

Set 1: feder, texa, govern, size, role, differ, vice, priorit

Set 2: mistak, serious, tri, wrong, mayb, charact, seem, disagree

Set 3: drug, live, fight, better, histori, children, respons, centuri

Set 4: saddam, hussein, osama, bin, laden, destruct, weapon, mass

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AUDIENCE President Bush, during the last four years, you have made thousands of decisions that have affected millions of lives. Please give three instances in which you came to realize you had made a wrong decision, and what you did to correct it. Thank you.

GEORGE W. BUSH I have made a lot of decisions, and some of them little, like appointments to boards you never heard of, and some of them big. And in a war, theres a lot of — theres a lot of tactical decisions that historians will look back and say; He shouldnt have done that. He shouldnt have made that decision. And Ill take responsibility for them. Im human. But on the big questions, about whether or not we should have gone into Afghanistan, the big question about whether we should have removed somebody in Iraq, Ill stand by those decisions, because I think theyre right. Thats really what youre — when they ask about the mistakes, thats what theyre talking about. Theyre trying to say, “Did you make a mistake going into Iraq?” And the answer is, “Absolutely not.” It was the right decision. The Duelfer report confirmed that decision today, because what Saddam Hussein was doing was trying to get rid of sanctions so he could reconstitute a weapons program. And the biggest threat facing America is terrorists with weapons of mass destruction. We knew he hated us. We knew hed been — invaded other countries. We knew he tortured his own people. On the tax cut, its a big decision. I did the right decision. Our recession was one of the shallowest in modern history. Now, you asked what mistakes. I made some mistakes in appointing people, but Im not going to name them. I dont want to hurt their feelings on national TV. (LAUGHTER) But history will look back, and Im fully prepared to accept any mistakes that history judges to my administration, because the president makes the decisions, the president has to take the responsibility.

MODERATOR Senator Kerry, a minute and a half.

JOHN KERRY I believe the president made a huge mistake, a catastrophic mistake, not to live up to his own standard, which was; build a true global coalition, give the inspectors time to finish their job and go through the U. N. process to its end and go to war as a last resort. I ask each of you just to look into your hearts, look into your guts. Gut- check time. Was this really going to war as a last resort? The president rushed our nation to war without a plan to win the peace. And simple things werent done. Thats why Senator Lugar says; incompetent in the delivery of services. Thats why Senator Hagel, Republican, says, you know; beyond pitiful, beyond embarrassing, in the zone of dangerous. We didnt guard 850, 000 tons of ammo. That ammo is now being used against our kids. Ten thousand out of 12, 000 Humvees arent armored. I visited some of those kids with no limbs today, because they didnt have the armor on those vehicles. They didnt have the right body armor. Ive met parents whove on the Internet gotten the armor to send their kids. There is no bigger judgment for a president of the United states than how you take a nation to war. And you cant say, because Saddam might have done it 10 years from now, thats a reason; thats an

excuse.

MODERATOR Mr. President?

GEORGE W. BUSH He complains about the fact our troops dont have adequate equipment, yet he voted against the \$87 billion supplemental I sent to the Congress and then issued one of the most amazing quotes in political history; “I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.” Saddam Hussein was a risk to our country, maam. And he was a risk that — and this is where we just have a difference of opinion. The truth of that matter is, if you listen carefully, Saddam would still be in power if he were the president of the United States, “And the world would be a lot better off.”

MODERATOR And, Senator Kerry, 30 seconds.

JOHN KERRY Not necessarily be in power, but heres what Ill say about the \$87 billion. I made a mistake in the way I talk about it. He made a mistake in invading Iraq. Which is a worse decision? Now, I voted the way I voted because I saw that he had the policy wrong and I wanted accountability. I didnt want to give a slush fund to Halliburton. I also thought the wealthiest people in America ought to pay for it, ladies and gentlemen. He wants your kids to pay for it. I wanted us to pay for it, since were at war. I dont think thats a bad decision.