



GREENBERG MILLENNIAL PROJECT

FOCUS GROUP #11
HISPANICS, MIXED GENDER
LOS ANGELES, CA
DECEMBER 6, 2007

MODERATOR: INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

My name is Cynthia. I'm 28. I work here in Santa Monica. It took me an hour to get here on the streets. I am married, have three daughters and that is about it.

My name is Adam. I also live in Long Beach, 28-years-old and I love LA winters.

I'm Emily. I'm 22. I just graduated from CR.

My name is Luis. I am from Pasadena. I am currently a culinary art student and that kind of wraps it up.

MODERATOR - WELL WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDER 30 SO A CLUE THAT ALL OF YOU ALL FIT INTO THAT CATEGORY TO TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT IF YOU LOOK SORT OF HISTORICALLY WHEN WE TALK ABOUT AMERICA WE TEND TO TALK ABOUT AMERICANS IN TERMS OF GENERATIONS, PARTICULAR SETS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD CERTAIN THINGS IN COMMON OR UNIQUE SET OF EXPERIENCES SO LIKE BABY BOOMERS OR GENERATION X THAT IS HOW WE TEND TO TALK ABOUT DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE, SO DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR GENERATION HAS A SPECIFIC SORT OF CHARACTER, UNIQUE SET OF EXPERIENCES THAT SET IT APART FROM OTHER GENERATIONS?

I think so.

MODERATOR - BASED ON?

The Ipod and My Space Generation. I think more kids that are going through high school now that would be their generation.

MODERATOR - AND SO WHAT DO THOSE TWO THINGS MEAN TO YOU? HOW DO THEY AFFECT YOU?

It is the technology and just how faster pace we're getting you know, how you sometimes don't even have to leave our houses to go through something, like maybe 20 years ago you might wanted to listen to this particular record so you drive to the record store. Now you hop on your

computer, there it is. Just download it. It cost you \$2.00 to put on you Ipod, your Itoons, so be it.

MODERATOR - SO YOU ARE A BUNCH OF SHUT-INS THAT NEVER ACTUALLY LEAVE THE HOUSE?

Yeah, I think it is kind of getting there. I think we are getting a little lazier as the generations go on.

MODERATOR - BECAUSE THINGS ARE TOO FAST OR TOO EASY?

A little bit of both actually.

MODERATOR - ANY OTHER?

I kind of piggyback off of what Luis said. I would say the computer or not just the computer but just the technical advancements and convenience I think during our generation you know as opposed to the one before us I don't think there are many differences. I think that maybe this generation did things, well I think they did the same exact things as the last generation just a little bit quicker. They were just a little more advanced. Sometimes they were good, sometimes they were bad. Like I'll give you an example. Like sex, I think our generation jumped into that a lot earlier, well not a lot earlier but a little bit earlier than the last generation and vice-versa and I'll comment more about the convenience. The younger generation, we've seen like great leaps in technology, common technology, not just for the rich, common technology, like computers. I remember getting my first computer when I was about maybe 10-years-old, maybe a little younger than that, maybe 8 or 10-years-old and it was an Apple but at the time it was very basic and now just in those 20 years I see how much faster, more convenient and more capable it has become and how people, really people, especially our generation they need it. It is almost like a necessity. It is not a luxury like my mother for example her generation they are scared to get on the internet a little bit but ours if we didn't have the internet we wouldn't know what to do. You know what I'm saying? It made our education in college I'm sure a lot different from someone who went to college in the 80's or 70's.

I want to comment on that. A friend of mine he is 33 and he didn't even know how to get his transcripts from UC Santa Barbara because back then they didn't use computers. Everything was (interrupted)

MODERATOR - YOU HAD TO FILL OUT A FORM AND THEN YOU HANDED IT TO THE REGISTRAR.

...yeah he needed his transcripts for a culinary school to skip out on some courses. He didn't even know how to go about it (interrupted)

MODERATOR - BECAUSE HE IS THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 33. (LAUGHTER).

Yes.

Just passed it. That is just about where it started shifting.

I agree with the technology as well. I feel that the convenience it is way easier to get things online now. Everything is online based. It is like why would I go to her house when I could just write her an e-mail so I feel like there is more, there is not really that physical relationship between people as it was a generation ago because now people depend on, like you can go to the grocery store. You don't even have to worry with the teller or anything. You can do anything. Everything just comes straight to your door so in a way I can kind of how you say we're shut-ins but if you look at it in that sense it kind does looks like that.

I have two small children and not having to go to the store, priceless.

MODERATOR - SO THAT IS THE CONVENIENCE PART.

I will even say that from 28, it is only six years but to 22, they're a lot worse. Like I was right there at the cusp where we were transforming into this but we grew up normal like (many people talking) you know I'm an in person, I'm a personal person and I think just in that six years it skipped them. You know I use to play outside. Did you play outside when you were growing up?

I played outside.

Okay, you ask a kid now they don't even play outside anymore but I say just in that six years, little subtle things like that because we accept the new technology but we're from the old school a little bit too. (Interrupted).

A little bit of this and a little bit of that.

...Yeah, my older sister had a lot of influences on me and she is from the older school, probably more your generation (interrupted)

MODERATOR - THERE WAS NO E-MAIL WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE. I KNOW PEOPLE ARE SHOCKED.

...Yeah simple things like that. You know we just started. I graduated in 2001 so with I started in 97, 98 I was just starting to get the hang of the e-mail. They were just starting to implement those things but we knew how to do it in the library. How many times did you go to the library?

MODERATOR - I WENT TO THE LIBRARY. WELL AT SCHOOL. IF I WAS AT HOME I WOULDN'T GO TO THE LIBRARY.

I don't go to the library anymore.

Yeah, you put it in a Google search.

(Many people talking) communication I see little kids, second graders, third graders with cell phones. I didn't have a cell phone until I was like a junior in high school and that was a luxury back then. Now kids are saying I need a cell phone, I need a phone when you know (interrupted)

Who are you talking too? (Laughter) You're nine!

But at least they're talking to people right.

Yes.

(Many people talking).

They text message.

Like why don't you just pick up the phone and say all those things you texted? I don't like those kinds of things. I think the convenience is becoming, it is saturated now and I think it is almost to the detriment of the up and developing people and some of the people you know that fall victim to it because they are becoming lazy. A lot of people don't know how to go to the library, do things manually because they are so use to doing it through the internet like a bibliography today looks a lot different when you and I were writing bibliographies. I mean there is a lot of internet stuff and a lot of other things going on so I think it is almost to a detriment. I think they are missing out on some of the things that are good about life. You know there are a few good things, well there are a lot of good things in life but you are missing out on a couple of those.

