



GREENBERG MILLENNIAL PROJECT

FOCUS GROUP #1
WHITE, NON-COLLEGE, MIXED GENDER
NEW YORK
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MODERATOR: INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

I'm Mike. I just moved here a few months ago to Queens. I grew up in New York State, upstate. That's about it.

MODERATOR: WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Nothing. Looking for a job. (Inaudible).

I'm Dan. I live in Brooklyn. Lived in this area my whole life. I work in Queens and I sell signs.

I'm Antonia. I live in Brooklyn. I am a flight attendant for Jet Blue Airways and I was born and raised in Las Vegas.

I'm Carrie. I have been in New York for seven years and I do hair and makeup for the fashion industry.

I'm Casey. I live in Brooklyn. I'm not employed currently. Previously I worked as a bike messenger in the city. And now I don't do that.

I'm Ben and I'm from Ohio but I have been in New York for four years. I'm here for the fast pace. I'm a waiter, actor.

Jenna. I live in Queens. I work at a law firm in the city.

I'm Andrea. I live in Queens. I work for the US Postal Service. That's about it.

I'm Janet, born and raised in Brooklyn and still live there. I work for a nonprofit.

I'm Richard and I was born and raised in the (free side) where I live and I'm working for my parents or with my parents retail and wholesale flower company.

MODERATOR: OKAY. AS I SAID WE ARE GOING TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS WHOLE GENERATIONAL DYNAMIC. WHEN YOU LOOK AT AMERICA PEOPLE OFTEN DO THINGS IN TERMS OF GENERATION, BABY BOOMERS, GEN X ALL

THESE DIFFERENT GROUPS AND THE IDEA IS THAT PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN AGE KIND OF SHARE SPECIFIC BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES, EXPERIENCES, THAT KIND OF STUFF APART FROM OTHERS. DO YOU THINK THAT PEOPLE UNDER THIRTY IN THIS COUNTRY SHARE A SPECIFIC SENSE OF EXPERIENCES, ATTITUDES, BELIEFS THAT SET THEM APART FROM OTHER AMERICANS? DO YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE A SPECIFIC GENERATION ONTO YOURSELVES?

I think we are separate because our generation hasn't experienced what our parents did as far as ever being so poor that we had to worry about our next meal. How my parents are always like finish your meal because in their generation I feel like they had these crises and they had these real big problems in America that kept them not knowing when they were going to be putting all the food on their tables. Where as now, I think it's much easier for us to support ourselves and we don't know what it's like to have that problem, we take care of each other and don't really have any preconceived notions of what that was like.

Also people in our generation we all have the same short term goals, we all have the same expectations of politics in like the State and the infrastructure in America so we all rely on it in the same ways but differently from people who are over sixty-five and receive social security checks.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

We also grew up, everyone in our age group, with the hugely, quickly expanding technology, everything that is happening around us and the result of that is the world has shrunk considerably since the generations that are older than us and the ones that are younger than us don't really have any concept of before when we were kind of just on that cusp. We didn't grow up with two computers in every household when we were ten-years-old.

MODERATOR: HOW HAS THAT TECHNOLOGY KIND OF SHAPED YOUR GENERATION AND HOW YOU VIEW THE WORLD?

Everything is like at the tip of our fingers. Like I mean news, years ago I'm sure like our parents and everything it wasn't so available to them so we have everything right in front of us.

We're spoiled.

MODERATOR: IN WHAT WAY?

There is just more technology now, I mean cell phones, if you want to go way back house phones. Everything.

I think we are a generation of like instant gratification because everything is so easy to get and it is so accessible where as even I remember being little and if you called someone and they weren't home you couldn't reach them. You know and now if someone doesn't answer you text right away.

E-mail them, text them, IM them.

Yeah. So we expect so much more because it's there for us were as our parents, I mean my Dad doesn't know how to text message. They don't sit on their I-Chat all day like I do. I think that there is a huge difference in that. And also going back to like previous wars, my parents going through the Vietnam War. I mean they knew what was going on but now we know what is going on. We can watch it. They didn't watch it, they just heard about it.

It's more like in your face.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE? WHAT ELSE KIND OF SETS YOUR GENERATION APART?

More of us go to college then previous generations. We have more opportunities then previous generations.

MODERATOR: DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT, YOU HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY THEY PREVIOUS GENERATIONS?

Yeah.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

There is more available to us. If you want to move somewhere you can just go online and go on "Price List" and find a job in L.A. where as they had fewer chances.

You can go to college online.

You can do anything online.

And I think there are a lot more liberal arts colleges that allow you to choose whatever major you want to. There is I (inaudible) program somewhere in the state and you can call somebody and get funded for it. It's a lot easier today then it was then to go to college.

Even just the women who are working. My mom got married at twenty years old and had babies. We are going to college we have opportunities that our moms, grandmothers did not have.

MODERATOR: THE WOMEN HERE DO YOU THINK YOUR GOALS ARE DIFFERENT THEN YOUR PARENTS OR PREVIOUS GENERATIONS?

Yes.

Oh yeah.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

Well my mother's goal was to get married and have kids and that is not my goal at all. I've actually been married before because I thought that was what I wanted. I got married at twenty-one and then all of the sudden I realized oh I don't have to do what my parents are doing; I can be successful on my own. So yeah I think it is completely different.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR GENERATION DO YOU THINK? DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ARE DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS?

I think it depends on regions because I know my mom is from New York and she didn't necessarily, her goal wasn't to get married. I mean my parents didn't have me until six years after they got married. She was really independent so I think it all depends on like...

Well there are exceptions to every rule.

...yeah. But I agree a lot, yeah.

They didn't encourage the woman back then to go to college. They thought the only option was to marry someone, he'll support you and you can take care of the house. But now we see that there is way more to that than that.

MODERATOR: ARE THERE SPECIFIC EXPERIENCES THAT YOUR GENERATION HAS LIVED TO THAT HAVE KIND OF HELPED TO SHAPE IT?

September 11th.

MODERATOR: WHAT IS THE CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING LIVED THROUGH THAT?

I know for me it got me to talk to my friends more about politics because before we didn't really talk about it then all of the sudden it was like "Wait you're a Republican" like it kind of opened up the conversation more. Especially living in New York and being here and seeing it.

I think everyone just came together and it was good to see unity of the country. Just helping each other.

I think also living through the aftermath of 9-11 with (inaudible) we see what the government is doing in such a different way from previous generations so we question authority more.

MODERATOR: HOW DO YOU THINK YOU QUESTION AUTHORITY MORE THEN PREVIOUS GENERATIONS?

I think technology allows everybody to seek out information very easily and have access to whatever different viewpoints they might want on any given subject and it really allows people to see the whole story rather than necessarily exactly what you are being told is what is happening and if you don't think this is the right way of looking at something there is always a counterpoint to it that you can find very quickly rather than how it used to be where I don't even know how you would get that type of information. I mean you had a couple of different newspapers and that was about the extent of it. And now you have newspapers, you have the internet, you have basically whatever you want you can find.

I think people are age are more motivated, maybe because they are more educated but they just have more of an interest in it to find out.

And open us up to world politics and world news. As soon as 9-11 happened I was like, I know a lot of people were like "Who are these people?" "What is Islam?" "What does everybody else believe in?" "Why did this happen?" So you could look it up and read about it and like oh my god I had no idea where Afghanistan was.

Like the (inaudible) online, you can find speeches online, you can just do everything.

MODERATOR: NOW THAT IS A DIFFERENT LEVEL. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS GETTING INFORMATION AND THEN THERE IS DOING SOMETHING WITH IT. DO YOU THINK THAT YOU...

But you can get the information and it might motivate you to do something.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? IS THAT HAPPENING? DO YOU JUST HAVE MORE INFORMATION OR ARE YOU ALSO MORE APT TO DO SOMETHING ONCE YOU HAVE THAT INFORMATION?

I don't think we are necessarily any more apt to do something then the previous generation was it's just that in terms of like foreign protests, petitions, whatever the case may be where you are actually physically doing something but I think that the information aspect definitely changes how we view and how we act at least on a voting level, a consumer level those types of things but no necessarily more apt to do anything where you are getting out in the street and picketing or rioting or whatever it may be.

MODERATOR: MIKE WHAT DO YOU THINK?

About what?

MODERATOR: WHETHER YOUR GENERATION IS MORE APT TO TAKE ACTION ONCE YOU GET INFORMATION OR DO YOU THINK IT'S JUST MORE INFORMATION?

I don't really know. I don't really think so.

MODERATOR: YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE MORE APT TO TAKE ACTION?

No.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I think if you want to you can more easily now then maybe in previous generations. Across our generation probably there are some people who want to and some people who don't. Some are probably happy to sit back and let things happen, I don't know.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? DO YOU THINK YOU ARE MORE LIKE TO DO SOMETHING?

Absolutely.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

I would protest something if I don't believe in it. I mean three years ago I wouldn't have a clue what was going on but now that I'm like learning more about politics if I believe something is wrong and I feel like I'm knowledgeable about it and I can stand up for it and what I believe in I will do it now as opposed to being like, I know enough now to stand up for what I believe in whereas years ago I didn't really know.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I don't think I would picket on the street but if I could something like just simply give a signature or something, relatively something simple or be more aware.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE? OTHER EXPERIENCES BESIDES 9-11? OTHER THINGS THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED AS A GENERATION THAT HAS KIND OF SHAPED YOU?

Presidential elections. I think a lot of what we went through with Bill Clinton and now George Bush and everyone is either one way or the other and a lot of people hate him. Because there is so much on the news and TV and even like comedy shows or late night shows bashing the President and everything that people get more into it whereas before it was only on news and stuff like that and now a lot of comics are getting into it and more things that young people watch and pay attention to and listen to. We get it on more areas like that.

I remember hearing that most people of our generation, younger than thirty, get their news from like the Daily Show and the Colbert Report more than actually news and I thought that was really funny.

MODERATOR: IS THAT A GOOD THING, A BAD THING?

