not explaining your issues necessarily. What you're talking about is his job rating, in other words, sometimes a president comes in, and we have these high expectations, and then a couple years later, we say, ooh, that guy's not delivering, not doing the job, etc.

RICARDO: He has to have some kind of manager skills that in the Congress, we can get things accomplished, bills passed.

MODERATOR: So what you're saying is he'll lack the management.

RICARDO: Yeah, he will lack the management skills.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Ron.

RON: He's only one man, and we're expecting him to do a big job.

WOMAN: Right.

RON: Can't please everybody.

MODERATOR: Okay. Desiree.

DESIREE: Like Ron said, I think we're expecting him to fix the world in four years, and it's not going to happen.

MODERATOR: Okay. Liz, why will we say his ratings went down, and we don't like him as much?

LIZ: He hasn't been able to turn things around with the economy.

MODERATOR: Okay.

CARL: We haven't, our world nations, our, how we're being viewed in the world hasn't changed.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me, this is fine. It tends to be more issue-specific. If I could make it more Obama specific, I mean, when Ricardo says, you know, he won't get along, he can't manage and work with Congress, that gives me something. Is there anything that you say, yeah, this is what I worry about if things don't go so well, Ty?

TY: Pay attention to where that money's going. \$700 billion is a lot of money.

MODERATOR: So are you saying that he won't have the economic skills?

TY: Don't lose control of where things are going. It may be the economic skills. It may be where this money is going.

MODERATOR: Okay. I'm trying to figure out sort of the skill set that he might not have that we hope he has.

JENNIFER: I'd say foreign experience, not really the experience . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And he may not do as well. Anything else?

JOHN: I think he, we're expecting him to be like a Reagan in a way that made everyone feel proud to be an American.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

JOHN: And that's one of the things that I think got him elected, and I think if he doesn't do that, people will lose faith in him.

MODERATOR: Okay. Tell me something much lighter now. What are you most looking forward to about having the Obamas as first family? What are you looking forward to, Obamas as first family?

TY: I keep hearing people talk about them in light of the Kennedys. And there were some very familial episodes with them.

MODERATOR: Okay. Tell, me what you're looking forward to, the Obamas as the first family?

MARK: Coming over for dinner.

MODERATOR: Well, I'm just saying, you're going to see them in the news shows. You're going to see them in the news magazines and in the papers. What are you looking forward to in terms of qualities or whatever?

JENNIFER: Being relatable to everyone.

MODERATOR: Relate, okay, anything else, yeah?

VIRGINIA: You know, beyond just the politics, there's just a sense of, like he said, family unity.

MODERATOR: Okay.

VIRGINIA: Here is a man who's the head of the household. He's taking care of his wife, he's taking care of his children, and that is so important. And with the divorce rates in America, I mean, we need a representation.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. What else?

TY: We want to be able to continue to feel like he's one of us. He's somebody that would sit down at the table with us.

MODERATOR: Any other . . .

CAROLINE: I say with his wife's background and happening in a community or something like that, I would expect her to go out to the community and try to bring the community together, especially with D.C. school system and other areas of D.C. since she has those kids.

MODERATOR: Okay. Here's what I want to know. It is November 2010, two years from now. What's the weather forecast, Virginia?

VIRGINIA: Hopefully, we're saying goodbye to the fog and sunshine is coming out.

MODERATOR: Okay. Sunshine's starting up. Sunshine's peeking through, or . . .

VIRGINIA: It's more visible.

MODERATOR: Okay. Starting to see the sun. Carl?

CARL: I say . . . it's still a bit of gray day, but it's turning around by that, rain . . .

MODERATOR: Robin, blizzard?

ROBIN: Partly cloudy.

MODERATOR: Partly cloudy.

ROBIN: Getting a little better.

JENNIFER: The beginning of the sun rising in the morning.

MODERATOR: Okay.

JENNIFER: . . . breaking through the fog.

TY: It's still stormy, but we know it's getting better.