No, I agree. I think that this era like with all the technology and everything it is making kids not really like social with other people. Like it is harder, instead of, because I remember in high school everyone really didn't like doing group work because you actually had to physically interact with people and you know talk to each other and it is weird now because when you have text messaging and e-mail you don't go get that face to face communication, you are just, okay this is what I need and that is what I need and go, it is whatever.

MODERATOR - SO THE DOWNSIDE IS THE LACK OF CONNECTION?

Well yeah because those are just words when you're texting, even if you put exclamations, question marks, those are just words. Like a person like myself I put a lot of passion and emotion into what I say so even if it is a simple sentence if I text it to you, you might not get the full meaning of it.

Yeah, definitely.

I think it is cold. I like interacting with people. I don't know why people don't but now they are making it so that you don't have to so the introverts that were forced to before they don't have to do that now so they just stay introverted in almost to a nonfunctional degree I think in some

cases. Not necessarily yet but look in the next 5-10 years, you are going to see that a lot more because people don't like to interact. You got My Space. You can't get a date you just go online. (Lots of laughter). What is that! You can't get a date you go online! (Laughter).

MODERATOR - BUT EVENTUALLY YOU ACTUALLY TALK TO THEM, THE MEETING PART.

This is true but. I don't know.

(Many people talking).

MODERATOR - PICKING UP IN A BAR THAT IS BETTER?

Well you get a better sense of the person I think because how genuine are the words true. You don't know until you see if that person is genuine and I keep cutting you off. Go ahead.

No, it is just yeah. It is the same. How would you know if the person describes himself as a 20-year-old blonde when they are a 40-year-old brunette?

Or college educated and that is something you know, that is a requirement for you and once you see on the internet if I interact with you and seem half way intelligent you will just take it for granted wouldn't you that I am who I say and that I did go to Berkley or whatever, you know what I am saying because you feel that you already know that but you don't.

(Laughter).

MODERATOR - SO OTHER THAN SORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE CHANGES THAT CAUSES IN TERMS OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EVENTS OR EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINE YOUR GENERATION AND I AM STILL TREATING THE TABLE AS ONE. WE ARE NOT DOING (INAUDIBLE).

Define.

MODERATOR - I MEAN ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED OR ANY PARTICULAR THING THAT YOU'VE ALL GONE THROUGH OTHER THAN THE TECHNOLOGY THAT YOU THINK MAKE YOU DIFFERENCE OR AFFECTED HOW PEOPLE YOUR AGE SEE THE WORLD?

I would say 9/11. I would say 9/11 and the war definitely. I think that would probably be the biggest thing. Other than that can't really say.

MODERATOR - SO WHEN YOU SAY 9/11 WHAT DO YOU THINK IT DID?

I just turned the table. Pretty much from that point on nothing was the same again. Let me elaborate a little. Like just going to the airport completely changes. Like someone with my skin tone would probably get randomly picked and it's just become kind of an inconvenience to our society. I don't know and it has changed with the way that we view politics also and I think that is how Bush kept his way in office.

MODERATOR - SO HOW DID IT CHANGE HOW YOU SAW POLITICS? LIKE WHAT CHANGED ABOUT HOW YOU SEE POLITICS OR WHAT DO YOU THINK CHANGED ABOUT HOW YOU (INTERRUPTED)?

It kind of (inaudible) you know to me. We just kind of jumped the gun on it. We as a country, we don't really know what to do with Iraq and we're kind of stuck in the middle of now a civil war.

MODERATOR - AND YOU THINK THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT 9/11?

Yeah, that would have never happened without 9/11. If 9/11 never happened we wouldn't have had a scapegoat to go in there and do what we did.

I think it also changed like the vulnerability of like the country itself. You know America is seen like the great country where everybody wants to live in it, everybody wants to be here. When you see something like that happen, somebody attacking here, home instead of another country if we are at war with somebody it totally changes your perspective. You can't even make like a simple joke without I guess having somebody say something.

It has made our society paranoid.

MODERATOR - LIKE A SIMPLE JOKE ABOUT WHAT?

I mean not a joke but any, like the Patriot Act that they did, any money that was like a (inaudible) or something you had to sign where the money is going into in case you are helping the terrorists. Before you never heard of that. I mean nobody every questioned about money-wise or where money was going until that suddenly happened but just change, your safety also.

MODERATOR - SO IT MADE PEOPLE FEEL VULNERABLE AND THEN MORE AFRAID YOU THINK?

Yeah, instead of helping, I think the media is also at fault because every news report they do they scare people like the mail contains a powdered substance that al Qaeda did when you know it is just some idiot (interrupted)

We still don't know who did it.

... Yeah, we still don't know who did it, something scaring people, you know and I guess ever since 9/11 happened Americans have been more scared everything. They believe everything out there in the media that scares them.

That is what I was going to say. I think we're scared into doing things. Buy the top of the line home security systems, buying all these things that we should look out for because we are being told that all these bad things could happen because of terrorists. I don't know, at a point everyone was really patriotic about it but now I think everyone is really angry with the way things are going with our government. There is not really a lot of people out there, well for me at least, that are proud of what we're doing or what is happening. I don't know, it kind of changed the, a lot of people are really, well I don't want to say that they are proud to say that they are American, I just want to say, when it just happened, when 9/11 happened I saw so many people like with the flag and all this stuff and now I don't really see that anymore. I don't know that is just me though.

MODERATOR - SO ARE THEY ANGRY BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER, SO THE SAME THING LIKE WHAT WE DID AFTER 9/11 IS WHAT CHANGED, SO IT IS THE WAR REALLY THAT IS THE?

Yeah, the aftermath.

MODERATOR - AND THE WAR MAKES PEOPLE, SO YOU HAVE SORT OF THE FEAR, WHICH LEADS TO THE WAR, WHICH THEN MAKES PEOPLE NOW LESS (INTERRUPTED)

It has become very personal.

MODERATOR - WHAT?