I think it's great. At least it gets people to know what's going on.

It does and I usually agree with them but they are very biased. That's the only thing. It's kind of like the Colbert Report that he makes I love but he is extremely biased. So you kind of have to take it for what it is. I mean that is there job like the Colbert Report I think is awesome but he just makes fun of (inaudible) and people who watch that just take that as fact versus taking it...

I think you have to make light of things that are going on right now in the world and those things and talk shows. I don't think it's wrong what they do. I mean you can't, like you said, take it for what it is and run around thinking that's the news.

As long as you can tell the difference. Some people don't know that there is a bias in shows and news shows. As long as you can say "Oh that's Rush Limbaugh he's right wing" it's his right wing spin, it's his Al Sharp dinner (inaudible) and it's going to be a little bit to the left. If you can tell the difference then you're better off. If you can't tell the difference then you need to tell the difference. It will help you decide what you believe in if you can tell the difference.

I think the problem with that is the people who advertise themselves as talk news and they are saying that they are news like Rush Limbaugh and Fox News. They are completely; journalistically they have no integrity because they are approaching everything from one side or the other. There is nothing, they have no middle ground to stand on where they are just trying to objectively report what's happening. So I think the reason that the Colbert Report and Daily Show are so huge in our generation is that there needs to be a (inaudible) point to mass media and the satirical view of that is really the only way that it comes across.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE VALUES AND THE MOTIVATIONS THAT DRIVE YOUR GENERATION?

Success.

Money.

MODERATOR: WHY IS THAT?

We want to buy bigger and better things for the house like TVs and electronics and have good jobs.

The cost of living has gotten so high especially in New York.

Living in New York we are in our own little bubble. Because you go anywhere else and people are paying like no rent. And here we're like cool one bedroom, three thousand. But we're definitely in our own bubble I think.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE WHAT OTHER VALUES OR THINGS MOTIVATE YOU?

I think people are more apt to be independent today. I think we are more focused on that and that makes us more driven because back in the day or even in our parent's generation people were more likely to live longer, they were more likely to stay home for college if they went to college and our generation, in our generation it's weird in America today, it's weird to live at home past eighteen. Where as in our parent's generation it wasn't so weird.

MODERATOR: DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT? DO YOU THINK MORE INDEPENDENT GENERATION?

I think so.

Yes. I was thinking of that Billy Joel song the song says, you know the song Captain Jack? Well in his original version it was like "you're 21 and you're still living alone at home with your mom" well when they made it on Broadway to Moving Out clearly a lot more people were staying at home later because it's actually kind of what you're saying but they changed it to 29. "You're still 29 and you're living home" that's a little more awkward where as then that sentence 21 was awkward, I guess they want to kick you out sooner but I think people are somewhat staying home a little longer.

I agree with you.

It's just so expensive. I stay home.

I have buddies that stay with their parents especially Manhattan, who cares. Right?

I think that's true because after you college, you're not guaranteed a job and before when people would go to college then they would get a great job and now it's like well if you don't go to grad school then you don't get a great job. So yeah people are in horrible debt from school being more expensive so they are staying at home.

Paying back student loans and everything.

They're not getting married right away.

MODERATOR: OTHER VALUES? OTHER THINGS THAT MOTIVATE YOUR GENERATION?

Family, since 9-11 especially I think.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE?

Travel. People want to see more of the world.

MODERATOR: WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

You see more of the world on the media and the internet and everything...

(Inaudible)

You want to see it for yourself instead of on TV.

Ambition.

MODERATOR: OTHER VALUES? OTHER THINGS THAT MOTIVATE?

Power. Everyone wants to be a boss.

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRY TO BE THEIR OWN BOSS IN YOUR GENERATION OR DO YOU THINK...

Entrepreneurs they have, they are always showing on the news like entrepreneurs in (230) or people in (230) making the highest.

There's only like a handful of them. Like them they spotlight them but there is really like ten of them, they spotlight them but there is like a handful of them.

But they're starting younger.

They are definitely starting younger but for every like, I mean for every like ten of those people thousands go out and try and be like them.

I think it might be easier now with the internet. Like somebody made a nutcracker based on Hillary Cracker a month ago and sold millions of them for fifteen bucks a pop just because he set up an Ebay account or something. You could never have done that ten years ago. The guy is a millionaire from a nutcracker that looks like Hillary Clinton.

Or that guy that...

But is her going to keep selling those nutcrackers?

He sure is like for ever.

If he makes enough money he'll be set.

I bought one. No I didn't buy one.

But our generation knows that you can do that and you can make a chunk of money and then if you invest it properly you always have it. Where as before I think previous generations would

make a bunch and then spend it. (Inaudible) He made a ton of money and he was stupid about he spent it so we know more now.

That's true.

A lot of stars did that. Toni Braxton and...

You just know more now.

MODERATOR: A LOT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EIGHTIES AND NINETIES WERE REFERRED TO AS THE "ME" GENERATION. DO YOU THINK THAT PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION ARE LIKE THEM, MORE FOCUSED ON PERSONAL GOALS OR DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CARE MORE THEN THEM ABOUT KIND OF THE GREATER GOOD AND THINGS BEYOND YOURSELVES?

I think for awhile it was more personal and now things are getting more green and people are more conscious of the environment just within the past couple of years. We're not consuming as much or at least trying to recycle. We're a bit more aware.

MODERATOR: DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH WHAT CARRIE IS SAYING ABOUT AN AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AT LEAST?

A little bit yeah.

To a point. I think more people pay it lip service then do they do anything about it. And I don't necessarily think we are completely broken of the "Me" generation yet. I think that people are still, like we talked what about the driving factors is money and success and power. You can't have money and success and power and not be completely self driven and motivated to improve things for yourself, if that is not the case.

People love their names associated with charity but when it comes to like actually participating it's easy to...

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK THAT IS EQUALLY TRUE FOR YOUR GENERATION AS IT IS FOR PREVIOUS GENERATIONS? ARE THERE SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH YOUR GENERATION IS POINTED TOWARD THE GREATER GOOD? WAYS THAT YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION IS KIND OF LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AND LOOKING TO BENEFIT OUTSIDE OF THEIR OWN POCKETBOOKS AND THEIR OWN SITUATION?

I do think so but I do think that this generation is (inaudible) just because of an access of knowledge I think we are striving to be a little smarter and just by going for a greater good, I think they want to be better because they know the standard is rising around them. So if I'm not as smart and caring for people as I am, I've got to set the lead to go do that.

You see a lot of celebrities getting involved like Angelina Jolie and Hayden Panettiere with the dolphins and sometimes it might inspire people to also get active or be aware.

I think common sense is the first step in doing anything and I think our generation is so much more cognizant of things like (inaudible). Where as more people are outraged about (inaudible) then people were even ten years ago with Rwanda. I don't know if people are getting out and doing more but at least people are more aware.

MODERATOR: CASEY WHAT DO YOU THINK? MORE ABOUT PERSONAL OR MORE ABOUT GREATER GOOD?

I mean, I guess this is a generation where we have to be concerned with like the greater good and I was thinking that the whole time we were talking that we haven't done our (phases) and that we are actually sort of responsible for all the things that other people have done. This is the first time I think that, recently seems like the only time that people have said "Oh we're doing something wrong here. What we got going on here this system is not a good thing, it's actually damaging things" you know like the earth and whatnot and then we actually have to do something about it. We can't just sit by and let this continue to happen. So it seems like people are still into themselves. It seems like consumerism is still just like out of control. We've got all this cool new crap, cell phones don't last more then like a year. I think it's us still. We're being pushed that way anyway it seems like industry is getting bad and stuff like that.

MODERATOR: DO YOU GUYS AGREE WITH WHAT CASEY SAID? DO YOU SEE A MOVEMENT THERE, WHETHER VOLUNTARY OR NOT?

It's kind of hard to tell. From one end it's constantly put in your face this whole if you are (inaudible) from a responsibility factor all the things that people have done wrong before us and how we have to make up for them and do the right thing and on the other hand you have people pushing flat screened TVs and computers and cell phones and they are colliding right at the forefront of everything and I'm not really sure if anything is necessarily changing per say. As much good is happening an equal amount of bad is coming in to it as well.

MODERATOR: DO YOU SEE CONSUMERISM AND WORKING TOWARD THE COMMON GOOD AS KIND OF MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE?

Can you explain that.

MODERATOR: WELL HE'S SAYING ON ONE HAND YOU HAVE PRESSURE TO DO GOOD AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND YOU HAVE PEOPLE CONSTANTLY LOOKING TO GET THE NEWEST, THE LATEST, PUSHING THE ENVELOPE IN THAT DIRECTION.

It's a double edged sword. On one hand you have to have, in a country that is as capitalistic as we are in order to maintain growth and everybody make more, they have to buy and on the other hand it is completely at odds with the whole green thing and sustainability is so on one hand you

have to keep people having jobs and people bringing food home and on the other hand what are you going to do about the sustainability factor. So it's kind of six here, half dozen.

MODERATOR: HOW WOULD YOU LABEL THE VALUES AND BELIEFS OF YOUR GENERATION? IF YOU HAD TO USE SPECIFIC WORDS OR PHRASES WHAT WOULD IT BE? WHAT IS IT THAT PEOPLE UNDER THIRTY IN THIS COUNTRY BELIEVE IN?

Independence.

MODERATOR: OKAY WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Take care of yourself, take care of your family. I think it's, and not just on a financial level just be like opinion wise, I believe in this political value, this religious value and I can stand up for myself now I don't need my family. For a lot of us the previous generations maybe really would have relied on their families, family business, family this, families backup plan, Dad for college, Mom for this, I think we are breaking free and taking care of yourself for college finding other means to get on our feet after high school, after wherever, after getting out of the house. I think we are doing it on our own now.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE?

I'm saying this like seriously like so much of young America identifies with like big companies like Yahoo, Google like that is what America, that's what that means to them. Like that's what they identify with. So if you asked them like what that means to them. You know what I mean? That's what they would, like they would say Google, Yahoo whatever they would say something like that, some logo.