MODERATOR: Okay.

CAROLINE: Better days, yeah.

MODERATOR: Desiree.

DESIREE: Partly sunny.

MODERATOR: Okay. Mark?

MARK: Hurricane cleanup.

MODERATOR: Hurricane cleanup, okay. John?

JOHN: Partly sunny.

MODERATOR: Partly sunny, year is 2012, November, what's the weather?

RICARDO: Bright sunny skies, rainbows.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Okay. Ron.

ROBIN: And then the unicorn came.

RON: Partly cloudy.

DESIREE: I have to agree with Ricardo.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MODERATOR: Just point me to the pot. Okay. Mark?

MARK: I will say sunny, maybe.

MODERATOR: Caroline.

CAROLINE: I would say more education opportunities.

MODERATOR: Okay. That's not weather forecast. Okay anybody else?

ROBIN: I would say partly sunny.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Okay. Great. I want to do this very quickly, and I don't know how well this will work. But we'll try this little thing. Okay. Here are ten issues. Okay. I'm not going to go through all of these, but just looking at them, it's a pyramid. You can't do everything at once. You're directing the Obama Administration. What's at the top of the pyramid?

ROBIN: Economy.

MODERATOR: How many say the economy is at the top of the pyramid? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Seven people had the economy. What else you got at the top of the pyramid?

MAN: Healthcare.

WOMAN: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: How many have healthcare at the top of the pyramid? I got four people put healthcare. Okay. Good. Okay. So we've got a couple issues at the top of the pyramid. Taking those two off, then essentially what goes in the second boxes?

WOMAN: Energy.

MAN: Iraq.

MODERATOR: How many say Iraq and Afghanistan? Okay. We got three on those. Remember, we got to work all the way down. Who said energy? Okay. Five people, energy deserves to be in here, in the second box. You got a couple of them. What's the other one?

CARL: I have a question, why don't you have education up there?

MODERATOR: It's a fair question, and only because it tends to be, quote, more of a state issue than a national issue. And I very definitely considered it, but I thought I would stick to those, which were, quote, most national.

CARL: Okay.

MODERATOR: But the point is well taken. Okay. What else would you put in that second box? Where were we?

CAROLINE: Afghanistan. I want to say . . .

MODERATOR: Iraq and Afghanistan, how many say that deserves . . .

CAROLINE: . . . troops there before energy.

MODERATOR: Okay. Iraq and Afghanistan. Okay. How many say that budget deficit should be in the second level? A couple. If we take these off the chart, what's up next? What's in the third tier?

ROBIN: Then it would be budget deficit.

MAN: Environment.

WOMAN: Environment.

MODERATOR: Okay. Environment, how many say environment definitely. Okay. Environment gets here. Okay. Anybody else? Any other issues?

TY: I think budget deficit.

MODERATOR: How many say budget deficit deserves, okay, budget deficit's in here. What else?

JENNIFER: Moral values, I think.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: I mean, everything that goes on is really values.

WOMAN: You made a good point, everything here . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. We got four moral values. What else we got? Anything else? Okay. Now, looking at this again, it doesn't mean that these things don't count. It just

means in comparison, they count a little bit less. Tell me something. Is there anything that you say, looking at this, putting economy, essentially healthcare up towards the top, followed by Iraq and energy, is there anything that you would replace or change your pyramid in any way? Where you say, oh, you've left something out, or, gee, move healthcare down, and move energy up or move something around?

LIZ: I personally would have put moral values at the very top. And everything trickles down from there.

MODERATOR: Okay. So we have several people talking about moral values. Good. Okay. What else?

CAROLINE: I still say the second thing is Iraq and Afghanistan.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many . . .

CAROLINE: . . .

JOHN: I think terrorism should go somewhere in there too because I know, it's been a few years since 9/11.