Like there were a lot of people that went to my high school like they hang the flags along the towns like Claremont, Lavern, they hang, you know students they hang, you know students went, kids from that town that went to war and every time you watch that television you see like scenes from the war. I know people who are right there right now you know fighting for whatever and it has become personal and that is what creates this hostility. That is what creates, you kind of like torn between what is right and what is wrong because you don't know because your hearts are going to your friends who are fighting a war that you really don't know much about except what you see on television.

MODERATOR - SO ADAM YOU BROUGHT UP IRAQ IN THE BEGINNING.

I am very opinionated when it comes to this (interrupted)

MODERATOR - WE ARE HERE ALL ABOUT OPINIONS.

...and I am kind of you know I think out of the box about things and it is funny because all of the things that you guys mentioned are reasons why I feel like the war and 9/11 were, they were skewed in a way to get an agenda accomplished and I feel like it just shows how non-democratic our democracy is. I mean yeah even though people don't take full advantage, yeah we have the right to vote and get these things passed or get these people who we feel have our best interest at hand in office to vote for things, they get passed have an affect on all of us. Like you said it is very personal, the way is very personal. I have lost friends over there and when I think about what we are fighting for at first I think it was very clear. I don't know if that was just because I was ignorant to certain things or because they were what they really were. Like for instance after 9/11, after you saw those buildings fall, everybody saw it, that is why they feel like it is so, such a, they take it so personally because they saw those buildings fall, everybody saw it and they still can't believe it but I think these things were manipulated to create a chain reaction first being the war over in the Middle East. We needed to secure oil. That is the only reason why we are over there is to secure oil. Do you think we really care about the best interest of Iraqis? I don't think so because we would have done something 20 years ago before we put in Saddam Hussein, before we funded him. You know what I'm saying and I just feel that the Americans as a whole feel helpless because things are happening that they don't want to happen but just because it is vote, this bill has passed that we have to swallow it you know. People forget about how Bush got into office, which was just, I swear all these things just happened right before your eyes but since they have the backing of the media, because they said oh this is what really happened. We just fall for it but there are people who are manipulating these moves. All these things didn't happen by coincidence. They didn't happen by coincidence. Do you think that all these hybrid cars couldn't have been developed 10 years ago? Have we made technological strides that advance that in those 10 years, 10-15 years since the first Gulf War, we couldn't have done anything about that? We couldn't have made hybrids or introduced them to the market? No. But all of a sudden it is important, you know go green and all this stuff and I think it is all a big, it is all a big hoodwink and the majority of the people can't see through it so they just move with it and they don't argue. Nobody says anything about this stuff. Nobody says anything! It just happens and you just swallow it. Nobody says anything and I don't know if people feel like they can say anything but they don't and everyday they are stripping you of your civil liberties. Like you said the Patriot Act, people can get randomly searched now, well I guess in New York City now on the buses because of these bombings, these terrorists. It has been how many years and nothing has happened because it is all a scare tactic to create fear like what you guys said and I think something needs to be done and that is why this election, well the last one more so than ever but this election is super important because it is going to define our country. It is going to define our country. If you look at history we are spread out. Our forces are spread out. Our dollar is not strong anymore. We are at the potential to hit a crisis right now where are rein is the best in the world is going to take a fall. Every dynasty comes to an end and it looks like we're coming to ours because of poor leadership and that is just the beginning of what I can say but we'll leave it alone.

MODERATOR - WE ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO TALK MORE ABOUT LEADERSHIP LATER BUT I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT SORT OF MOTIVATIONS AND VALUES IN TERMS OF YOUR GENERATION AND THINKING ARE THERE PARTICULAR

MOTIVATIONS OR VALUES THAT YOU THINK YOU GUYS HOLD THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM, THAT ARE UNIQUE.

I don't think different but I think the degree, the intensity of our desire for money is stronger than it ever was in any other generation prior to this. I think that. People don't care about school and college. Why did you go to college?

To get a better, yeah.

To get a better job. That's it. It is money and making things easy.

That is true. There are still those of us that do care about the passion like myself. I'm not going to be rich. I don't think I am every going to be rich in my entire life. I am going because I love to cook and that is what I am going to do with my entire life. (Interrupted).

Only reason why you should go.

Yeah. I'm trying to separate myself from a system. I am trying to work around the system. That is what I think, the very, the majority of people they know what is going on in the world. That is what they do. That is what (inaudible) do. That is what actors do. They work around the system.

MODERATOR - TO GET TO WHAT?

To bliss. What we were meant to do in this world, comfort.

MODERATOR - SO DID YOU GET ANYTHING ELSE OUT OF COLLEGE OTHER THAN (INTERRUPTED)

Well I did (interrupted)

We all get a great amount of college. I love college. Greatest time in my life.

Well yeah, of course I did. Without college I wouldn't have been able to get the internships that I did get. I wouldn't be working at a dance studio. I wouldn't be working at [E]. I wouldn't be doing all the things that I would.

I didn't think so because that is what they require, so it is just a requirement also that people do take you on, you know.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU THINK CYNTHIA, ANY VALUES, MOTIVATIONS OTHER THAN MONEY?

I mean being a parent that is one of the motivations. I have three daughters. They look up to me. They are my motivation. I want to give them what my parents gave me. I mean they didn't give

me riches or a lot of luxuries. You know once in a while they gave me what I wanted, you know the necessities. I want to give them that and more. I mean I didn't go to college. I went one year and I didn't like it. (Interrupted).

It is not for everybody.

...I went to vocational school and I got an LPN degree and you know I am happy where I am at my job. You know just the value that my family gave me and not really jumping the bandwagon with everybody, money, money, money, money. You know stomp on everybody to get to money. Just family values.

I got another one.

MODERATOR - OKAY, GO AHEAD.

Ambition. I think this is the most ambitious generation of all time, like I feel like every person in this room they either knew what they wanted to do or they felt like they could do anything. I don't know if that just stems from the way that I was raised but when I see the kind of jobs that people have, the kind of jobs that I want. Like you said you work at [E] that involves entertainment. That probably have a lot of perks to your job but do you think your mother would ever try to aspire to do something like that? Might aspire but do you think go through the steps that it takes to get there?

Well not necessarily because we're into different things but, so no probably not. Not in the entertainment industry she probably wouldn't have wanted to do that, no.

But why did you do it? Because you felt like you could, right?

Yeah.