MODERATOR: SO DRIVEN BY THIS CORPORATE. WHAT ELSE? WHY DON'T YOU DESCRIBE THE VALUES AND BELIEFS OF YOUR GENERATION?

Am I talking too much? Because I have something to say.

MODERATOR: NO. Spark some conversation.

I think we are back in the "Me" generation because I thought of this. I think everybody wants to be famous right away with like these, you said celebrities five minutes ago and I didn't know either one the three of you were talking about but I'm sure somewhere they are famous.

You don't know Angelina Jolie?

I know Angelina Jolie but Hayden?

Hayden from "Heros"

Like with My Space and Face Book and You Tube there is people at these accounts who are like famous now because they have got a following...

Yeah.

Yeah I was thinking that.

...I think everybody wants a profile and it's crazy how many people are checking it out.

How many friends they have. Competition, like how cool am I.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE? YOU GUYS KEEP COMING BACK TO THE ME AND TO THE SELF.

You know I watch a lot of E News, I love it it's addictive but like the celebrity stuff, everyone is like how to dress like a celebrity, how to be like them because everyone that's image, that notoriety, that fame, that look at me I'm fabulous. So I think we are very like kind of an egotistical generation in that regard.

Like anybody can be famous.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT YOUR VIEWS OF THE REST OF THE WORLD? HOW DO YOU THINK PEOPLE IN YOUR GENERATION VIEW THE REST OF THE WORLD AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD?

We think we're better or things can't happen to us. Because we see like hunger in like Africa and everything and we say that's not going to happen to us but it's happening in the United States, there is people that are starving in here and I think we are blind to a certain extent. We think that we are up here and everyone else is down here.

MODERATOR: THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

Yeah I think Americans in general have this idea that we are the higher culture and everyone else is below us for some reason.

MODERATOR: BUT I AM ASKING ABOUT YOUR GENERATION. AND YOU TALKED ABOUT HOW YOU HAVE DIFFERENT INFORMATION, DIFFERENT ACCESS TO THINGS, DO YOU SEE THE WORLD THE SAME WAY. AND BY THE WORLD I DON'T JUST MEAN THE REST OF THE GLOBE BUT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR, CITY, STATE, COMMUNITY, COUNTRY WHATEVER. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE REST OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF YOUR OWN FRONT DOOR HOW IS IT THAT YOU LOOK AT IT? WHAT ARE THE VALUES AND BELIEFS THAT YOU BRING TO BEAR ON THE REST OF THE WORLD? DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION WANTS TO INTERACT WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. DOES IT VIEW IT POSITIVELY, NEGATIVELY WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR OWN FRONT DOOR?

There is all kinds, there is some people who identify with different cultures, there are some people who are in different, some people who fit in to different extremes, you know what I mean.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE?

I have a friend who is my age and after college she went to Mexico and she helped build a town and she has done a lot of stuff like that just helping and the rest of us we went to college, we went to our jobs and we were just more materialistic. This is someone who actually does view outside of the world and does care and actually does something about it without just saying “Oh look at this” but actually gets out and does it. I think there are not so many in our generation who care enough to actually do.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I think that is pretty valid. I’m not sure if that is necessarily just our generation or if that’s just the way people are. I think that one thing that we do value is the ability to gather information and review outside of our door with at least some amount of interest and I’m not sure whether or not that is really our generation specific but.

MODERATOR: A LOT OF TIMES WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT VIEWS AND YOU GUYS DID THIS EARLIER WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT LIVE TALK RADIOS AND THE MEDIA AND STUFF YOU KNOW WE ALWAYS HERE THINGS DESCRIBED ON KIND OF THIS SCALE FROM LIBERAL TO CONSERVATIVE AND THEY WAY PEOPLE APPROACH THE WORLD, THEY ARE EITHER LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE OR SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS LINE. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN GENERATION DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR BELIEFS KIND OF FIT ON THAT SCALE SOMEWHERE OR CAN THEY NOT REALLY BE CAPTURED BY THAT?

I don’t think you can really take a whole generation and describe their views because I think like money has to do with a lot of it.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

Well if you’re poor you’re more likely to be liberal or like a Democrat and if you’re richer you’re more likely to be Republican. So I think that if you are raised in a rich family you are going to tend to be more conservative regardless of the generation and if you are raised in a poorer family you are going to tend to be more liberal. So I don’t think it’s really generational I think it’s more...

I think it all depends on where you live too. Like (Oliver) State is either described as the red or blue state and if you’re in Texas you’re probably more likely to be conservative because that’s the majority of that state. And every state is different. If you’re from Boston or Massachusetts and everywhere in the country is different. Everybody has different beliefs throughout.

MODERATOR: SO DO YOU THINK THAT THOSE DIFFERENCES ARE LARGER THEN WHAT TIES YOU TOGETHER?

Yeah then I think the generation.

MODERATOR: OKAY SO THOSE THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THEN ALL THE SHARED EXPERIENCES WE TALKED ABOUT?

I don't know because our generation like for people who are gay let's say they have so much more opportunity and there is so much more out there so they, they grew up in more of a conservative household but they're not. Like we don't necessarily follow what are parents where anymore. You know I think our parents did what their parents where.

MODERATOR: BACK TO THE INDEPENDENCE POINT.

I think that's true too. I think it's both true. I think to a point it's changing but I also think that it is always going to basically stay the same and everybody is different but I mean throughout the whole, all of time it has always been like some people who were this way but the majority is like not everybody got married and had kids at our parent's age but the majority did. And I think that is changing a little bit but I think that it is really (inaudible). I mean we live in a big city so we see more of the change but in smaller cities and towns and states it's not the way it is here.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? LIBERAL? CONSERVATIVE? SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN OR NOT REALLY CAPTURED BY THAT?

I think there is a lot of us, a lot of people just still aren't interested in politics.

Yeah like some of us are more into like Lamberghinis and things like that.

MODERATOR: OKAY. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK.

I think like the same thing. I think our generation has to get older before we figure out where we are on that. I feel like right now we are just kind of idling. A lot of people probably don't have good jobs, people don't have families, you know. People are going to be like, some of us will be somebody's mother or father and it's like weird to think about what kind of mother or father that person would be to anybody but someday they will be.

MODERATOR: SO ALONG WITH THIS INDEPENDENCE KIND OF COMES A SENSE THAT THIS STUFF ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GROUNDED WITH KIDS?

No it's just not that cut and dry. I think there is a big gray area even just for politics. We may believe in one thing the Republican party supports but you believe in something else. You know there is no just one or the other.

If we had to choose we're somewhere in the middle.

MODERATOR: WHEN YOU THINK OF CONSERVATIVES DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A LOT IN COMMON WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSERVATIVE? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF CONSERVATIVES?

All the issues that they talk about today, pro choice or the health issues, healthcare...

MODERATOR: BUT SPECIFICALLY ABOUT CONSERVATIVES WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Smaller government, capitalism, strong defense in the military, pro life.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF CONSERVATIVES?

Fox News.

I think you have to differentiate though because the conservative party a lot of people say that the Republican party, a lot of people believe that the Republican party has been hijacked by the extreme right wing. So you have to think what they are saying sounds to me like classic republicanism but then you have the neo cons, that's what they are called who are on Fox News espousing all of these ideologies that are somewhat to an extent not exactly as the Republican party originally meant them to be. A lot of Republicans feel like their party has been hijacked and that they don't necessarily agree with the neo cons. So I think there has to be a differentiation.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE WHAT YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF CONSERVATIVES? DOES ANYBODY HERE CONSIDER THEMSELVES CONSERVATIVES? REGARDLESS OF DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS CONSERVATIVE. A COUPLE OF PEOPLE. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS CONSERVATIVE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? HOW MANY OF YOU DO NOT THINK OF YOURSELVES AS CONSERVATIVE ON THE FLIP SIDE?

I'm pretty much standard on all the issues except for gay rights. Everything that is initiating you know strong defense, small government, tax cuts except for and pro life but I don't get why the Republicans are not for gay marriage and gay, I think it's the last frontier. You know woman's rights, blacks rights, why is gays not included yet? I mean I wish that that wasn't what the Republican party stood for or conservatives stood for because that's the only thing I disagree with.

MODERATOR: HOW DO THE REST OF YOU SEE OR NOT SEE YOURSELVES AS CONSERVATIVES? ANYBODY SEE THEMSELVES AS LIBERAL? HOW SO? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

I don't think, I believe in like the government but I don't think the government has a right to tell you like gay rights are really big for me, like who you can and can't be with as for my partner. I don't think it's fair the country doesn't provide for it's people for healthcare, that's horrible. And I think the frame of speech has really been lost because we're damned if you do and damned if you don't kind of. Like if you speak your mind there is consequences to pay but if you don't then there also are.

MODERATOR: ANOTHER TERM WE HERE A LOT WHEN TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL STUFF IS PROGRESSIVE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU? CAN YOU IDENTIFY WITH THAT ANY MORE OR LESS THEN ANOTHER TERM?

Yeah I think that progressive doesn't really apply to either of the political extremes there, whether conservative or liberal, which are both pretty much set in their ways progressive is kind of like the proverbial point off the line if you will, over there.

MODERATOR: AND YOU IDENTIFY MORE WITH THAT?

Yeah. It doesn't agree with either side for any numerous number of reasons.

I think it's a catch phrase.

I can't say that I'm completely 100% liberal because there is extremes to everything and I think to like label it. I don't know it's such a blanket statement. It's kind of like, this is totally random but like PETA, the organization for animal rights they are so extreme. I am all for animal rights I think it's great but they are so extreme in what they do, that's kind of labeling yourself as one way or the other.

They are like extreme to the point of where like they have celebrity spokespeople, there are like celebrities but they can't endorse other organizations. Like they can't even like be associated with another organization, which is kind of like making other organizations suffer, like making other charitable organizations.

MODERATOR: OKAY. HOW ABOUT PATRIOTIC? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE PATRIOTIC?

(Inaudible).

Pride in your country.