CAROLINE: And security of the country.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else? But essentially, this is how you would look at your pyramid. Okay. I don't want to spend, we're running a little tight on time. And I don't want to spend a lot of time. But does anybody want to say anything about the economy and what you want done that we haven't said already? We touched upon the economy quite a bit. Does anybody want to add something on the economy? Mark.

MARK: I think we need to let some of these big companies fail and suck it up and get through that part instead of subsidizing them and going through that.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good.

DESIREE: I agree.

MODERATOR: And Desiree agrees with Mark. Okay. What else?

TY: We need to pay attention that they understand the realities of the situation. It's unacceptable.

MODERATOR: They meaning big companies?

TY: Big companies, it's unacceptable that they come to us for money when they're doing quite fine, the upper management.

ROBIN: And their upper management is up to the million-dollar salaries.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, and anything else that you say that you want to have done?

RICARDO: I'm most strongly believe that if we're spending billions of dollars to bail out these companies, we can have billions of others to help education and healthcare and poor.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other things that you want to say about the economy? Any one message you want to send to Barack Obama on the economy?

TY: Fix it for us.

MODERATOR: Okay. Fix it for us. Fix it.

CAROLINE: Clean it up.

MODERATOR: Clean it up, okay. Tell me something. How do you think race relations are going to change by having Barack Obama as President, Desiree?

DESIREE: I don't know if anything's going to change. I know that everybody says now that we have an African-American president, people are more accepting, and people are more diverse. But I don't know if that's true. I think a lot of people who voted just wanted the Republicans out of the presidency, and that's why they voted.

MODERATOR: Having Barack Obama as President, how do you think race relations are going to change in America, Virginia, or will they?

VIRGINIA: Well, I would hope that it would, not just because, you know, he is African-American, as Desiree was saying that that necessarily means, because afterwards, you know, we were basically in a bind. And people had different reasons, like Desiree was saying, for voting. You know, some people, you know, maybe they were . . . like we're in a crunch, so I'm just going to vote for him because I'm in a financial crisis.

That could have been the reason. So I'm hoping that, you know, we're just going to understand who we are. We're going to dig deeper by having him represent us. And to, you know, represent for our children that anybody, it doesn't matter, of course, on things that we always say the race . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, Mark, let me hear from you.

MARK: Now these are horrible things that I'm going to say right now, but it's been talked about and not in, well, it's in groups, but . . .not that I'm affiliated with.

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MARK: It will give the racists someone to concentrate on to polarize the country in that regard and could possibly bring race relations worse.

JENNIFER: Sure.

CARL: I don't agree with you on that.

MODERATOR: Do you think that's going to happen?

JENNIFER: I don't know if I think it's going to happen, but I can see how that would be a problem, definitely. I mean, it could. And, hopefully, that's a very, very small minority of people that, you know . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, Robin, do you think that's going to be a problem? In other words, do you think that two years, four years from now, we'll say that this took the country backwards on race relations?

ROBIN: And I hate to say this, it depends on what part of the country you're talking about. My brother, who lives in Alabama, the amount of protesting that was going on in Alabama every time Obama or anything happened was amazing, you know, anti-Obama because he was black. And that's Alabama. And all you had to do was look to see what states voted, how they went. I mean, the whole southern tier was all . . .

MODERATOR: That was fascinating because Virginia, which is the heart of antebellum, and North Carolina both voted for Obama, which if you compare it to Kerry or Gore, you know . . .

ROBIN: Well, Virginia is basically, they've moved the Mason-Dixon Line.

RICARDO: I think, for me, personally, because of his bi-culturism is key for us. My wife is black. And if we were to raise our kids, I'm not saying Barack Obama as bicultural because everybody talks of him as the first black president. But he's also the first bicultural president. So for me, that means a lot because I've been shunned for my family, who is a Latino family, and we're as mixed as they being, for them not accepting my wife. It's really hard for me. So when we raise our kids, it's going to be something that I can tell my kids about, that, you know what, it's a better country because of the diversity we have within us.

MODERATOR: Yeah, Ron, give me an insight?