And another thing is that ambition is also stemmed from, I guess this is moral. Kids are age even though it happens, we're not getting married and having kids as early as generations passed either, especially women because they know in order to get where they want to be career wise they got to push that back a couple of years. You know I got to go to grad school or I have to go to college and then I got to work like 10 years so we are looking more at 33 and getting married maybe at 28 when you know my mother she had my sister at 18, was married at 18, you know went and got a job, worked there for 30 years and I think that sums up almost everybody's parents of our generation. They just, you know their priorities shifted early from themselves to us because we starting popping up so they weren't, you know even though like you said your mother might have went ahead and done other things but now she has different priorities. She can't take those risks, those chances that we are able to do without children, so those are just a couple of them.

MODERATOR - SO WERE DOES THE AMBITION COME FROM?

The ambition?

MODERATOR - OR THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS?

I think it comes from the glitz and the glamour that we see but also seeing that you can make money doing virtually anything, you know the exposure that this generation had as far as their careers go I think helped out a lot. The push for college and the more kids going to college I think it grew our economy and especially in the tech industry and created different job opportunities, high paying job opportunities where you see a normal guy who is your neighbor but he makes a whole hell of a lot of money and he drives a lot of nice cars but he is a cool normal guy but he just did this. Oh he makes money making video games? Really! I didn't even know you could do that. I want to do that. I play video games all the time. I want to do that. How do you do that? You know I think the parents that do make a lot of money, at least from my experience they felt very open with sharing with us, just not the good vacations and stuff like that but the, yeah I work hard for this, long hours, but yeah I also went to USC, you know got my accounting degree, I had to get an MBA, you know kind of teaching us the path more so we knew what we had to prepare ourselves for. We had things, goals! I don't know much about what Dwight does but Dwight makes a lot of money. He lives in San Marino and he seems to be happy so this is how he got there. Well I need to, I need to plot out a path for myself. I think it is just more in your face. Your parents ask you what you want to do. Your friends parents ask you what do you want to do. Your friends ask you what are you going to do and I felt like I had to have the answers.

MODERATOR - BUT SPEAKING OF GOALS DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION THEN IS MORE FOCUSED ON THE PERSONAL GOALS OR LIKE THE GREATER GOOD, THE BROADER KIND OF SOCIETAL?

Personal.

Personal.

I think personal also.

Personal.

MODERATOR - NO GREATER GOOD?

Maybe in the long run. I think those people do exist.

There is a thought there but it is not going to overtake the personal.

If you have time, right.

Well like in the 80's and 90's they talked about young generation as the me generation. Do you think that you guys could be the we generation or you are still the me.

I think we're still the me because in like past generations you had people out there that you respected out there talking about it that you could follow. Everybody is not a leader so you need someone to follow and we don't have anybody, anybody that is not bouncing a basketball or catching touchdowns. We don't have anybody.

MODERATOR - WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT LEADERSHIP IN A MINUTE BUT I HAVE OTHER THING TO THINK ABOUT IN TERMS OF VALUES AND BELIEFS. PEOPLE OFTEN TALK ABOUT POLITICAL VIEWS IN THE UNITED STATES ON A SCALE, SORT OF LIBERALS OVER HERE AND CONSERVATIVES OVER HERE AND THEN A RANGE OF PEOPLE IN BETWEEN. WHERE WOULD YOU GUYS PUT YOURSELVES ON THAT SCALE FIRST OF ALL AND THEN WHERE WOULD YOU PUT YOUR GENERATION ON THAT SCALE (INAUDIBLE), YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY EXACTLY, LEANING THIS DIRECTION OR LEANING THAT DIRECTION?

I'm the farthest liberal.

I would say liberal.

Pretty liberal moderate.

MODERATOR - SO CENTER?

Yeah.

MODERATOR - LIBERAL IN THE MIDDLE.

I'm towards the conservative side.

MODERATOR - AND IN GENERAL FOR YOUR GENERATION WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I think it depends where you live.

Yeah, where you live.

MODERATOR - LET'S JUST SAY YOU GUYS ALL LIVE HERE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

There is a big gap between LA and New York and it is called the U.S.

I would even say from Pasadena to Long Beach what do you think the views are and they are 30 miles apart and I grew up in [Altadena] and I live in Long Beach but I know a lot of people that aren't as liberal as me and I know people who are more liberal than me, well just as liberal as me.

Pasadena is pretty liberal I would think.

Not necessarily.

Well if you are getting into San Marino and maybe by the Ritz Inn (many people talking).

Well 10 years ago there was a difference but now there is not really a difference because Pasadena, when I grew up in Pasadena, [Altadena] it was a great family, homely community, residential mostly but now they are trying to make it the new (interrupted). It is very glitz and glamour. You got to pay at least \$600,000.00 if you want to get anywhere near it and that is just the bottom line. Whose making \$600,000.00, usually some conservative people.

MODERATOR - WELL THINKING ABOUT THE SCALE DO YOU THINK THAT THE SCALE STILL APPLIES TO YOUR GENERATION? DO YOU THINK PEOPLE STILL FALL SORT OF LEFT OR RIGHT OR DO YOU THINK IT IS MORE [COMPLICATED]?

I think we are more liberal than past.

MODERATOR - LIBERAL IN TERMS OF WHAT?

Drugs, sex, those are the big things that I think really jumped from this last generation to ours, drugs and sex. You knew you had to talk about it earlier and it doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, those are things that everybody has to deal with and those are conversations that need to be had so. You know like my parents I don't know if they even had at sit-down or if they just kind of figured it out themselves but my parents talked to me about it very early, both of them, very early and put it in good respective for me, didn't make it seem so taboo. Made it seem normal but used discretion, you know like a good talk, not the birds and the bees or don't do drugs, don't have sex, you know. They let me interact in the conversation and I think just them recognizing that that needed to be done I think that probably set the tone pretty much across, I think all my friends told me about those conversation and I don't remember hearing my sister get talked to about that stuff so I don't know.

It is a double standard when it comes to guys and girls.

Of course.

MODERATOR - BUT YOU PUT YOURSELF ON THE MORE CONSERVATIVE SIDE. DO YOU AGREE WITH ADAMS INTERPRETATION THAT PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION ARE MORE ON THE LIBERAL SIDE?

Yeah, I think they are more liberal. Like he says, you know my parents I seriously doubt that they had a sit-down.

I'm still waiting for my sit-down. (Laughter). I never had one. I never had one and then me with my daughter I don't know if I will have one when they are real young or at that point but I do agree that my generation is more (interrupted)

MODERATOR - AT LEAST YOU TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS EVEN IF YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FAMILY?

