

# Bitterness, insults dominate Trump-Clinton debate in St. Louis

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Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (left) and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speak during the second presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 9, 2016. Photo: AP Photo/John Locher

At Sunday night's second presidential debate, Republican nominee Donald Trump seemed to concede that he had avoided paying any federal income taxes for some recent years. He admitted to taking advantage of tax loopholes and reporting a massive \$916 million loss in 1995.

"Of course I do. Of course I do," said Trump, when moderator Anderson Cooper asked if he'd used that loss to lower his federal income taxes. "And so do all of her donors," he said, referring to large financial supporters of Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump did not provide any details about how many years he had avoided paying income taxes, but affirmed again that he had. "I absolutely used it," he said, when Cooper asked.

## **Debate Bitter And Full Of Insults**

"I understand the tax code better than anybody that's ever run for president," he said. Trump argued that Clinton could not fix the system because of Wall Street donors, and because she had failed to reform the system during her years as a senator and first lady.

Clinton, in her response, argued that Trump would only cement an unfair system in place: "Donald always takes care of Donald, and people like Donald," she said.

The second presidential debate was unusually bitter, with the two candidates taking steps unheard-of in the polite tradition of Presidential debates.

In this debate, the two interrupted each other often. Trump referred to Clinton as "the devil," and promised that — if elected — he would order the Justice Department to re-investigate her for her use of a private email server to handle government business. Clinton said at one point that Trump lives "in an alternate reality."

The debate topics ranged from news of the past week as well as positions taken by the candidates over the previous year.

### **Trump Asked For Details On Muslim Ban**

Trump said his proposal to ban foreign Muslims from entering the United States has "morphed." However, the Republican nominee declined to give details about what it had morphed into.

Moderator Martha Raddatz sought to gain clarification, interrupting Trump at several points to ask what his position was. "Would you please explain whether or not the Muslim ban still stands?" she asked.

"It's called extreme vetting," Trump said, but did not say much more about how the vetting process would work — or how it would be different from the current screening methods.

Earlier, in an unusual threat during a presidential debate, Trump promised that — if he was elected — he would instruct the Justice Department to investigate his rival.

### **Trump Would Reopen Clinton Email Investigation**

Trump seemed to be speaking specifically about Clinton's use of a personal email address and server to handle government business while she was secretary of state. That has already been the subject of an FBI inquiry, which ended with FBI Director James Comey calling Clinton's actions "extremely careless" but stopped short of recommending criminal charges.

Trump's promise to use his executive power if he becomes president to re-open that case was unlike anything in recent presidential debates.

"It's just awfully good that someone with the temperament of Donald Trump is not in charge of the law in our country," Clinton said.

"Because you'd be in jail," Trump said.

## **Trump Defends Controversial Tape**

The first half-hour of this debate was dominated not by questions from the undecided voters in the audience, but by interruptions by Trump himself. At one point, Trump referred to the endorsement by Senator Bernie Sanders of Clinton as a deal with "the devil."

The debate opened with a question as to whether the campaigns were setting a good example for the nation's youth. It quickly turned, however, to discussion about a recent revelation of a damaging video for Trump. In the video, recorded in 2005, Trump is heard talking about touching women without their permission.

"That is sexual assault. You bragged that you committed sexual assault," moderator Anderson Cooper said, and then asked Trump if he understood the implications of what he said.

"I didn't say that at all. I don't think you understood what was said. This was locker-room talk," Trump said. "Certainly I'm not proud of it. But this is locker-room talk."

### **Clinton: Tape "Represents Exactly Who He Is"**

Clinton, in her response, said that she considered Trump different than past Republican nominees.

"I never questioned their fitness to serve. Donald Trump is different," she said. "What we all saw and heard on Friday was Donald talking about women, what he thinks about women, what he does to women, and he has said that the video doesn't represent who he is ... It represents exactly who he is."

The release of the 2005 video set off a cascade of criticism from Trump's fellow Republicans. Dozens of elected officials, including Senator John McCain, said Saturday that they could no longer support Trump. A growing chorus called for him to drop out of the race. Even his running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, said he could not defend Trump's remarks.

Trump was scheduled to campaign with House Speaker Paul Ryan on Saturday in Wisconsin, but Ryan asked the nominee not to attend. Pence was scheduled as a stand-in, but he, too, decided to stay away. Although Ryan criticized Trump's remarks, he has not withdrawn his support for the candidate.

## Quiz

- 1 Select the paragraph from the section "Clinton: Tape Represents Exactly Who He Is" that explains how Trump's comments about women have affected his candidacy.
- 2 According to the article, Sunday's debate displayed unprecedented behavior from presidential candidates.
- Which of the following selections from the article is the STRONGEST piece of evidence to support this idea?
- (A) At Sunday night's second presidential debate, Republican nominee Donald Trump seemed to concede that he had avoided paying any federal income taxes for some recent years. He admitted to taking advantage of tax loopholes and reporting a massive \$916 million loss in 1995.
  - (B) In this debate, the two interrupted each other often. Trump referred to Clinton as "the devil," and promised that — if elected — he would order the Justice Department to re-investigate her for her use of a private email server to handle government business. Clinton said at one point that Trump lives "in an alternate reality."
  - (C) Earlier, in an unusual threat during a presidential debate, Trump promised that — if he was elected — he would instruct the Justice Department to investigate his rival.
  - (D) The first half-hour of this debate was dominated not by questions from the undecided voters in the audience, but by interruptions by Trump himself. At one point, Trump referred to the endorsement by Senator Bernie Sanders of Clinton as a deal with "the devil."
- 3 According to the article, which of the following answer options BEST describes Trump's reaction to being questioned on his proposal to ban foreign Muslims from the United States?
- (A) transparent
  - (B) avoidant
  - (C) informative
  - (D) concrete
- 4 Which of the following statements BEST describes Clinton's approach toward Trump during the debate?
- (A) skeptical of Trump's statements regarding foreign Muslims
  - (B) angry that Trump threatened to put her in jail
  - (C) offended by Trump's interruptions and statements
  - (D) critical of Trump's ability to serve as president