

What's up with the Presidential Debates?

Elle Baker
EDITOR

Even before the first Presidential Debate came to pass, most Americans had a pretty good idea of what was going to happen: complete and utter chaos.

The first debate took place on September 29th at the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion in Cleveland, Ohio. At the beginning of the debate, many spectators and reporters had high hopes for civility between the two candidates, as they are both grown and educated men. With the very reasonable rules set by The Commission on Presidential Debates prior to the start of the debate including, two uninterrupted minutes of response time for both candidates, we can assume they were to be followed. Unfortunately, this was not the case.

To be frank, both President Trump and Vice President Biden disregarded the simple rule of allowing their opponent to speak uninterrupted for two minutes following a prompted question, however, the President violated this rule many more times than Biden did.

At times it seemed like all you could hear was bickering between two children over who could eat the last cookie, meaning one candidate talking loudly and obnoxiously over the other, with the moderator thrown in occasionally. Honestly, it was difficult to get a straight response from either respondent as some of their time to answer the question was simply spent making crude remarks about the other candidate, as well as, that candidate's failure to properly react to the issue brought up by the moderator.

In regards to the actual content covered, the topics ranged from the supreme court nomination to the environment and COVID-19. Even with the wide variety of pressing current issues with questions needed to be answered from both parties, neither gave the response spectators and reporters had hoped. Trump often gave half-answers, if any at all relating to the question, more often bashing Biden for things completely off-topic. Biden gave somewhat more of a structured response most times, however, it all seemed

very vague and indirect at the end of it all.

It is really hard to say who came out on top after this first debate, but in terms of speaking to the people, many reporters and journalists would say Biden was able to reach folks at home to sway them to vote blue than Trump did to reassure his slowly diminishing followers and supporters.

Following this disaster of a "debate", many were wary about the next one scheduled to have been on October 15th on an online platform now well known: Zoom. The president was uneasy about having an online debate, some say because he did not like

the exact same time as Biden, meaning the people had to choose which stream to watch. The reasoning behind this decision was Trump wanted to increase his ratings to be higher than Biden's. Contrary to his hopes, Trump received nearly 2 million fewer views than Biden did, even while streaming on three different channels. Not quite sure if that was the outcome he was looking for, but ok Mr. Trump, whatever you want.

The nation is to receive a final presidential debate on October 22 at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. With the previous issues regarding the candidates and the overall debates themselves, there were some

room, all spectators must wear their mask, regardless of their status in the room, with the exception of the two candidates and the moderator.

With these new rules in mind, it was safe to say that the last Presidential Debate would be significantly better than the first, regardless of all of the chaos and uncertainty surrounding the debates this year.

Following its conclusion, the debate was notably less chaotic and less finger-pointing than the previous debate. While in the beginning, there seemed to be some usage of the muting of microphones, however, when it was really needed, it was not used at all.



the feature where his microphone could be turned off while he is speaking.

Trump ended up refusing to have the debate online, a format considered by the Committee only because of his newly released contraction of the novel coronavirus at the beginning of October and the anticipated format of the second debate: a town hall meeting with questions from average voters, according to AP News. Following the president's test release, the debate had been canceled and replaced by town hall meetings held by each candidate.

The interesting thing about this solution is that Trump decided it would be a good idea to hold his meeting at

changes made to the format of the final debate, including, the candidate whose turn it isn't to speak will have his microphone cut off, according to Washington Post. Now there will be a feature for the moderator to stop the microphone of a candidate who is talking over their time limit or they are interrupting their opponent.

Additionally, another new rule has been made where anyone who removes their mask after entering the debate hall will be thrown out. This was added because many members of the Trump family did in fact wear masks to the first debate, but they took them off once they entered the building. To ensure the safety of everyone in that debate

The first 50 minutes of the debate were well versed and considerably more civil than the entirety of the first debate. This being said, President Trump seemed to disregard his administration's advice for the last 40 minutes of the debate, falling back into his interrupting, talking over his time limit, and speaking over the moderator when she was trying to move onto another subject. This was the very time the spectators and reporters expected the mute function to be utilized, however, it was nowhere to be heard, or rather not heard.

Regardless of the microphone disappointment, the debate itself is something to be noted. President Trump came

into the debate level-headed and more dialed in on policy than his expected nasty attitude, it, unfortunately, did not last. When asked about his response and responsibility for COVID-19, his finances with China and Ukraine, and his tax returns, Trump resorted to his deflecting and subject changing that we are all so accustomed to.

For instance, when he was asked about his responsibility for the impact of the coronavirus on the United States, his response was quite cynical and not surprising, "I take full responsibility. It's not my fault that it came here. It's China's fault," according to the LA Times. It is quite baffling that he would blatantly agree and then deflect the responsibility in the same breath. It is unclear what his thoughts were as to why he would say something so laughable at the presidential debate that could potentially cost him his reelection.