Yeah, the family was, you know. (Laughter).

MODERATOR - EMILY WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I think we are way more liberal. I think there are way more liberal people out there than there are conservatives.

MODERATOR - AND SO LIBERAL IN TERMS OF WHAT? LIKE SPECIFICALLY WHAT KINDS OF, WHEN YOU THINK OF LIBERAL WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

Just the choices that we make are way different.

MODERATOR - CAN YOU GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE?

Sure, with sex. That was a big one. You would think with, well I know with sex and with marriage and premarital sex and stuff like that.

MODERATOR - MORE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN IT OR MORE WILLING TO ADMIT YOU ENGAGE IN IT OR BOTH?

That is just totally (interrupted)

MODERATOR - BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS ENGAGED IN IT RIGHT?

...Yeah. Well I think premarital sex it is different, it is looked at different if you're a liberal or it is more talked about. It is not really kind of a hidden thing?

MODERATOR - TABOO SORT OF.

Yeah.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I think people are pretty quick to engage in sex more so than before. You know I am pretty sure that kids in high school once they get to high school nowadays they are already having sex as opposed to maybe before when I went to high school and my sister went to high school, she

graduated in 94 there was a whole dating thing going on. I don't really see that happening anymore.

MODERATOR - THEY DON'T DATE FIRST?

Not as much as before. Not as much as before. You don't have to. It is not a prerequisite necessarily.

MODERATOR - WELL THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE TO MEET EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

Yeah, really, exactly. (Lots of laughter). Really, you can just type words and (many people laughing – inaudible).

MODERATOR - THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER CONVERSATION.

I'll give another example, music. Just I think we are more liberal because of what we're, they think that Elvis's music was the devil's music and they didn't even curse or things like that but things that are said and depicted in music today across the board are way more intense and liberal. I mean more easily accepted than they would have been in last generation.

MODERATOR - SO WHAT ABOUT THIS WORD, A LOT OF PEOPLE USE THIS TERM PROGRESSIVE THESE DAYS, DO YOU THINK THAT TERM APPLIES OR NOT?

Progressive to do what? I mean as an economy or as a like spiritually?

MODERATOR - LIKE HILLARY CLINTON DEFINES HERSELF AS A PROGRESSIVE NOT AS A LIBERAL.

I kind of like that.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

It doesn't necessarily black and white your decision making. It just means that I make the decision I make for the betterment or for the progress of society as opposed to I'm a liberal so I got to do this. I'm an independent so I can kind of go either way. I'm a conservative I got to do this, you know. I think progressive just puts the overall good intent. It just makes me feel better and I like Hillary. I like her. I like Hillary. I look for things like that. It is something to grab my mind. It is something that grabs my attention because everybody else says the same thing.

MODERATOR - SAYS THE SAME THING WHAT, LIBERAL, CONSERVATIVE OR?

They just say the same thing. There are different speeches, different writers but they say the same thing. Just like Hillary she came out and said I am a progressive. Who said that before? You know she is doing something different even though she might be saying pretty much the same thing now I feel like I am a progressive. (Lots of laughter).

MODERATOR - AND WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT TERM? (NO RESPONSE). DID YOU HEAR IT USED ON CAMPUS?

No. I didn't hear it until I heard Hillary.

You're question is our generation is progressive?

MODERATOR - YOUR GENERATION, IS THAT A BETTER TERM, A BETTER WORD OR ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH LIBERAL? YOU GUYS SEEM, WELL THREE OF YOU SEEM PRETTY (INTERRUPTED)

I think that is progressive is a good way to describe it.

Yeah.

I think everybody kind of wants to be a renegade you know putting in their own (inaudible) words but not side with someone you know.

MODERATOR - AND WHAT ABOUT, SO CYNTHIA YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF MORE ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU? WHAT VALUES ARE ENTAILED IN THAT LIKE, IN CONSERVATIVE?

The same values that I got from my father, just I seeing it like an old fashion type way. I gathered some of their old fashion plus like my generation's but (interrupted)

MODERATOR - SO WHEN YOU AD THE TWO TOGETHER WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? WHAT IS ON THE OLD FASHION SIDE?

You know taboo stuff that you're not suppose to talk about are not talked about. You are, you hold everybody with respect, elders, you know you talk to them differently. We speak Spanish at home so there is a term (inaudible – speaking in Spanish) but I see kids nowadays, like my cousins, my younger cousins calling their parents (inaudible – speaking in Spanish) and when I hear that I'm like (many people talking), yeah you jump, you, but I still have a little bit of my generation, you know I got married young. I had kids young. I didn't go to I guess traditional college but you know I still see myself as a conservative and you know the word you said progressive I haven't heard of before used like in a generation type word. You know medically I've heard it. (Interrupted).

MODERATOR - AS PROGRESSIVE DISEASE, RIGHT?

Yeah, (many people talking) but if you put it like a generation being progressive I see it getting bigger, instead of just settling for the little they go out for the best or more but I mean I would define my generation both liberal and progressive.

MODERATOR - ARE THERE ANY OTHER TERMS THAT YOU THINK, ANY OTHER (INAUDIBLE) TERMS THAT YOU THINK WOULD APPLY?

To liberal or?

MODERATOR - TO YOUR GENERATION, POLITICAL TERMS? (NO COMMENT). WHAT ABOUT PATRIOTIC, DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION IS PATRIOTIC? YOU WERE SAYING THAT PEOPLE WERE ANGRY AND LESS PROUD TO BE AMERICANS.

I don't think my generation is patriotic.

MODERATOR - SO WHAT IS PATRIOTIC? MAYBE WE SHOULD DEFINE THAT FIRST. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK PATRIOTIC?

Me, somebody who you know that when I hear that word I just think of the flag, somebody having the flag at home, the car, a tattoo, a bump sticker. My generation I don't think they are as patriotic as an older generation, I guess the vets, that age group, they're more patriotic than us right now and I guess after seeing all the coverage and media about the war they are becoming less patriotic.

I would agree, I don't think they are. Maybe a couple of generations ago yes like she said but I think now, a lot of people that do watch the media don't want to be identified with things that are going on so.

I kind of agree with her. I think we kind of are becoming less patriotic just because of the issues going on now. I think people are more protesting what our government is doing as opposed to supporting our government. We're not completely countrymen as what we once used to be.

MODERATOR - CAN YOU PROTEST YOUR GOVERNMENT AND STILL BE PATRIOTIC?