RON: I think they're both going to accept him for who he is and what he does. I don't think color is going to matter.

MODERATOR: Yeah, race relations going to change or get better, Liz, because of this, or do you think as Jennifer and Mark say that, you know, that they're going to be deeper schisms and greater problems?

LIZ: I think you're always going to have, unfortunately, have some factions out there in different parts of the country. But I think overall, it's going to improve, especially young children. You know, young children were taught in school the presidents' names were George Washington and John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. And here you have Barack Obama, you know, which some young kids say, oh, that's a strange name. But, you know, it's exciting, and it's promising, and I think, you know, I think it will be good.

MODERATOR: Yeah, and, Carl.

CARL: I'm sitting and hearing all the answers. I'm just wondering, we all hope that Obama's going get well, but what if he doesn't? How is that going to start with the area that you asked that are more racially divided? There's one thing to be in northern Virginia and say that, but you go to Alabama and then if all of a sudden, he doesn't do well, how will African-Americans suffer and get blamed for, oh, an African-American president, he doesn't do it well, then, therefore it'll trickle down.

MODERATOR: Yeah, but, Carl, we didn't blame you for Bush. You voted for him, and you had cowboy boots on. I saw you with those, so we cut you some slack. We could cut some other people some slack. And tell me, let me hand out one final thing, and we got a couple other things I want to discuss, and then we'll call it a day. Hey, you've done a great job. Did you enjoy it?

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: You've done a great job. I think this is marvelous for . . . okay, what I've got here, I listed a whole bunch of the Obama promises, the ones you went to the website and read. Okay. Now here's my point. We're going through tough economic times. Obviously, that becomes critical in terms of righting this country and getting things back on track. Looking at these, I want you to list maybe three of these where you say I expect him to keep it.

Even if we're going through tough economic times or whatever is happening, I expect him to keep these promises, and it's important to me. So I'm not going to let you choose ten of them because that's easy to do. But here are the three that I sort of see. And do the other side. He says we're in hard economic times. I'm going to give you a

pass. You don't need to continue this. So, or you can wait until after your first term. Take about a minute or two and figure that out, and then we'll talk about it.

ROBIN: Just three?

WOMAN: Yeah, darn.

MAN: On the other side?

MAN: Yeah, three of each.

MODERATOR: Okay. You got your things? Okay. I expect him to keep what, Ty?

TY: I want the \$150 billion in alternative energy.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many say that was one of the things I'm expecting him to do? Two, four, six, eight, ten people, so that is an absolute must for him. And it's a must because . . .

TY: We're going to wind up in a bind sooner or later, and it's going to happen sooner, I think.

MODERATOR: Okay. Mark.

MARK: It's what caused the war in Iraq.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. And Ron says . . .

RON: Yeah, we definitely need those jobs . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Virginia, give me one of them. I expect him to . . .

VIRGINIA: I expect him to prevent lobbyists from working on related areas.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else choose that? A couple people. Okay. What do you got for me, Carl?

CARL: Guantanamo Bay.

MODERATOR: How many say Guantanamo Bay? Okay. One. Small leadership issue there, okay, Liz, what do you got for me?

LIZ: Cut taxes for people earning less than \$200,000.

MODERATOR: Cut taxes for working families, three, hold it. How many, taxes, two, four, six, eight. Okay. Talk to me about taxes, what are you expecting for him? What are you expecting there?

MARK: I would hope there to be a clause that says it increases taxes on people earning over . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. So tell me what you're thinking on cutting taxes. I mean, Liz, you picked it.

LIZ: Oh, sorry, I . . . cutting taxes hopefully would mean more money in our pockets just to spend on those necessities.

MODERATOR: Okay. And you're expecting this.

LIZ: Yes.

MODERATOR: You better live up to that promise. Did you put it down?

JENNIFER: Yes, because it's one of those things he talked about a lot, so I expect him to stick to his guns and follow through.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else?