I think the viewpoint of patriotism has changed because I think our generation thinks it more patriotic to question authority because you should always question what you are told. Where as our parent's generation where less likely to question authority. So what was considered patriotic thirty years ago was just to say "We're American, We're the best" yada, yada and automatically

whatever the government says you automatically believed it. That was patriotic thirty years ago maybe but today it's not thought of in the same way.

MODERATOR: OKAY SO NOW PATRIOTIC IS TO QUESTION THE COUNTRY AND QUESTION THE WAY THAT IT IS GOING. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I think in the older generations men would sign up for war willingly, they wanted to do that and our generation, they don't have the desire to want to go and fight.

Fight for your generation.

But there were good reasons to fight. Well there are good reasons to fight but we're not involved in them. I think that's one of the big things too. You talk about World War II there was a reason to go over there and risk your life. It's not necessarily a reason to go to Vietnam and risk your life or a reason to go to Iraq and risk your life.

But they still have a lot of military now. There is no draft.

There is but there is not a need for one either. These aren't big enough events to warrant them.

Right but are you saying that people who are signing up for the military don't want to.

No not at all but I think a lot of people maybe did sign up for the college and everything, you know not for the right reasons thinking we're not ever going to have a war, not everybody of course. I read books and things about the older generations and these men and even just the movies these men want to go. I just don't feel like.

I agree. It's definitely (inaudible) now. A lot of people I know say they are going for the college.

You also have to look at the psychology of recruitment for the Army and for the military in general because they generally seek less privileged people who will have a harder time paying for college and they make the military look very appealing to them if they are stuck in a situation. So you have to look at the psychology of why these people pick to join the military.

MODERATOR: LET'S SHIFT GEARS A LITTLE. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY. HOW DO YOU VIEW THE OVERALL LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY? POLITICAL LEADERSHIP? CORPORATE LEADERSHIP? ALL THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY?

I just think the war is self interest or the (inaudible) is self interest.

MODERATOR: YOU THINK LEADERSHIP IS BEING DRIVEN BY SELF INTEREST AND NOT BY THE GREATER GOOD? WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Greedy.

MODERATOR: WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

Well corporate I can say they just keep raising the prices of everything. It's kind of monopolized market like Con Edison and certain companies we almost have no choice but to use them.

Time Warner.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY?

Well we're led by an oil tanker. It like makes the country still use oil even though we have other resources not to and that is why we are over fighting a war is for oil.

How I feel about our leadership.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU THINK OUR COUNTRY IS WELL SERVED BY THE LEADERS THAT WE HAVE TODAY?

No.

Not at all.

MODERATOR: WHY NOT?

I don't know it's a struggle for me to, I'm just coming off of my parents points of views, which were ultra conservative so I don't know how I feel about it yet.

MODERATOR: CASEY WHAT DO YOU THINK?

About leadership or?

MODERATOR: ARE WE WELL SERVED BY OUR LEADERS?

I don't really think so. I mean maybe they are doing a good job for people in America but I think there are more things to take into consideration.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE ON OUR LEADERSHIP TODAY?

It's poor.

MODERATOR: WHY?

Well we are, the problem I see is that people are out for the immediate gains and the immediate progress with not really having the foresight to look down the road to see what's around the corner. I think that leaders have to be strong people who are able to see the long picture and the big picture, what they're going to have to do to make things livable for the entire population. You know 50, 100, 200 years down the line and that is kind of what we are lacking right now.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Scary.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

Because we don't really know where anything is going and it keeps changing and the leaders keep changing. Somebody may go in with plan but somebody else takes over and he may have a whole different plan and it can take all these years just to change it over.

It's also scary because I feel like our lives are partly in the hands of these leaders so they have strained relations with another country just like 9-11 they can attack all of us. I think in a way that's scary because they don't want to keep peace or certain countries will come after the people.

MODERATOR: SO YOU THINK WE ARE KIND OF SUFFERING FOR THE SINS OF OUR...

I think Bush is just in it for himself. I think he doesn't care about the good of the people and that's the reason I think we had 9-11.

MODERATOR: BEN WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE OVERALL LEVEL OF LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY?

I think there is a unifying of people out there that get people on the same level, say Oprah people can turn on the TV and be like, that's a woman I believe in and she is very strong, she's defiant, people can say you know what dammit I agree with that. She is a strong leader because she has got such a following just by the definition of it. Millions of viewers turn her on every day.

MODERATOR: OTHER THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY? WHEN YOU LOOK AT GOVERNMENT AND AT LARGE BUSINESSES AND LARGE ORGANIZATIONS AND STUFF, KIND OF MAJOR INSTITUTIONS IN OUR SOCIETY, ARE THEY PROVIDING THE LEADERSHIP AND THE STRUCTURE AND WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM THEM?

I think like in previous Presidencies there was 100% more support like for JFK, everybody loved JFK and like there is always a dividing line somewhere in the last 20-30 years of Presidents, nobody is like "Oh god I love our President" either side left or right. There is always a dividing factor you know, what the hell.

(Inaudible).

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

If he is your President and he is leading your country and you love your country then you put all your trust in him and you don't do that anymore. You just did back then I think.

I don't think it makes you less patriotic just because you agree with everything this President did or the last President did.

But I think that they were really strong.

I think the distrust is a good thing. I think that (inaudible) is completely, absolutely, positively necessary and that every once in a while you have these great unifying leaders but for the most part those people are one in a billion and they are not going to come along every four years as much as we hope so.

They get assassinated.

Well no one is going to agree on everything. You can't have one President that everyone is going to be like (inaudible). That's impossible.

MODERATOR: WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE OVERALL POLITICAL ISSUE, NOT JUST PRESIDENT BUSH BUT BUSH AND CONGRESS AND THE CABINET ALL THE WAY DOWN TO YOUR STATE AND TO YOUR LOCAL DO YOU THINK THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY IS STRONG TODAY.

No.

No.

MODERATOR: WHY NOT?

To invested in it being a career forum rather than public service.

It's not because true leadership because leaders value their constituency more than their own interests and I don't think we have very many people like that in our congress.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

I think we might be too polarized like too many people, Republicans not agreeing with too many Democrats on specific issues instead of coming to an agreement it's so divided. It's hard to get a lot done. 60% or 66%, two-thirds, half whatever. And it's hard to agree with because people are so here instead of, it's hard to get a lot done.

There is not a lot of compromise.

I think that's a problem with politics. Like the leaders are not necessarily the people that live in this country. I think if you put any ten people in a room to work out an issue and more than likely they are going to come to some sort of reasonable compromise but with politicians who have vested interests in getting reelected and getting their projects pushed through and everything. It's not going to happen because they have too much at stake. While you put regular people in a room and I think people are pretty much in that center area and are able to come to compromises but the leadership just isn't there and they are not seeing the aspect of it so they are saying everything is polarized. We're conservative or we're liberal and you can't be either or and that is the end of it. You have to stick to party lines. I think that is a big problem with our politicians.

MODERATOR: JENNA SAID THAT GOOD LEADERS WILL REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF OTHER PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE LEADING RATHER THAN THEIR OWN SELF INTERESTS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT AS A DEFINITION OF WHAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR OUT OF LEADERS?

Yeah.

MODERATOR: IS THERE ANYONE YOU WOULD LOOK AT AND SEE THAT THEY ARE DOING THAT?

I guess Bloomberg has done an all right job of it fairly recently not necessarily at first but in the past year or so. He's done a little bit better than most other people.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE? ANYONE OUTSIDE OF POLITICS THAT YOU LOOK AT AND SEE THEM AS AN EFFECTIVE LEADER?

Oprah.

Oprah.

Al Gore.

The whole environmental thing. He's trying to educate people about that.

MODERATOR: ANY OTHER EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY? SO IF BY AND LARGE YOU SEE OUR CURRENT LEADERS AS FAILING US AND NOT DOING WHAT THEY NEED TO DO TO KEEP US MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND TO ADVANCE THINGS, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

We need to try to change things.

MODERATOR: HOW?

By voting.

Getting more people in our generation to vote.

MODERATOR: DO YOU FEEL THAT WHEN YOU ARE VOTING YOU HAVE A LEGITIMATE CHOICE BETWEEN SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO TAKE YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO TAKE YOU IN THE WRONG DIRECTION? OR IS IT TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO TAKE YOU IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

Sometimes you just vote against, you're like you don't want this person so vote for the other one.

(Inaudible).

Sometimes you vote for the lesser of two evils.

I don't think you're going to get anyone who is perfect but at least if you vote for someone who has one or two issues that you believe in that will change for the better at least it's a step in the right direction.

I think next year will be a good year for actually finding the best leader for us because there is not an incumbent so it's like there is nobody coming from who has already been in the White House unless they have changed running and I'm pretty sure (inaudible). So whoever honestly is the best person anywhere out there is going to have the chance to see it. (Inaudible) it's going to be like the most open election because each one of these candidates is going to be seen on YouTube and anyone of use can go there and see how they feel, what they believe, everybody has a web page. So you can go okay they believe that, they believe that and it's going to be the most well organized and knowledgeable vote that the people who do vote will have. So the best one will actually because of the accessible knowledge.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

I agree. I think it's going to be interesting because depending on who it comes down to, we have a black man and a white woman vying for the Democratic ballot. I am really proud to be a part of the generation that, that is even an option. I think that's amazing.

(End of Side One).

...as it gets closer what happens.

MODERATOR: WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU DO YOU SEE A POTENTIAL FOR A CHANGE FROM THE FAILED LEADERSHIP THAT IS OUT THERE NOW?

I think in the past it's been all these older, white men and it's been repetitive. Now it's good. Like Carrie said, it's a woman, a younger black man and something that we have never seen before so maybe our country is going in the right direction.

Well I'm not saying that I agree but like the (inaudible) that is out now. Where did that come from. We decided that the failed leadership that is out there now? When did we come to that conclusion?