Yes.

Yeah.

MODERATOR - BECAUSE YOU ARE SORT OF SETTING UP THAT DICHOTOMY RIGHT. IF YOU PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE NOT PATRIOTIC?

No.

I mean.

MODERATOR - I'M ASKING HIM?

I'm sorry.

I really don't think so because you're not about what the United States is at this time, I think you're kind of against it.

MODERATOR - SO PATRIOTIC TO YOU MEANS YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WHATEVER (INTERRUPTED)?

That is what I think patriotic really means to me.

MODERATOR - AND YOU CLEARLY DON'T.

No. Patriotic we give it two definitions. Sacrificing self for the betterment of the state and then second definition is praising, being a fan of your country. I mean that is basically what it boils down to but are we patriotic? I think we are but we're not as patriotic as generations in the past. I think they believe more in the wars that were happening back in World War I and World War II. We felt like we were doing something to save or help people or fight evil. I feel like now we are having a hard time defining what evil is you know. I don't think people really wanted Saddam Hussein out but that is the mask we put him on. Oh you're the enemy guy but we're fighting to fine the enemy. Other than bin Ladden nobody really has a clear enemy because we are not made at Saddam Hussein for the injustices he did in Iraq. We want terrorists to pay for our buildings crumbling and I think we are having, you know people don't believe in the wars much as wars in the past. I think this is like a Vietnam where people are split and I think, I don't think anybody really cares for the war but certain people feel like if they don't support the war they don't support the troops and I know everybody in this country supports the troops regardless if you support the war. They got to support the troops but I don't think we're as patriotic and another reason that ambition. People aren't willing to sacrifice themselves in a war for the greater good of the country that I'm not going to live in because I really want to be a stock broker, but I'm not going to go to war. The military career path seemed so much more attractive I think in the past, maybe when the economy or the job opportunities weren't as plentiful or when we weren't in a wartime.

MODERATOR - BOTH OF YOU GUYS HAVE FRIENDS THAT ARE SERVING, RIGHT, SO HOW DO YOU THINK THEY'RE DIFFERENT THE ONES THAT YOU KNOW?

The ones that I know they are more conservative than I am. That is why they are willing to put their life on the line for this country.

MODERATOR - DID THEY DO IT FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES OR DID THEY DO IT FOR (INTERRUPTED)?

I think they really did it for the patriotism and that is why I define patriotism as serving your country.

Mine, I'd say they use it as a means to achieve greater but their mentality while active, some active, some are inactive now is very un-opinionated. They don't think about it. They don't think about it. When I ask my buddy he will answer my questions but he will never give me an opinion. It is almost like he is reading you know what is 4+4, 8, just 8, not 1, 2, 3, you know give me an explanation of how he got to 8, it is just, he has no opinion on things, he just tells you what happened or what it is. He doesn't give you any opinion (interrupted)

My friends went into the military with that mentality already.

...Oh.

Yeah, that is why they think that way. I really do think there is probably brainwashing going on you know. They build you from the ground up.

Well it has to do with, they have no kind of say so why would you want to form an opinion either way because if I form an opinion no I don't want to do this, your orders the next day are to do this, will you be able to do it to the best of your ability and in some of these cases that means life or death so they don't form opinions on it they just do what they are told.

MODERATOR - WELL NOW I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT LEADERSHIP SINCE IT HAS COME UP A LITTLE BIT. SO HOW WOULD YOU GUYS RATE THE OVERALL LEADERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES BROADLY, POLITICAL LEADERS, CORPORATE LEADERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

2.

MODERATOR - ALL OF THEM?

All of them. All of them.

MODERATOR - ALL THE SAME.

The 2 goes all to business people and look at what is happening in the church. The Catholic church is crumbling. I am not even going to get into it but the Catholic church is crumbling. Our political leaders other than Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and I'll even give you the senator from Arizona, I can't think of this name right now. (Interrupted).

John McCain.

MODERATOR - JOHN MCCAIN.

...I like McCain. (Interrupted)

I like McCain too because his trick is real.

...yeah (interrupted)

(Inaudible) on him.

...and he has been in the ish for lack of better words. He has been a POW. If anybody can form an opinion, not that I'll agree but I will listen to anybody who has been there and has sacrificed. You have to give him his respect but overall I think it is pretty sad. I think Jesse Jackson he does a couple things here and there but he is not consistent. Latino wise I don't know of any and I think the picking are very slim overall as far as leadership goes. You look at Bush he is a fucking, oh excuse me, he is a nightmare and his whole cabinet they're nightmares and the democrats were sitting back watching it happen, they're nightmares you know. The republicans keep winning not because we like their agenda, because we can't find a democrat that we want to vote for or anybody else that we want to vote for. The terminator is our governor do you guys realize (much laughter) this is terrible. This is terrible. (Interrupted).

It is all publicity.

...He is a republican. This is the most blue state in the union probably and we have a republican representing his people. He is the terminator!! Are you serious!!! So I give our leadership a 2. Corporate America they have grown the economy. I think we have getting to a peak right now but overall their performance has to be given thumbs up.

MODERATOR - SO CORPORATE AMERICA IS GOOD. 1-10, POLITICIANS ARE A 2, CORPORATE AMERICA?

1-10 politicians are a 0, corporate America got the 2.

MODERATOR - AND THE CHURCH?

We're not going to talk about that one. (Many people talking).

MODERATOR - ANY OTHERS, 1-10, POLITICAL LEADERS?

I think everybody has their own ulterior motives. Everybody has their own agenda going on, even leaders. I think leaders especially. I don't believe a word any republican in office says on the television. I barely believe any politician nowadays.

MODERATOR - DO YOU BELIEVE THE DEMOCRATS MORE OR YOU DON'T BELIEVE?

I believe the democrats more, a bit more.

MODERATOR - 1-10?

3 because they're trying. (Lots of laughter).

At least their trying.

MODERATOR - A GENEROUS 3, OKAY.

Politicians, I'd say a 2.

MODERATOR - SO WHAT WAS THE VILLARAIGOSA EYE ROLL?

I mean, um.

MODERATOR - YOU KNOW THEY BROKE UP.

Oh, okay. (Laughter). You know I mean you see all these politicians promising the goods, you know the sky and then you know a scandal happens. You know everybody has a right to their own personal life and nobody is here to judge but could he have at least kept it you know out of the public eye but I mean I (interrupted)

I just want to know where he found time.