VIRGINIA: Like Jennifer was saying, it's one of the major issues that I think helped push him into the seat. So I think he's got to know that he has to . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else on taxes?

LIZ: I thought during the debates, it was \$250,000, not the, I'm just changing.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else on cutting taxes?

TY: I'm countering.

ROBIN: Yeah, so am I.

MODERATOR: Yeah, but everybody else is, or eight people are. Anybody else who checked it, just to give me an insight on it?

RICARDO: I think it was a huge part of his campaign, that's why it's so important.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Anybody else? Okay. Give me one other thing. What else we got that's big?

JENNIFER: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many say healthcare? There were two, four, five healthcare people, why Jennifer?

JENNIFER: I thought again because it's something that he talked about so much, that I expect him to follow through.

MODERATOR: Yeah, John, why big?

JOHN: Because I assume it would be more cost effective to do that than have people walk into emergency rooms because they have no other alternative.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Anything else we haven't touched upon that's a definite yes?

JOHN: I had tax breaks.

MODERATOR: Okay. And why do we care sending jobs overseas? Okay.

DESIREE: It takes away from jobs here.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many put that down? One, two, three, okay. Anybody else? Let me switch to the other side. What are the ones where you say, no, I don't, he doesn't need to do it? You had said on the taxes. How many did that, just you and Ty? Okay. That's fine. Let me move on. Who else has got something he does not have to do, in your opinion?

TY: The cap on carbon emissions.

MODERATOR: Okay. Carbon emissions, how many say he doesn't have to do that? Okay. Small group you're leading. Anybody else got something?

JOHN: Close the prison at Guantanamo Bay.

MODERATOR: Okay. How many say he doesn't have to close the bay? Okay. So seven people, and that's not important because . . .

JOHN: It's not as important as the other things.

MODERATOR: Okay. But you didn't have to necessarily say you don't have to forego it. It's not important because, I just need a statement of why it's not important.

MARK: Some things are necessary evils.

MODERATOR: Okay. Some things are necessary evils.

DESIREE: I agree.

MODERATOR: Okay. What else do we have? Anything else that you . . .

TY: I say he can forego the cut in taxes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, what do you got for me, Virginia, what can he forego?

VIRGINIA: Well, I think that I misunderstood that column because I'm thinking in my mind what I'm thinking he might have to forego or what he might think he has to forego. And so I put \$4,000 tax credit for students.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else say he can forego that? Okay. So if he didn't do this tax credit for you're working in service, it would be okay with you, or if he had to forego it. So how many, just raise your hands so I can see that? That's two, that's four, that's six people who agree with that. Anything else that he can forego?

TY: Redeploy all the combat troops. I think they just came out and said with the agreement that they're looking at 2011.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else? I'm moving on. Great. Okay. Oh, I'm interested, what do you think back in Virginia, you talked about the weather forecast nationally, how are things in Virginia today? Give me a . . .

TY: Drizzly.

MODERATOR: Drizzly. What, give me a word.

JOHN: Overcast.

MODERATOR: Overcast, drizzly. What else?

RON: Swampy.

RICARDO: I say it's optimistic.

MODERATOR: Optimistic. Okay. Anybody else, weather forecast?

VIRGINIA: I'd say optimistic.

JOHN: It depends on where, there's northern Virginia and the rest of Virginia.

MODERATOR: In general?

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: I got the drizzly, swampy, etc., anybody else want to . . .

ROBIN: Cloudy.

WOMAN: Rainy.

MODERATOR: Okay. Good, a lot less bad than they are . . .

JENNIFER: Not a hurricane.

MODERATOR: Not a hurricane, not a blizzard, etc. Okay. Great, and I think I'll conclude with two questions. Okay. Question number one, well, it would be one, that I'll sort of pull into two. And that is before Barack Obama sits down to his Thanksgiving dinner with his family, he says, you know, I think I'll give Robin a call, and what would you tell him?