MODERATOR: MOST OF US AGREED EARLIER THAT YOU SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE COUNTRY WASN'T GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THERE WASN'T A LOT OF STRONG OPTIONS OUT THERE ASIDE FROM OPRAH.

Yeah I forgot that.

MODERATOR: AT LEAST IN THIS ROOM UNLESS ANYBODY ELSE OBJECTS TO IT.

I think we're doing okay too. I don't think we're failing that bad. I think the country is doing all right now and it's only going to get better. So we don't have the best leaders but we're doing okay on our own. I think so. I don't think it's the failure of leadership that's why anybody is failing. I think it's a personal thing or something that they can control

I think any body who, after September 11th, I don't know of any President who really could have pulled us out. I think any President who we elected the last time or the last two times would have had a hell of a time and I'm not sure that anybody would have been better. It could have been worse. I don't know.

And with popularity because of the situation.

Yeah.

MODERATOR: SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT YOU GUYS MENTIONED WAS GETTING MORE PEOPLE TO VOTE. HOW WOULD PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION WHO ARE NOW COMING TO THE AGE WHERE THEY CAN VOTE AND CAN BE ENGAGED IN THESE THINGS. HOW DO YOU THINK THAT THEY WOULD LEAD DIFFERENTLY? HOW DO YOU THINK IF YOU GUYS WERE IN A POSITION TO LEAD HOW WOULD IT BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE HAVE TODAY?

Give them stuff.

You mean somebody of our age?

MODERATOR: YEAH. WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT PRESIDENT BUT LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE BOARD. IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, THE WORKPLACE, IN ALL THE DIFFERENT PLACES.

Maybe this is just me because I've gone and volunteered in a village in Guatemala and I have lots of friends who do stuff like that who are seeking to serve others instead of serving their own interests so I have some semblance of hope in our generation because of this.

I know a lot of people my age, like after the graduated college, went to like Peace Corp or something along those lines. So I don't think it's dead it's just like maybe our parent's generations there were missionaries and that kind of thing so this is maybe just an evolution of that.

MODERATOR: BUT HOW WOULD YOUR GENERATION DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY DO YOU THINK IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE?

I think we would elect Paris Hilton.

Or Oprah.

I don't think that our generation is equipped to be in any kind of political office.

At least not yet.

Yeah not yet.

Give us a few years.

Get some experience. Seen it all.

I think it's okay for (inaudible).

Yeah.

I think people of our generation do very well.

MODERATOR: OKAY. WHAT I'M GOING TO DO NOW IS. TAKE ONE OF THOSE AND PASS IT DOWN. WHAT I WANT TO DO NOW IS TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES THAT WE ARE FACING RIGHT NOW. SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT ARE OUT THERE, SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE. THERE IS A PLACE IN UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER FOR YOUR NAME, JUST PUT YOUR FIRST NAME. JUST LOOKING AT HANDOUT NUMBER ONE RIGHT NOW I WANT YOU TO READ THROUGH A LIST OF TEN ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY TODAY AND I WANT YOU TO RANK ORDER THEM IN TERMS OF THE IMPORTANCE AND THE URGENCY OF ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES. SO NUMBER ONE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT, THE MOST URGENT, NUMBER TEN WOULD BE THE LEAST IMPORTANT AND THE LEAST URGENT OUT OF THE TEN LISTED HERE. SO READ THROUGH THE LIST AND PUT THEM IN ORDER ONE THROUGH TEN. TELL ME WHAT YOUR TOP THREE WERE.

Declining quality, rising inequality and America's public education system. Two is the rising cost of healthcare and growing number of uninsured. And three is J.

I had G, E and then C.

F, G, C.

A, C, J.

C, A, E.

G, C and F.

I, B and H.

C, B, A.

C, A, D.

C, A, D.

MODERATOR: SO NINE OF THE TEN OF YOU WENT TO HEALTHCARE AS ONE ON YOUR CHOICES. WHY DOES THAT EMERGE AS SUCH A BIG PRIORITY FOR YOU GUYS?

It's important.

Because I have none.

MODERATOR: OF ALL THE ISSUES HERE WHY IS THAT SUCH A HIGH PRIORITY FOR YOU GUYS?

Because we're not going to live long enough to work on anything else if we don't have better healthcare to take care of us.

I think because I see my parent's generation and people in their age group, people who are blue collar workers or they don't have healthcare now and I see it, it's in my life so it's important to me.

Because the cost of getting your own healthcare is so tremendous if your employer doesn't offer it to you or if you are self employed. It is so crazy to afford healthcare on your own.

You can't afford it. I was paying 750 a month because I'm an independent, I'm not with a group. So I have no choice but to not be insured. And if something happens they can take everything

from me. Like if I get cancer I'm pretty much going to have to die. Because chemo is like hundreds of thousands of dollars. And it's ridiculous they are making money off of people suffering.

It's a shame that hardworking people and it's like if you don't work and you're on welfare you get Medicare and whatever else.

What is the alternative?

Some sort of socialized healthcare. Something and then if people, how they do in Europe, my sister lived in London for a long time and you can pay for your own doctor if you want but there is something there for you. Like if you get in a car accident you're not going to be 50,000 dollars in debt for an ambulance ride and an x-ray. Like just something, like a basis. And you can pay for specialized doctors, whatever but the government needs to provide for its people for something.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING DONE AND EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE SOME MINIMAL LEVEL?

Yeah the only think is I really like, want to make sure that like, I like, America like stays away from early (inaudible) country that doesn't have socialized medicine just cause like, just because it's like really, it really works well I know like in certain small Scandinavian countries but like in larger countries and stuff it just like doesn't seem like it could work.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE ON HEALTHCARE AND WHY IT'S SUCH A PRIORITY.

Our generation is going to be soon paying for the baby boomers because they are all getting older now so I think what is happening with them I think it is important for us to make sure they are taken care of and people in their forties and fifties because if not all of our money and all of our taxes is going to go straight towards them so I think it is important to keep them healthy.

MODERATOR: OKAY. A AMERICA HAS BEEN IN SOME FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS LIKE COAL AND NATURAL GAS. WHY IS THAT SUCH A BIG ISSUE FOR YOU GUYS?

Because it's so directly intertwined with America's foreign policy. America's foreign policy is completely focused on getting George Bush oil. And it doesn't matter that Saudi Arabia who he is in bed with have no rights for their women because they give them, it's really important for us to be able to sustain a little honor because then we can have a just foreign policy, which isn't as oriented toward oil.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE ON FOSSIL FUELS, OIL, OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL? WHY DID YOU PICK THAT ONE?

Because I don't think we would be at war anymore if that wasn't an issue.

MODERATOR: MIKE WHY DID YOU PICK THAT ONE?

I think Janet pretty much nailed it.

MODERATOR: Let's talk about the influence of lobbyists and special interests. One person picked that as number one. Who was that and why?

Everything else stems from that. Oil is, that's a special interest you're talking about. Our President is an oil guy. You talk about healthcare and all the HMOs are donating all the money in helping out with the campaigns and that is another instance where it is just basically all under the big umbrella of who is paying for the government to run their campaigns and who is catering to which company and which special interest and most of the other problems kind of stem from that.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

I agree with that. It's all about money.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT THE DEBT? IT DIDN'T RANK ANY HIGHER THEN THIRD FOR ANYONE AND MOST OF YOU DIDN'T PICK IT AS ONE OF YOUR TOP THREE. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE DEBT? IS IT A BIG IMMEDIATE CONCERN OR IS IT NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE OTHER ONES?

I had it as number three. It's important.

I had it as number three as well because I feel like if we had more money then we could fix our education system, which is obviously in shambles and then if we weren't wasting money elsewhere if we were using our money more efficiently then we could undertake projects such as socialized healthcare, which would take care of our people instead of wasting billions of dollars on projects that aren't fruitful.

MODERATOR: OKAY OTHER PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEBT OR NOT CONCERNED?

Yes.

MODERATOR: ANDREA WHY?

I have it somewhere in the middle. Of course I'm concerned but I think a lot of it has to do with who are our leaders. I just think it can be improved with certain actions. I think it is an issue that can be worked on.

MODERATOR: DAN WHY DO YOU SAY YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT?

I mean on one hand it is very troubling that there is just a massive national debt because like she said before you can't pay for healthcare. You can't pay for social services unless you have the money to do so and it needs to be fixed pretty quickly. You can't keep on accumulating this type of debt at this rapid rate without some serious consequences coming behind it. I think it's all right for short term type of projects or whatever the case may be but it's really important that does get fixed.

MODERATOR: WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

The consequences are that you won't have any money to pay back those debts after a while if you keep on accumulating them. If you run a constant debt it's one thing but to have exponential increases in the debt constantly the money has got to come from somewhere to pay it off. If you just print more money inflation goes up, the economy starts doing worse and it just compiles it.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE?

If we focus on socialized healthcare don't you think that is going to also increase the debt?

I don't think the answer is necessarily a full socialized healthcare system. You just have to guarantee that people who can't afford to take care of themselves have some sort of basic right in terms of what they are guaranteed.

Absolutely. But where should the money come from?

Well the money has to come from somewhere. We can stop fighting wars, we can stop putting billions of dollars every week into wars we don't have to be in to, we can work on bringing the economy back in the US to where we are doing more manufacturing and selling of domestic goods, we can rely on national energy interests. The list goes on and on about what we can do to stop spending money and to put a stop to it and finally start making money again as a country. I mean we have done it before pretty easily. Within eight years you get it done once and it can be reversed completely in the next eight years. I think the next couple of terms it needs to be a big thing to get the debt back down and start being profitable again.

We outsource so much too because it's cheaper to make things outside of the country and then ship it in like if we instead kept everything in our company we would be richer, people would be making more money. We wouldn't be having to go outside of it? Another thing about healthcare too I have never had a fire but I pay for the fire department in my taxes, right? I don't have to call the police but I pay for the police in my taxes. And maybe I'll never need to use the healthcare but I feel like it should be something that is a right. You shouldn't have to pay more for a service like that.

