

Set 1: love, experi, children, faith, daughter, man, part, person

Set 2: congress, night, littl, control, program, industri, interest, run

Set 3: african, citi, inner, communiti, racial, race, terribl, realli

Set 4: mistak, serious, tri, wrong, mayb, charact, seem, disagree

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Well, in the first place, I believe that character is a part of being president. I think you have to look at it. I think that has to be a part of a candidate for president or being president. In terms of programs, Ive submitted, what, 4 different budgets to the US Congress in great detail. Its so heavy theyd give you a broken back. And everything in there says what I am for. Now Ive come out with a new agenda for Americas renewal, a plan that I believe really will help stimulate the growth of this economy. My record on world affairs is pretty well known because Ive been president for 4 years, so I feel Ive been talking issues. You know, nobody likes who shot John, but I think the first negative campaign run in this election was by Governor Clinton, and Im not going to sit there and be a punching bag; Im going to stand up and say, hey, listen, heres my side of it. But character is an important part of the equation. The other night Governor Clinton raised my — I dont know if you saw the debate the other night. You did — suffered through that? Well, he raised the question of my father — it was a good line, well rehearsed and well delivered. But he raised the question of my father and said, well, your father, Prescott Bush, was against McCarthy, you should be ashamed of yourself, McCarthyism. I remember something my dad told me — I was 18 years old going to Penn Station to go on into the Navy, and he said write your mother — which I faithfully did; he said serve your country — my father was an honor, duty and country man; and he said tell the truth. And Ive tried to do that in public life, all through it. That says something about character. My argument with Governor Clinton — you can call it mud wrestling, but I think its fair to put it in focus is — I am deeply troubled by someone who demonstrates and organizes demonstration in a foreign land when his countrys at war. Probably a lot of kids here disagree with me. But thats what I feel. Thats what I feel passionately about. Im thinking of Ross Perots running mate sitting in the jail. How would he feel about it? But maybe thats generational. I dont know. But the big argument I have with the governor on this is this taking different positions on different issues — trying to be one thing to one person here thats opposing the NAFTA agreement and then for it — what we call waffling. And I do think that you cant turn the White House into the Waffle House. Youve got to say what youre for and youve got to —

MODERATOR Mr. President, Im getting time cues and with all due respect —

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Excuse me. I dont want to —

MODERATOR Im sorry.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH I dont want to —

MODERATOR Governor Clinton.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH I get wound up because I feel strongly —

MODERATOR Yes, you do. (Laughter)

BILL CLINTON Let me say first of all to you that I believe so strongly in the question you asked that I suggested this format tonight. I started doing these formats a year ago in New Hampshire and I found that we had huge crowds because all I did was let people ask questions and I tried to give very specific answers. I also had a program starting last year. Ive been disturbed by the tone and the tenor of this campaign. Thank goodness the networks have a fact check so I dont have to just go blue in the face anymore. Mr. Bush said once again I was going to have \$150 billion tax increase. When Mr. Quayle said that all the networks said, thats not true. Hes got over \$100 billion of tax cuts and incentives. So Im not going to take up your time tonight, but let me just say this. Well have a debate in 4 days and we can talk about this character thing again. But the Washington Post ran a long editorial today saying they couldnt believe Mr. Bush was making character an issue and they said he was the greatest quote “political chameleon” for changing his positions of all times. Now, I dont want to get into that —

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Please dont get into the Washington Post.

BILL CLINTON Wait a minute. Lets dont — you dont have to believe it. Heres my point. Im not interested in his character. I want to change the character of the presidency. And Im interested in what we can trust him to do and what you can trust me to do and what you can trust Mr. Perot to do for the next 4 years. So I think youre right and I hope the rest of the night belongs to you.