ROBIN: I would say I hope that you live up to your promises and that you try to get Congress to agree to a lot of the ideas that you have as far as the economy is concerned and just work with the people.

MODERATOR: Okay. He says, you know, I think I'll call Jennifer. What are you going to tell him?

JENNIFER: I'd say stick to your convictions and I hope you follow through with them and truly believe in that, and enjoy your turkey.

MODERATOR: Okay. Ty, he says, yeah, I think I'll give Ty a call.

TY: I'm okay with a small raise in taxes now to fix things as opposed to a huge raise in taxes now to try and save things.

MODERATOR: Okay. Caroline, he phones you.

CAROLINE: I would tell him put God first, country, and . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Good. Mark?

MARK: I'd say I know we're going to get an A for effort, but we have to have at least a D for execution.

MODERATOR: Good. John.

JOHN: I'd say, please, don't let Washington bureaucrats bowl you over. Know who you are.

MODERATOR: Okay. Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I would tell him that I'm so proud of him for being an upstanding leader, and that he wouldn't let anyone change his views, and he'd stick by what he said he's going to stick by.

MODERATOR: I think he's going to phone you twice. Okay. Carl.

CARL: I'd probably say, know what, try your best. Make sure the people see you're working for them, and if it doesn't work, you tried.

MODERATOR: Liz.

LIZ: Don't forget what life was like when you were driving that car with the hole in it, and stick to your guns.

MODERATOR: Okay. Desiree.

DESIREE: Happy Thanksgiving, and I look forward to the next four years.

MODERATOR: Okay. Ron.

RON: I'd congratulate him for winning, and make us proud.

MODERATOR: How can he make us proud?

RON: Stick to his promises.

MODERATOR: Ricardo.

RICARDO: I mean, thank you, congratulations, and don't forget about comprehensive immigration reform.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Yeah, what is your issue?

RICARDO: Just in case you might have missed it.

MODERATOR: Do you think he's going to get the job done?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: I think so.

CAROLINE: Not all, but . . .

ROBIN: It's going to take more than four years.

MAN: Oh, yeah.

VIRGINIA: He said that in the victory speech, you know, it's just a start, but get the ball rolling.

RICARDO: And we'll take all of it too.

VIRGINIA: Exactly.

RICARDO: His people, the advisors, I mean, they represent us, so we also have to play a role in that too. Talk to our congressmen and our senators to get our messages out.

TY: Well, that's right, it is everybody.

MODERATOR: What are you going to like best about having him as President of the United States?

TY: It's going to be stylish to be an American again.

MODERATOR: It's going to be stylish to be an American.

CAROLINE: Gain respect.

MODERATOR: Gain respect, okay.

JENNIFER: Being proud to say I'm an American.

MODERATOR: Okay. And why are you going to be proud to say you're American?

JENNIFER: For one, you know, even hearing him speak and he's eloquent. The Bushisms that we've gotten so used to in the past eight years. . .

ROBIN: Well, hopefully, we will not be the, quote, ugly Americans.

MODERATOR: What else? You know, a lot of you, by the way, well, I think maybe this is the perfect place to end it. You guys have done an absolutely outstanding job. I mean, you never know, when you do one of these focus groups, how it's going to come together. But I can't tell you how enjoyable it was. And this is the final session that we're doing for the Annenberg Center for Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

And you've capped it off so well, and I want to tell you what a great job you did and how lucky Barack Obama was to get your votes because you thought it through. And you came from very different places on the compass. Somebody here voted for Nader, I think, in 2004. I think you did, Desiree. And Ty didn't vote in 2004. And an awful lot of you voted for Bush, and then you came, and you looked and these are the people that Barack Obama is going to have to keep if he's going to govern effectively and be able to win. So thank you very, very much. Have a great afternoon. And I think you all for joining us.

WOMAN: Thank you.

MAN: Thank you.

WOMAN: Do you need all these?

MODERATOR: Yes, please, leave your sheets here.