And employers should probably be required to maintain some sort of basic healthcare. Like you said the government isn't footing the entire portion of the bill industry has to take responsibility

as well for it. We need to take care of the people in this country who can't provide for themselves.

The think about socialized medicine if you look at other countries that have it you have to look at their situation and see if you really want to have a similar, one impossibly have a similar situation like that here.

Similar situation...

MODERATOR: WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT HEALTHCARE IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL IN A LITTLE BIT. LOOK AT ALL THESE ISSUES HERE AND OTHER ONES THAT MAYBE YOU THINK ARE MISSING. DO YOU SEE US MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ON ANY OF THESE? DO YOU THINK THE COUNTRY IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND GETTING CLOSER TO DEALING WITH ANY OF THESE?

As far as the oil and gas prices just keep rising. It keeps going up, I don't know if it's going in the right direction.

No that's not the right direction.

We are also as Americans buying bigger cars, we're consuming more.

I have a small car but it's still just the prices going up.

MODERATOR: ANY OF THESE THREE PROGRESS BEING MADE?

Gas prices go down usually?

No but they have jumped, if you look at...

Just recently in the summer I believe it was under three dollars and now it's like 3.50...

We still have it cheap.

They don't really go down.

MODERATOR: SO ANY OF THESE WERE YOU SEE THINGS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

I think we are less threatened by terrorism because nobody like the war but we have not been attacked since we have gone over there and we have stopped hundreds of attempts of attacks on our country.

It is just neutral.

I would rather be neutral than another attack.

I have to respectfully disagree completely. I'm Arab, I think that gives me some kind of gauge on how people view America. People in America, I'm not saying this about you but a lot of people in America, it is terrifying to me because like I was at bible study a few weeks ago and this woman just started bashing Muslims. People are so afraid of Muslims, of anybody who is brown, of anybody who has anything mildly ethnic in them. And I think this only leads to more terrorism. Yes we have thwarted attempts but at the same time hatred is growing because people are so frustrated by how America views them. There are so many people if you go to other countries. I mean look at all the protests, look at all the Death to America chants in Iran and so many places where they would have never happened before. Even in like Palistan this is very surprising and it should be very scary because I don't think we should be a country, that is supposed to be the morale background of the world, we are the biggest economy. America has always been the morale kind of court of the world but we have gone to a point where we are vilifying an entire group, how many Muslims in the world? Billions. And we have vilified an entire people and people are so scared of them. The more we grow in fear then this gives more root to terrorism.

MODERATOR: OKAY. OTHER PEOPLE ON WHETHER WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS OR NOT ON TERRORISM?

You said the morale backbone, weren't we just saying how Americans always say like we are the best or whatever, like the morale, how Americans have that idea of themselves. I just wanted to point that out.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE?

I think we are more aware with terrorism, even just ourselves. (Inaudible) make a phone call. I think individual people, we don't walk around like this could never happen to us like we used to think.

Like when security got tight.

But don't you think we live in a culture of fear?

Yeah and the government is trying to scare us. They want us to be scared.

The media.

They want, everything is so intertwined in this culture of fear.

MODERATOR: IS IT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES?

Some of them.

MODERATOR: HOW SO? ARE THERE SPECIFIC ONES THAT YOU THINK ARE UNIQUE TO GOVERNMENT OR DO YOU THINK THERE ONES WERE GOVERNMENT ISN'T THE ANSWER AND WE NEED TO FIND OTHER SOLUTIONS?

Well what makes us the, what is so great about us that we are the backbone?

That is what America has so long been respected for until so recently.

MODERATOR: ON THE QUESTION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I think it needs to be a mix of government and industry. They need to work hand in hand with each other to find best solutions to things where like even the healthcare thing where the industry takes the leading focus and says it's our responsibility to provide healthcare for every worker who works in our factories and our offices and the government says all right and in the cases where someone has had to work or someone or someone can't afford the healthcare we have to make something work for the rest of those people. And I think that we have to make something make for the rest of those people and I think they really have to work hand in hand and I don't think anything is mutually exclusive except for maybe the influence of lobbyist and the government needs to stop operating under them and start operating under the people who actually vote for them and live in this country.

I agree with that.

MODERATOR: SO GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS WORKING TOGETHER. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE EQUATION OR IS IT LARGELY A FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS ADDRESSING THESE?

Like maybe instead of social medicine the government may be like forcing large companies to make them offer their, so I like that idea...

MODERATOR: THAT'S LIKE WHAT DAN WAS SAYING.

...the government, I like the idea of the government making companies offer.

I think they have to kind of pave the way. They can't solve these problems themselves. They're our leaders, they have to kind of point us in the right direction. You know kind of negotiate for us or something.

I think the government should regulate them. So many of these things, obviously business is so important that obviously the industry has to be involved but I think the government needs to regulate things but if not industry is just going to take advantage of people.

MODERATOR: SO WHY ISN'T THIS HAPPENING NOW? WHY DON'T WE SEE, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IS GROWING, IT'S NOT GOING DOWN. THE COST OF OIL IS GOING UP, IT'S NOT GOING DOWN. ALL THESE PROBLEMS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT YOU GUYS SEEM TO THINK THAT MOST OF THEM ARE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. WHY DON'T WE HAVE THE LEADERSHIP? WHY AREN'T THINGS CHANGING? WHY ARE THINGS GETTING WORSE RATHER THEN GETTING BETTER?

People who are making the money continue to give money to those candidates to help run their elections and help get them into office and as long as that keeps on happening that's always going to be the case.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Recession right now I guess.

MODERATOR: THE ECONOMIC RECESSION. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? WHY ARE THINGS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

Because the rich are getting richer.

MODERATOR: HOW DO YOU REVERSE COURTS? HOW DO YOU GET THINGS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? DAN SAYS MAKE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE WHO ELECTED THEM RATHER THEN THE LOBBYISTS AND THE SPECIAL INTERESTS. HOW DO YOU GET COMPANIES TO START OFFERING MORE PEOPLE...

Well (inaudible) like it's just kind of flat.

How are we like in an economic boom? Isn't this like...

No. Like mortgage rates and everything are horrible. People are losing jobs.

Housing yeah but isn't spending not really that big right now, like Christmas?

Yeah like Black Friday was horrible. Stores expected to make so much money and I think they made like one-third of what they were expecting. So the economic mindset is not very good right now.

Considering competence is down.

MODERATOR: LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES. LET'S START WITH HEALTHCARE. IT'S A BIG ONE FOR YOU GUYS. WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS. COSTS ARE GOING ON, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, EMPLOYERS ARE OFFERING LESS COVERAGE, THERE IS MORE UNINSURED PEOPLE THEN EVER. AT

THE SAME TIME ONE OF THE THINGS WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT IS THAT WE ARE SEEING RAPID INCREASES IN OBESITY, IN CHRONIC DISEASE, ASTHMA, DIABETES, A WHOLE RANGE OF THINGS. FLIP TO HANDOUT TWO AND THERE IS A STATEMENT HERE ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE AND KIND OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. I JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU THINK OF IT. READ ALONG. I'LL READ IT ALOUD AND JUST KIND OF MARK OR UNDERLINE ANYTHING THAT JUMPS OUT AT YOU AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT. "EACH NEW GENERATION IS SUFFERING AN EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC PREVENTABLE DISEASES DUE TO A POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT, A LACK OF BASIC HEALTHCARE AND THE POISONS WE FEED THEM EVERY DAY. EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS OR INCOME SHOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND PROPER NUTRITION. PARENTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE IMPACT OF PREVENTIVE CARE AND PROPER NOURISHMENT WILL HAVE ON A CHILD. IF WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE MONEY ON HEALTHCARE WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF THIS CRISIS IT WILL ONLY WEAKEN OUR ECONOMY AND CONDEMN MILLIONS MORE CHILDREN TO SUFFERING AND DISEASE." WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT STATEMENT?

I think it's pretty on point.

In certain ways it is.

I'm glad it (inaudible) healthcare because I am into like alternative medicine and (inaudible) and that focuses on prevention. Where as in America because people don't have healthcare early on or because people go through times of having no healthcare and because of the way the healthcare system industry works in America we don't focus on preventative medicine we focus completely on healing something after the symptoms have gotten to a point where you can't stand it anymore.

I really like the sentence about the parents. I think that is something that is really missing. People taking responsibility for themselves and their family and addressing that.

Parents, I'm sorry I work on a plane and I see parents and kids and I used to want children and I just don't anymore. I encounter so many terrible parents and it's really sad who they just let their kids run rampant and they have no discipline over children any more. I really feel like there should be a mandatory class for parents.

I'm trying to decide where it's swinging, which way it's swinging, left wing or right wing or any bias at all because it's confusing.

MODERATOR: DOES IT HAVE TO GO ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?

I'm getting there. We continue to spend more and more money on healthcare, so where were we spending money on healthcare? I think we are arguing about whether we are not spending enough money on healthcare for people. Are you saying as long as the consumer as long as we

are spending more money on healthcare instead of getting a better solution or is the government spending more money on healthcare.

MODERATOR: OVERALL HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURES IN OUR COUNTRY FROM GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, INDIVIDUAL HAVE MORE THEN DOUBLED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. AS A PERCENTAGE OF OUR GEP IT'S GONE FROM 7% TO 16%.

I mean I just think it's a very accurate description of a lack of responsibility that a lot of parents don't take or lack of responsibility.

Well we're the McDonald's generation. Like the parents are just feeding their kids fast food and I used to eat dinner with my family every night and I know that doesn't happen any more because both parents are working and they just give their kid like a TV dinner. Its' easier to feed them something quick or junk and yeah our kids are getting fatter and they are getting diabetes and it's like one thing leads to another.

MODERATOR: THIS IS PRETTY STRONG LANGUAGE IT SAYS WE ARE SUFFERING AN EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC PREVENTABLE DISEASES. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

I think the key word here is preventable. I don't think completely that everything is preventable but we could probably decrease a lot of these problems going on with healthcare when children get sick and everything just like Kelly said with the McDonald's and everything. When I was younger we couldn't drink soda, just little things and now kids teeth are getting rotted. Just little things.