Aside from this response, President Trump did very little to change the minds of the American people to vote for him. Rather, he more enforced their opinions and reasons why they strongly oppose him and what he stands for. Biden came across more on the offensive side, pushing for a response on Trump's federal tax returns among other things. Biden was able to lay out his own policy agenda, significantly more than he managed in the first debate, calling for large-scale economic stimulus spending, new aid to states battling the pandemic, and an expansion of health care and worker benefits nationwide, according to the NY Times. It seemed that Biden truly did no wrong, nothing that could come to haunt him in the last few days of the election.

It is safe to say Vice President Biden's closing statement really summed up what the results of the election would stand on when he said, "You know who I am. You know who he is. You know his character. You know my character. Our characters are on the ballot." The nation has all they can get at this point, aside from a few lingering rallies. They must take this final Presidential Debate and what it says about the two candidates: which one can truly represent the American people in the most, ethical, supportive, transparent, and reliable way that they are able.

How To Debate With Your Family

Claire Buran
EDITOR

These are especially charged political times. Election day is rapidly approaching and things are quickly coming to a head the 1st week of November. Opinions and temperatures are rising fast as we approach a high stakes election by all accounts. This heated political season has seeped into our homes and onto our dinner table. We are seeing nightly heated discussions in family homes across the country and within our own community. Doors are slamming, food is being left unfinished on plates.

So, what are kids supposed to do when current politics seem to rely on lies and bully tactics? Where has the science that we learn every day gone, only ignored in current decision making? How do we remain calm when our leaders fail to take any direct action to fix the existential crisis of Climate Change? It's enough to give a kid a headache.

Traditionally, young people living at home tend to align with their parents beliefs regarding political views until we have a

chance to experience life and develop of our views. But in our current world full of easy access to information through social media and online news sources online, it is a lot easier to follow the issues and understand different points of view. In this his new world, political divisions are showing up even before we've left for college.

We have all likely heard the same claims that we are "just" kids and our opinions tend to be viewed as naive, inexperienced, lacking real world expousre. How are we supposed to find our voices at the dinner table? How are we supposed to state our views and opinions effectively without being disregarded or setting off an argument?

Senior **Kira Smit** says, "While we can usually have calm discussions, there have been a few that haven't been, it's just frustrating sometimes because my dad is much more informed than me and so it's sometimes difficult for me to articulate my points. He counters my points with his own, since he has more information. He usually ends up dominating the conversation since he seems to be more knowledgeable."

Junior **Juliana Simpson** says, "occasionally there are calm conversations but sometimes there are certain topics that you cannot stay calm while discussing them."

Here is a compiled list of suggestions to help avoid the heated discussions, avoid major family divisions and ensure you get to finish eating your dinner in harmony.

Avoid all political discussion. While that is a guaranteed way to avoid political arguments, it seems extreme and misses the point of talking around the family dinner table. In other words, the point of having discussions is to listen, consider, reconsider or convince others. You will never change someone's mind if you can't find effective ways to express your own thought and this is a great chance to learn these communicaiton skills required for the adult future ahead.

As students, we need to learn to express our opinions, support our core beliefs effectively in the adult world. This solution is just temporary.

Know your facts and source of your information. In order to be persuasive it is critical to state facts. While the absence of common facts is a new phenomenon later, there should always be a common core set of information or result that form the basis for the discussions. We might all disagree with the steps needed to fix a problem but it helps to at least agree there is a problem. Effective discussions with parents, requires knowing your facts and where you read it or base your statement. For adults to take you seriously, you have to prove yourself which means if you have to cite your sources even.

Use direct follow-up questions. Feel free to call out your parents if they are just repeating their own assumptions and not using facts. Those follow-up questions can poke holes in their seemingly super amount of information or experience. You can avoid conversations turning into lectures by questioning the basis of someone's facts effectively which levels the playing field a lot. Examples like "What is the basis of your opinion that Covid-19 is going away? What statistics are you using to claim that we are rounding the corner?"

What specific study says that masks are harmful in any way? Which scientific research paper supports the idea that climate change is not occurring? Which

Stay calm. Do you best to stay calm. No matter how frustrated you get, if you get upset it will only reinforce that you are just an emotional teen. To stay calm in the face of unsupported arguments, or condescending paternal attitudes, try consdiering that our parents are in a different stage of life and prioritize different things than you. They grew up in a different world and there are rapid and substantial changes that effect ever generation as the age. Remember that change is disruptive and harder to accept as we all age. We are still forming our own opinion and have a lot less investing in our "political" identities. Imagine how scare it is to be wrong after 50 plus years of learning and experience.