Yeah.

I like Villaraigosa. He has at least shaken it up a little bit. He is daring to do things that nobody else would do. It is probably the damn republicans that got the juice on him and leaked it out there but (many laughing), but I mean, I am not grading this guy on his family life. He might be a shitty guy but I think he is a pretty good mayor even though what he should have done, like she said, you got to take better care of that. You got to make sure that kind of stuff doesn't happen or you need to bring it out the right way and he kind of dropped the ball on that but as far as true issues that affect me and you I think he is doing pretty good. Challenging the school district like he has done, I think that was a really big moment.

MODERATOR - SO HE GETS MORE THAN A 2?

Oh, he gets more than a 2. I will give him the point for the 0. (Many laughing – talking).

MODERATOR - LOCAL GOVERNMENT GETS A POINT, OKAY.

There you go.

MODERATOR - OKAY SO THINKING ABOUT THE NATIONAL IN THE LAST FEW ELECTIONS PEOPLE TALKED A LOT ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES, GAY MARRIAGE, ABORTION, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. DO YOU THINK THAT THOSE SHOULD BE PART OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL DEBATE? DO YOU THINK THAT SHOULD BE AS BIG AS A FOCUS AS IT HAS BEEN?

I personally, being raised strictly old fashion, Mexican Catholic family I think that has to be put aside. I mean that is just my belief.

MODERATOR - WHAT HAS TO BE PUT ASIDE? THOSE ISSUES HAVE TO BE PUT ASIDE?

Those issues have to be put aside. I mean the way we were raised, you know the way, it's you know, like gay marriage like that is something that totally, it just changes everything, what everybody grew up with but now it is more, I mean America is okay with that, you know seeing that happen but personally I don't think that should be brought up.

MODERATOR - SO YOU'RE NOT SAYING IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN, YOU ARE SAYING IT SHOULDN'T BE PART OF THE POLITICAL?

Yeah.

MODERATOR - IT SHOULD BE SEPARATE.

Separate.

So should we just pretend it is not an issue in the United States and just go on with our day? I think it should be brought up. I think real colors will come out in a debate if that gets brought up. We will see some real opinion. We will see if this guy really is liberal. Yeah, I do think, it is gritty but it is a juicy topic to bring up in a debate. I think it would steer people more to where they want to vote.

Well if you put it in that sense then yeah.

But it is the truth. It is happening right now.

MODERATOR - I THINK YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Yeah.

Church and state. It is a Catch 22.

Yes.

That is why you can't really fault these people for the decisions they make. Certainly ones yes like war and (inaudible) but things like this is a hit and miss. Me myself I'm not gay but if two want to unite for eternity, let them have, why not, it is not affecting me, you know and I think it has to be mentioned because these are voted on, you know these things are issues but at the same time gay marriages were vetoed by Bush, right?

Yes.

The only reason he did that is because he is a Southern Christen, conservative. That is why he did it and there is no separation between church and state. They head honcho, the only reason he shot that down is because he can't even think about that because of his beliefs, his religious beliefs and I think that is where you get the Catch 22. I think that is wrong but it has to be mentioned but I don't think he should use his personal feelings or reflections to determine the happiness of others, maybe thousands, maybe millions. Maybe more will come out of the closet if they know that it could be more accepted.

MODERATOR - ALTHOUGH IN ALL FAIRNESS CONGRESS DIDN'T GIVE HIM THE LAW. HE IS VEHEMENTLY AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE BUT HE HAS NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VETO IT.

Okay.

MODERATOR - HE CLEARLY WOULD BUT HE HAS NEVER HAD THAT (INTERRUPTED)

And then they say one of the main reasons why they are against it is because it goes against the sacrament of marriage. It belittles the sacrament of marriage.

But we allow divorce. Does that make any sense?

Most people say that because it makes my union with my wife look less. It belittles it because they are two men and because it is a sacrament. I mean come on, man, come on, come on, church and state, church here, state here.

MODERATOR - SO YOU TALKED A BIT ABOUT HOW WE NEED NEW LEADERS AND IT SEEMS LIKE GENERALLY SPEAKING THERE IS A DISSATISFACTION AT LEAST WITH THE LEADERSHIP NOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK, HOW DO WE CHANGE THAT? HOW DO WE GET THE LEADERS THAT WE NEED?

I don't know. That is the million dollar question. I don't know. I don't know.

MODERATOR - WELL WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR GENERATION COULD DO ANYTHING TO PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP?

I think they can but I think they don't think they can so can they?

MODERATOR - WELL DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP, NOT TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT OR ANYTHING?

Do I think I can? I would love to but would people throw tomatoes at me? Yeah. Would some people love me? Yeah. Because I am going to say the things that people won't say and I don't

know how that would be accepted. If I was given the privilege or the opportunity I would jump on it for free just to open up peoples' minds. Don't be so quick to judge. I accept things that I am kind of against but I know that my opinion isn't always the only opinion that counts. There are different people. Everybody is different. They are like snowflakes so how can one person or one group of people determine what is good for all of us and that is why I open my mind to other peoples' views. I understand where you are coming from. Doesn't necessarily mean that I agree but my dad and your dad they'd probably be best friends. They sit down and watch (inaudible) games every Sunday (lots of laughter) because my dad is ultra conservative but he loves me and he has to accept me for me and I've never been quiet. I've never been the guy that goes and sits in the corner and very conservative like my father. I have always been the guy that will put his foot in his mouth sometimes but isn't afraid to go out there and explore you know and so be it. I would love to. Give me some campaign money and we'll see what we can do. I believe people, if I believed that I could get in I would make the effort but I don't think I could get in.

MODERATOR - SO WHY CAN'T YOU GET IN?

First of all I am too young. Second of all I am not white. Third, well actually if I went for mayor, LA, that is the only (many people laughing) but if you go statewide you are just not going to make it but mayor maybe LA. I mean that is one, I don't have money, I don't have the connections and I don't have the ear of the community. I don't have the ear.

MODERATOR - WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY?

Arnold Schwarzenegger even though most people don't know what he is talking about he is constantly on TV when he needs to be, familiarity. I mean I don't have that. If somebody saw me this time, they see me next time, it might take three or four times. It is like damn who is this guy who keeps blabbing on TV. I need that (interrupted)

MODERATOR - NAME RECOGNITION.