I think we have been suffering an epidemic since like I was a little kid. I was born in the eighties and I remember my mom saying that when I was in nursery school there were kids with rotten teeth because their moms gave them like apple juice and you're not supposed to give little kids like really strong juice because it rots their teeth. There are parents just giving their kids they are not supposed to like parents giving their kids soda. There ae irresponsible parents and there have been irresponsible parents, plenty of them for...

Well of course how great if your parent would give you apple juice now instead they're like here have a Coke.

Yeah but my mom said she saw parents giving their kids Cokes, plenty of them when I was little.

The kids are drinking not as like their main source of water.

MODERATOR: ON THIS ISSUE, THE LAST SENTENCE IF WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE MONEY ON HEALTHCARE, BASICALLY DEALING WITH THE SYMPTOMS RATHER THEN GOING TO THE CAUSES THAT WE ARE JUST GOING TO CONTINUE TO GO FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO THE CYCLE WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO COVER PEOPLE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT

PREMISE? DO YOU AGREE THAT THE IDEA IS TO DEAL WITH THE CAUSES RATHER THEN?

Yeah.

Yes.

Yes and no. You have to do both and I think the emphasis has to be placed on you have to treat the people who are too far gone and at the same time you still have to work at kicking everybody in the rear end and getting in them in line and getting them to change some things.

Companies do, as far as preventive, insurance companies do give you a major break if you are a nonsmoker, if you're health and get a physical a year and whatever.

Yeah but has a woman when I did have healthcare they wouldn't cover my birth control but they would cover pregnancy.

Some do.

Like maternity leave?

No all the expenses of a pregnancy they cover that but they won't pay for the birth control.

MODERATOR: IT SAYS EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA SHOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND PROPER NUTRITION. PARENTS HAVE TO BE TAUGHT THE IMPACT OF THESE THINGS. HOW DO YOU DO THAT? WHO DO YOU ACCOMPLISH THAT? WHAT'S THE VEHICLE?

At my job lately the past couple of years they have started these seminars and nutrition seminars and they are directed towards parents and just people and they have been going on this big health kick because they don't want anybody to get sick, call in sick but people who are parents can pick up tips and learn stuff.

MODERATOR: SO THROUGH THE WORKPLACE. WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS THAT YOU ACCOMPLISH THESE THINGS?

Through school if your child is enrolled in school. There should be like especially in elementary school doctors that can like, through your school and I think definitely a psychiatrist and mental help for children because more and more we're seeing like mentally ill kids going on rampages in schools and stuff and I think that there should be as far as healthcare also some kind of mental care for our children too.

MODERATOR: LET ME MAKE THIS MORE PERSONAL TO YOU GUYS. HOW CAN YOUR GENERATION IN PARTICULAR DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS STUFF? IF THE

CURRENT LEADERS ONLY SEE THINGS GETTING WORSE, HOW CAN YOUR GENERATION DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Vote somebody in...

People need to not necessarily look to their leaders for everything and look to themselves for a lot of the answers. I mean you know you can keep your kid from becoming obese if you stop feeding him Tang for breakfast and make him walk or ride his bike to school instead of driving him the half mile you go.

MODERATOR: TAKING ACTION IN YOUR OWN LIVES, YOUR OWN FAMILY, YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD.

It's situational. But still.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE CAN PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO MAKE THIS A REALITY?

I see a lot of people in my generation getting jobs, a lot of the guys are going for jobs with pension. I think they just see things with their parents and they want to make sure that they are covered for their lives. They are taking their future accordingly.

Pension?

MODERATOR: OTHER THINGS THAT PEOPLE IN YOUR GENERATION CAN DO?

What's pension?

I think that a lot of us are more focusing on exercise then ever before. Slowly but surely each one of us has read a health magazine article, signed up for a gym or something to realize that this is serious. There is not that many people who are 90-year-old and 200 pounds overweight. It's in our face, get in shape our die.

MODERATOR: LET'S LOOK AT ANOTHER ISSUE. HANDOUT THREE. THIS ONE IS MORE ABOUT ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THOSE ISSUES THAT YOU GUYS ALSO IDENTIFIED AS A TOP PRIORITY. "OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. THAT IS WHY WE MUST LAUNCH A MASSIVE CONCERTED NATIONAL EFFORT SIMILAR TO THE APOLLO PROGRAM THAT PUT A MAN ON THE MOON WITH THE GOAL OF MOVING AMERICA BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS AND INVENTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY BASED ON NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS HYDROGEN OR FUSION. THIS PLAN WOULD REQUIRE A HUGE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BUT WOULD PRODUCE MILLIONS OF NEW JOBS, DRAMATICALLY REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

AND FREE US OF OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL THAT SUBSIDIZES REGIMES AND SUPPORTS THE TERRORISTS WHO ARE TARGETING US”.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT STATEMENT?

That’s good.

Pretty much.

You got it right there.

MODERATOR: WHAT STANDS OUT?

Reducing dependence on oil and fossil fuels, large civic project where we spend tons of money create jobs and improve the quality of life for everybody.

Producing jobs, just people here in America.

I heard there are oil reserves up in Alaska that we are trying to get into but for some reason we’re not tapping them.

Well there would be like a big impact on the environment there. Plus we need to just get off of oil. It’s not going to be there forever. There is a limited supply. We need to, and that’s another thing about our generation is we only look a foot in front of our face. We don’t say eventually we are going to have to find a renewable resource anyway let’s do it now, it’s better for the environment, it creates more jobs.

Isn’t there like synthetic or something. I don’t know how great that idea is.

MODERATOR: THIS IS SAYING, ECHOING WHAT CARRIE IS SAYING WE HAVE TO GET TO THE NEXT GENERATION. WE ARE BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS AND GET TO THE NEXT GENERATION, WHICH WOULD BE THINGS SUCH AS HYDROGEN OR FUSION.

You mean like synthetic?

MODERATOR: IS THAT REALISTIC? IS THAT WHAT THE NEXT GENERATION IS? IS THAT WERE THE SOLUTION IS?

Yeah.

We need to start the change now.

Yeah. It’s like if you see a problem why are you just going to be like well we’ll worry about that in fifty years when it’s a huge problem versus now when it’s just kind of a huge problem.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

We shouldn't procrastinate. We should do it now.

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS AN ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCE IF AMERICA IS NOT THE COUNTRY THAT COMES UP WITH WHATEVER THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY IS?

Yes.

We'll be dependent on them.

And in terms of our production and how much money we actually make as a country to countries like China who are rapidly and if we don't start working on spearheading the next new technology and with technology if we really pushed the forefront of the online interactive in this country and it really did a lot for the economy and if we don't do the same with energy the consequences could be very poor.

Isn't the next to come up with like in what aspect? Like the next type of energy for, like what type energy to do what with?

MODERATOR: THIS IS TALKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT FOSSIL FUELS DO SO HEATING YOUR HOME, DRIVING CARS, YOU KNOW ALL THE DIFFERENT USES THAT WE HAVE FOR ENERGY IN THIS COUNTRY. AGAIN WHAT CAN YOUR GENERATION DO ABOUT THIS?

Hybrids.

Stop driving. Take public transportation.

Green energy.

Electric cars.

Tax people who do use cars when public transport options are available.

No.

Yes.

Electric cars are those good?

Well you can buy green energy in New York. You don't have to use any fossil fuels for your house or apartment or whatever you have. Do that kind of thing.

MODERATOR: IS THERE ANYTHING BEYOND KIND OF INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER DECISIONS? IS THERE ANYTHING LARGER THAT YOU CAN DO?

Can we write letters to the government?

Why don't you just like call?

MODERATOR: ARE THERE FURTHER STEPS THAT YOU CAN TAKE?

Well like a dramatic thing would be if everyone protested and how they always send out those e-mails like don't buy gas on this day. Something like that. We are all going to turn our lights and heat off. I'm doing that right now.

MODERATOR: DOES THAT KIND OF STUFF WORK?

I don't know.

It's a temporary thing.

Not everyone does it.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Support people who do come up with alternative?

Get a Hybrid car.

MODERATOR: HOW MUCH DO YOU GUYS BASE YOUR CONSUMER DECISIONS NOW ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT? DO YOU THINK ABOUT COMPANIES? DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU BUY YOUR GAS OR HOW MANY GREENHOUSE (INAUDIBLE) WERE USED IN TRANSPORTING THINGS THAT YOU'RE BUYING OFF THE SHELVES. DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT AT ALL?

Yes and no.

Not so much.

It's kind of a bonus when you are like cool this is recyclable but it's not like, I don't and I should seek out things that you know.

I really don't.

I have an SUV.

MODERATOR: FLIP TO HANDOUT FOUR. ONE MORE ISSUE. MORE DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY. “WE MUST STOP OUR ELECTED LEADERS FROM SPENDING MONEY THEY DON’T HAVE AND PASSING THEIR CRUSHING DEBTS ONTO OUR GENERATION BUT WE CAN’T DIG OUT OF THIS HOLE SIMPLY BY CUTTING SPENDING HERE OR RAISING TAXES THERE. WE MUST REBUILD OR ECONOMIC BASE BY RESTORING THE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS FOR OUR DEFENSE AND BASIS NEEDS AND REVERSING THE DECLINE OF OUR MIDDLE CLASS, WHICH HAS ALWAYS FUELED OUR GREATEST ECONOMIC EXPANSIONS. THIS WILL IN TURN ALLOW US TO END OUR HUGE STRUCTURAL TRADE IMBALANCES AND MORE EFFECTIVELY COMPETE WITH COUNTRIES WHO CURRENTLY EXPLOIT OR GROWING NEED FOR BASIC GOODS”. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

It’s a good sentiment but kind of hollow.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

It doesn’t say anything that means anything. I mean everybody knows this but there is no, at least with the one about energy it had at least a preliminary thought of a plan of what needs to happen and this one lacked that sort of direction.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE?