Avoid personal attacks. Don't call them "old, ignorant or "fraid". Try to keep an open mind and remember that at the end of the day, they pay the bills and find a way to support us on our paths of learning and growth and and we love them.

"Boycott France"

Maya Melberg
STAFF WRITER

As police continued to investigate, they discovered there were thousands of people attending rallies across France to honor Samuel Paty, a teacher who was beheaded after showing his students cartoons of Mohammed.

Prior to Mr. Paty's assassination he had received multiple threats after showing these cartoons to his class, he wanted to bring attention to the cause of the Charlie Hebdo attacks. Charlie Hebdo was a French satirical newspaper that made numerous jokes regarding Muslims and Islam. There was a terrorist shooting were two gunmen entered the office during a meeting and shot journalists, these men killed a total of ten people that day. Mr.

Paty showed his class these cartoons to bring light to the tragic murders on the 5th anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo murders. On Friday the 16 of October 2020, Paty was attacked and stabbed with a knife before he was beheaded. Witnesses claim that they hear the attacker scream "Allahu Akbar" which translates to "God is greatest". Police fired at the unknown attacker, killing him, the murder weapon of Samuel Paty, a 12-inch blade, was found nearby. The Killer was identified as Abdoulakh A., an 18-year old from Moscow with no known connection to Samuel Paty. Abdoulakh was found to have a small criminal record with only minor misdemeanor charges.

He previously taught lessons regarding freedom of speech, including these cartoons of Muhammad. He had told his

pupils that if they were Muslim, he advised them to look away as they might be offended. This caused issues with the school and parents came to complain and were angry with Paty's choice to show these cartoons. One parent accompanied by Abdelhakim Sefrioui, a preacher and activist, created videos calling Paty a "thug" and demanded he be suspended from teaching. Upon this discovery, police noted Sefrioui had been known to French Intelligence for years before; he is now in custody with the parent he accompanied.

The horrific murder resulted in people throughout France rallying to protest the death of Samuel Paty and demonstrate they have "zero tolerance to all enemies of the Republic". Many spoke out against the murder, including Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer

who said France would defeat their enemies of the democracy and that French teachers needed support. On the 21st of October, there would be a national tribute paid to Mr. Paty. An Imam of a mosque in Bordeaux, Tareq Oubrou, said "A civilization does not kill an innocent person, barbarism does."

As a result of the support for Samuel Paty, France is receiving extreme backlash from countries such as Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. French products in stores have been taken off the shelves as a boycott of French goods has taken place. The president of France, Emmanuel Macron spoke out in support of freedom of speech and the right of Mr. Paty to display the cartoons to his class. Macron received backlash from Turkey and Pakistan where he was accused of not

respecting "freedom of belief" for the millions of Muslims in France. The President of Turkey attacked Macron again, suggesting he seeks a "mental check" for his opinion and views on Islam. As tension rises the boycott becomes more and more extreme, government officials in many Islamic countries are urging citizens to continue this boycott of French goods. A massive rally including 40,000 people took place in Bangladesh, participants marched through the capital of Dhaka towards the French embassy. This rally demanded the boycott of all french goods because of France's stance on radical Islam. During this rally, a statue of Macron was burned and he has now become a target in many Muslim countries. This conflict continues to develop and the tensions between the Muslim countries and France drastically increases.



My Experience at the City Council Student Forum

Taylor Tomlinson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We gathered on Zoom almost a week before the debate. Five students, including me and co-Editor-in-Chief **Bailey Mathews**, along with other seniors, **Kimya Afshar**, **Davis Kerbeck**, and **Ava Bradley**, were chosen to be student moderators at the next City Council Debate. We would be developing the questions, organizing them, and finally, delivering them to the candidates. This was a very exciting opportunity for us all, and not one we were planning on taking lightly.

The five of us spent an evening thinking about what questions we wanted to ask. First off, we wanted this debate not to be like any other previous city council debate. We wanted to stay away from the questions that have been rehearsed countless by the candidates. Most importantly, we needed to ask questions that mattered to us the most. With eight candidates, all men over 50, some would say that youth perspectives were needed. The environment, policing, and homelessness were all topics we wanted to hit hard. By the end, we had devised around 12 questions.

At the next meeting, we prepared for how the debate would practically run down. We assigned roles and made cuts to accommodate for our two-hour time limit. By Wednesday night, we were ready for the forum

The debate began at 4:00, with all the candidates appearing in their home offices 15 minutes prior, their campaign office. All except Andy Lyon, who arrived

the citizens. These candidates proposed their suggestions on how another wildfire would be handled.

that has caused tension in our city, and a pressing one that the candidates needed to address.

discussed a plan to add onto the highway.



right at 4:00 in his backyard with his spraypainted sign in the background. After a quick speech from State Senator Henry Stern, the debate opened with the Environment section, moderated by Bailey Mathews. All candidates seemed particularly concerned with Climate Change's role in the wildfires. California wildfires have increasingly worsened in recent years, with Malibu feeling its full effects with the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Many listed ideas of increased environmental protection in Malibu. Some candidates, such as Steve Uhring, have based much of their campaign on promises of environmental protections. Fire preparation was also brought up during these sections. The City of Malibu's response to the Woolsey Fire was highly criticized by

Homelessness was the following section and a rather contentious section among Malibu citizens. Many feel that the homeless population is a danger to public safety, while others feel that they need humanitarian assistance and help from the city. Moderated by Davis Kerbeck, the section allowed candidates to respond on how they would handle the homelessness issues in Malibu. Some candidates, such as Andy Lyon, Doug Stewart, and Bruce Silverstein have been increasingly outspoken about their concerns. Many candidates felt that some of the homeless are true "down on their luck" and deserve assistance, but others, some of who may be mentally ill or facing addiction, are not the responsibility of the city. This has been an issue

Policing and Public Safety has the following section. Some have called into question the city's spending 8 million dollars on outsourcing to the Los Angeles Police Department. Some of the candidates defended that spending with some implying that we may need to spend more to see the money being put to good use. Policing issues have been a hot-button topic, particularly this summer with the Black Lives Matter movement. Pacific Coast Highway has been a critical public safety issue. Car clubs and street racers create excessive amounts of noise, along with danger for regular commuters. The City Council candidates seemed determined to make PCH a safer road. Some detailed plans to lower the speed limit, while one candidate, Lance Simmons,

The final two sections, moderated by Kimya Afshar, was business and education. Longtime Malibu residents will notice the quick turnover of local businesses. Owing a business is tough, but in Malibu, high rents and a global pandemic make it nearly impossible. Some candidates favor more government support with our local businesses, while others felt that much couldn't be done. In the education section, the candidates were asked if they supported a reopening of Malibu schools. Paul Grisanti, Andy Lyon, and Doug Stewart were adamant on a school reopening, while candidates like Lance Simmons, Mark Wetton, and Steve Uhring seemed mostly for it, but with strict precautions. Candidate Bruce Silverstein was completely against, despite the suggested compromises, claiming that it would not be safe for students to return to the classrooms.

With that final question, the debate was finished. I was extremely grateful for being able to participate in my local government, even if I am not able to vote in this election. All of the students involved were incredibly passionate about local issues, and it was frankly, very cool to be a part of that. It is never too early to care about your city and want to make a difference.

The Bizarre Candidacy of Kanye West

Francheska Lupo
STAFF WRITER

Kanye West shocked everyone at the 2015 VMAs when he announced that he would be running for president in the 2020 elections, but many are confused about the rapper's actual standings in the elections this year.

West missed the filing deadlines to put his name on the ballot for most states and his name ended up on 12 states' presidential ballots, but this is obviously not going to get him very far. On Tuesday the 13 however, West enthusiastically took to Twitter to celebrate his supposed results in Kentucky, where it appeared he had beaten both Biden and Trump with 19% of the votes. This was quickly debunked as faulty results due to technical difficulties, unfortunately for West

His entire campaign has been extremely confusing to fans and voters alike. His party is called the "Birthday Party" and he has said almost nothing as to what he plans to do as president. His objectives are vague, like how he wants to revive prayer in the

classroom, reform the police, and reduce student and household debt. He has also voiced his opposition to abortion. Although he does not wish to make it illegal, he would instead reform the orphanage system to encourage people to go to adoption as their first choice. He also said back in July that "The maximum increase would be everybody that has a baby gets a million dollars or something in that range" (Insider.com) in order to encourage giving birth instead of aborting as childbirth was "the greatest gift of life." His first piece of campaign art hardly cleared up anything as it featured the editor of Vogue, Anna Wintour, and actress Kirsten Dunst, who expressed her confusion on Twitter. "What's the message here? And why am I a part of it?" She tweeted.

West's name surprisingly made its way onto the official California ballot, not as president, but vice president on Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente's American Independent Party run. West stated in a press release that this was not his intention and he had wanted to be president, not VP. "Californians, I ask for your vote for president and urge you to write in 'Kanye West'" (Billboard.com), he stated in his campaign issued press release.

It seems that his main demographic are young people around 18-25 years old and possibly people trying to syphon votes from Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Experts say that the only significant impact he might have on the elections is being a spoiler candidate, taking away votes from both Donald Trump and Biden.

West even poured about \$3 million from his own pockets into the campaign, raising only \$14,254.66 in contributions as of August.

West and his fans have mostly been using the presidential election as promotion for his new freestyle track, and it seems clear that he will come nowhere close to winning the presidential election.

Dear Malibu High School,

Make your voice heard.

Vote.