I think the middle class is what it is because hell I think like we are in a time where like our parents have all these nice things and we want those nice things right now so that’s why we are staying middle class. We get (inaudible) all these cameras and stuff but we are 30,000 dollars in debt or 20 or whatever but like that is just keeping us there because we are throwing away hundreds of dollars in finance charges a day where we should be saving more as opposed to buying more and buying more. It’s a buying economy that these other countries are making off of us because of our middle class who wants to be the rich class, the upper class. So they buy the things the upper class has because they can because they have credit cards or whatever but they go into debt and that just keeps us there because we just pay for it. We just always have a payment, always a credit card payment, car payment instead of saving for something and just buying it.

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK THAT IT IS A HUGE PROBLEM THAT OUR CURRENT ELECTED LEADERS ARE SPENDING SO MUCH MONEY THAT THEY DON’T HAVE? WE TALKED ABOUT THE FACT THAT DEBT IS GOING ON AND WE HAVE THE LARGEST TRADE IN BALANCES.

I wonder if we didn’t have the debt how much change would we personally see or would they find something else that needed the money (inaudible) or would the put the money towards where we said we wanted it.

MODERATOR: THIS BASICALLY FRAMES IT AS YOU GUYS ARE THE VICTIMS. THE CURRENT LEADERS ARE PASSING SOMETHING ON TO YOU WITHOUT YOUR SAY SO ESSENTIALLY AND DROPPING THE BURDEN ON YOU. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES IN THAT ROLE?

Yeah.

No.

We are the ones who have to pay it back. We have to make up that money somehow and it's coming out of our pockets whether we like it or not.

We don't have the money for things like socialized healthcare because we are spending 4.7 million or billion a day in Iraq, it directly affects us.

I think we are young enough to go to school, to get jobs, to kind of know what's out there and try to do something for ourselves and have a job that we can support ourselves. I mean we can't affect things like the gas prices and things like that but we can get out there and...

MODERATOR: IS IT POSSIBLE TO REBUILD OUR INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE? DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR US TO MAKE THINGS AGAIN IN THIS COUNTRY? THINGS THAT WE USED TO MAKE THAT ARE MADE IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

I think it's going to be really hard because it's a lot more expensive here.

I think people have to be willing to, who will pay more and have less. I mean rather than have a hundred pairs of shoes you have three pairs of shoes that are really nice. Like little things like that can bring certain types of manufacturing back to the States.

I think it might take like the big economic fall for that to happen though. I think we are going to have to have a huge recession before people start conserving their money and not spending.

We have gotten rid of a lot of factories too and stuff but the fact of what you said of people in America would rather have one hundred pairs of shoes that cost one dollar than have three pairs of shoes that cost one hundred dollars each.

MODERATOR: WE'VE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THESE BIG CHALLENGES THAT ARE OUT THERE AND BRINGING IT BACK TO THE QUESTION OF YOUR GENERATION WHAT CAN YOU GUYS DO. THIS GENERATION OF AMERICANS UNDER THIRTY IS BY FAR THE LARGEST IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND BY SHEER MATH WILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO A LOT IF THEY SO CHOOSE WHETHER IT BE THE BALLOT BOX, VOTING WITH YOUR WALLETS YOU GUYS BY DIN OF YOUR NUMBERS WILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO A LOT IF YOU WANT TO. DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION CAN COME TOGETHER AND MAKE A

DIFFERENCE ON THIS STUFF? DO YOU THINK THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR THAT TO HAPPEN NOW OR IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT THIRTY YEARS DOWN THE ROAD WHEN YOU'RE AT THE TRADITIONAL STAGE WHEN PEOPLE MOVE INTO TRADITIONAL POWER?

I say we can do it now. I totally agree that we can handle it now. Barac Obama, he is only 15, 20 years older than us, he's not exactly 40 years down the road I mean he grew up a little bit before we did but like with our communication level now, the way we talk to each other we totally have the drive and the ability to handle big problems and adjust. I don't think any of us are going to just sit here and sit by the sidelines and wait twenty years for something to happen. I think our generation can do it and will do it.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE DO YOU THINK ON THAT?

I think we can do it I'm just not sure that we will.

I agree with that.

We are extremely apathetic when it comes to getting off your coach and doing something.

I think if we had a leader, somebody to kind of make us come together. Me at my house and you at your house we're not going to just...

MODERATOR: HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN? HOW DOES THAT LEADERSHIP EMERGE?

That's the problem.

(Inaudible).

I mean I think that in general we have lost faith in our President. So maybe I'm hopeful that however is next, regardless of what party, will be inspiring and make us want to do something different. Because now we just kind of feel helpless I think or at least I do.

MODERATOR: IS THAT WHERE IT HAS TO COME FROM? DOES IT COME FROM GOVERNMENT OR ARE THERE OTHER PLACES LEADERSHIP CAN COME FROM ON THIS KIND OF STUFF?

It can come from other places but somebody has to take that initiative.

It can come from community, media heads, people who are famous for whatever reason it can come from any position, we are coming back to leaders again where people have the opportunity to lead in some manner or from or shape.

MODERATOR: WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT LEADERS YOU GUYS DIDN'T REALLY SITE ANY LEADERS OF YOUR GENERATION OTHER THEN YOUR PARENTS.

Don't forget Oprah.

You don't have the JFK and the Martin Luther Kings and you don't have the people who are the great equalizes anymore, at least right now we don't, there is no one driving personality that is able to unify people across the board.

I think that like philanthropy organizations would be very important and like a very important role in all of this.

MODERATOR: SO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. WHAT ELSE. OTHER WAYS THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN? CAN IT HAPPEN JUST WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER? DOES IT HAVE TO BE A STRUCTURAL PIECE TO IT? DOES IT HAVE TO WORK THROUGH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS LIKE GOVERNMENT?

Structure is good.

MODERATOR: MEDIA OR CAN IT HAPPEN ORGANICALLY THROUGH PEOPLE.

I think it can but it would take longer.

MODERATOR: ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES OF THAT? ANY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES THAT YOU CAN THINK OF WHERE PEOPLE JUST DECIDED ON THEIR OWN TO PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER AND TO BRANCH OUT?

More people have strikes.

There are chance, things that have happened by chance.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU GUYS THING? IS THE POTENTIAL THERE? OR IS IT MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN THROUGH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND EXISTING STRUCTURES?

I think the whole technology element that we basically rely on almost as a crutch, not necessarily a bad way but just a huge part of our life. I mean you see these multimillion user and things go up in video games and online message boards and chat rooms and My Space and Face Book and I think there is a chance that you have a situation where something somehow galvanizes this large group of people together and some change would come from it but that's the kind of thing that happen organically not manufactured.

Somebody has to have backing or money. Like if we are talking about serious things and we actually want to see changes, it's hard with just us in a room.

MODERATOR: LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR GENERATION. LET'S FLIP TO HANDOUT FIVE. WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS BASICALLY, WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT KIND OF CHANGE COULD HAPPEN AND YOU GO BACK TO INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS SO YOU SEE HERE A LIST OF ACTIONS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE TO TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO PUT EACH OF THESE IN ONE OF THREE CATEGORIES. THE FIRST COLUMN MARK THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE, STEPS YOU ARE ALREADY TAKING IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE. SECOND COLUMN THINGS THAT YOU ARE NOT NECESSARILY DOING NOW BUT YOU WOULD BE LIKELY TO DO. THE THIRD COLUMN THINGS THAT PROBABLY ARE NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IF YOUR HONEST. SO WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU GUYS ARE DOING NOW. SOME OF THE STEPS THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE TAKEN.

(Inaudible).

Signing petitions.

Blogging, not political.

Attending public meetings.

MODERATOR: HOW MANY PEOPLE SAY THEY HAVE BEEN ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS? A FEW PEOPLE. WHAT ELSE? WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE LIKELY TO DO? THINGS THAT DON'T SEEM TOO BAD?

Base purchasing decisions on political and social behavior in the companies.

MODERATOR: HOW MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD BASE PURCHASING DECISIONS ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE COMPANIES?

I have.

MODERATOR: MOST PEOPLE.

Joining political social groups and participating in (inaudible) actions with them.

MODERATOR: HOW MANY PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD DO THAT? JOIN A GROUP? A FEW PEOPLE. ANYBODY DOING THAT NOW OR HAVE DONE IT? WHAT ELSE?

Based on whether they support charity and stuff like that.

MODERATOR: OTHER ACTIONS YOU WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE?

I would participate in a public protest if it was like the gas thing and we had a whole thing where one day everybody just goes out, I'd be there for certain things. I wouldn't initiate.

MODERATOR: SO THESE THINGS YOU WOULD BE LIKELY TO DO BUT AREN'T DOING NOW WHY IS THAT?

To make money. My fault. I have the time or the.

Time.

You just kind of go about your every day and these issues are in the back of your mind but it's not like every day your are like going "Oh the national debt" you know unless you're a politician. Like she was saying if someone organized and like I heard about it I would be like oh cool I'll go.

MODERATOR: THAT'S WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET TO. WHAT'S IT TAKE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

I don't think the issues are serious enough right now for us to stand up and say something right away. If they were that big of a deal then we would be protesting. There is not exactly like a government keeping people from protesting about something. If for some reason there was a serious enough issue I think all of us would stand up and there would be a lot more people worried about it.

Someone would have to initiate that.

I think the people are doing that already. I think there is always momentum. People are taking action and starting to galvanize smaller groups of people and they are coming together and I think it just has to continue.

MODERATOR: HOW DO THOSE PEOPLE PLUG IN TO ALL OF YOU SO YOU ARE WILLING TO DO THESE THINGS BUT NOT DOING IT? HOW DO YOU BUILD THAT NETWORK?

It has to just build person to person. The best way to make things happen is naturally and I think that it can work that way. If one person tells a hundred people and five of those people believe and each one of those five people can spread that to another one or two people and things will eventually grow.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE? OKAY. LAST THING I AM GOING TO ASK YOU GUYS TO DO. FLIP TO HANDOUT SIX...

(end of session)