...an audience. Channel 4 if they get me on once and it doesn't hit I am not going to be on Channel 4 anymore so it is that exposure to contacts, connections, you know because there is a lot of positioning going on when you are trying to get votes. The Latino community is real big now because our opinion actually means something. You know how much the republicans are spending and dieing to get the Latino vote right now, do you know? It is incredible. The black vote, okay they are pretty much all democrats, you know we already got the ones that we're going to get (lots of laughter) you know but Latinos they use that church, they use that conservative appeal to grab you and they are looking at us because we're the ones that okay, I am looking at my friends and feeling real liberal and I'm looking at my dad and I'm like I need to cross my legs, you know what I'm saying? It is crazy but the Latino vote right now is probably one of the most powerful votes in the country right now, now just in California but nationwide and they are probably going to determine who comes out. That is why I feel bad because Hillary is not going to win because I feel she is the best qualified. She is not going to win. There are too many conservative red Christen states and there is too much split amongst the blue. Latino is a strong population but do you think they would want to see a woman like, do

you think they would want to see a woman at a capacity like that? I don't think so. Not as a whole.

Hispanics won't.

Not as a whole and then a great option but he is a black guy (lots of laughter), so it is not going to happen but they are the two most qualified and the best candidate but they will not win because one is a woman and one is black. That is why I say the democrats, what are you guys doing? You got a great ticket. First of all you should have split it up but you got your two best guys fighting for one spot and one is black and one is a woman. How are you going to win the White House? How? With Southern Christen states, how? You are not going to do it. I'm sorry.

MODERATOR - ARE THERE ANY OTHER IDEAS OF HOW WE GET LEADERSHIP? HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE? HOW YOU GET A DIFFERENT TICKET? HOW YOU CHANGE WHAT YOUR LEADERS LOOK LIKE?

Vote.

Actually vote because a lot of people, I don't know, I could go on for days. I'll just sit here.

MODERATOR - IT WAS NOT AN (INAUDIBLE). IT WAS JUST GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO (INTERRUPTED)

I need to give them the opportunity.

I mean we can vote all we want right now but the reality of it as a society it is never going to get where we want it to be for another few generations.

MODERATOR - WHY?

I think we're ignorant as a whole. Like he said, there are too many red conservative states that are not open to new and creative ways of progressing. They just want to keep it the way it use to be and not [work]. They want it to keep it that way. They want to keep it the way it was 30 years ago, which is not going to work when we are progressing as a society. How are you going to keep it right here when we keep on moving up like that? It doesn't make any sense.

MODERATOR - SO HOW DO YOU TEACH THEM?

I think we need to put more money into our education. I think we got to speak, all of us, all of us have to be more opinionated, not just one person, everybody because you know what, if everybody is opinionated you can find the best person with the best views out of everybody. It is easier that way.

I think we're like also the only country that doesn't I guess hold the popular vote important. You know we usually get the electoral (interrupted)

MODERATOR - RIGHT WE DON'T DIRECTLY WITH THE PRESIDENCY.

I think that has to be changed. I think that I heard we are like the only country that doesn't have that.

That's up for grabs now. You heard about that right? How they are trying to redistrict (interrupted)

Only in California.

...of course because we got the most. (Laughter). I mean if you have LA getting all those votes and they are all Latino or all black or whatever and they are giving those votes for the blue they don't want that. They want to divide them up so Beverly Hills can have their red votes, you know San Mateo they can have their votes.

MODERATOR - BEVERLY HILLS IS NOT RED JUST FOR THE RECORD.

You are probably right.

Studio City is though. No not Studio City either. I would say Orange County.

MODERATOR - NOT A WHOLE LOT OF RED ON THE WEST SIDE. ORANGE COUNTY.

Orange County.

MODERATOR - OKAY, BUT SINCE WE DID SORT OF TRANSITION

(SIDE 1 ENDS)

MODERATOR: THIS IS YOUR FIRST HOMEWORK PROJECT. BELOW IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING OUR COUNTRY TODAY. I would LIKE YOU TO READ THROUGH THE LIST AND THEN RANK ORDER THESE TEN CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT ISSUE AND the URGENCY WITH which YOU believe OUR COUNTRY MUST ADDRESS IT. SO ONE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT and TEN BEING THE LEAST. PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND LAST INITIAL ON THE TOP.

This is being the President here, that's why it's so hard.

MODERATOR: DONE? SO YOU I'M GOING TO GO THROUGH AND ASK YOU GUYS TO TELL ME WHICH WAS YOUR NUMBER ONE AND THEN WHICH ONES WERE IN THE TOP EITHER TWO OR THREE. SO RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOUR NUMBER ONE WAS A? B? C? D? E? IN TERMS OF TOP TWO OR THREE. A? B? C? D? E? F? G? H? I? J? SO WHAT IS YOUR TWO AND THREE.

Two is C and three is B.

MODERATOR: WE CAN START TALKING WHILE YOU GUYS ARE SHIFTING. SO THE ONE ISSUE THAT MOST OF YOU RANKED HIGHLY IS EDUCATION. SO WHY?

Well how can we compare, greater nation if most of us can't even read or write or even compose a paper.

I don't use the public school system for my kids. So I don't think it's what it is supposed to be doing for kids now. I see more kids in the street than in the library so I guess something has to be done. I know more schools are being built but it took them too long to get started.

That as my top one. I feel if you don't have that then you don't have anything.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT'S YOUR TWO AND THREE?

To be honest with you I confused all this.

MODERATOR: WHAT ARE THE NEXT TWO MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU?

Healthcare and social security.

The rising cost of healthcare and the growing number of uninsured. Three America's dependence on foreign oil.

MODERATOR: SO THE NEXT ONE FOR YOU GUYS SEEMS TO BE HEALTHCARE SO WHAT ABOUT HEALTHCARE? WE WILL ASK OUR NURSE OR DO WE NOT WANT TO GET YOU STARTED ON THIS TOPIC?

Healthcare is so expensive. Even if you do end up buying insurance you still have deductibles, you still have premiums to pay and that doesn't even cover. A lot of doctors are opting out of insurance because insurance's aren't paying what they are supposed to be paying or what they were paying years ago so people actually pay more to see the doctor nowadays. There has to be like a universal healthcare system where everybody is insured, every child is insured. I see a lot of Hispanic people, working families that don't have insurance and it is just getting ridiculous. Too expensive, medication is expensive. Insurance's aren't paying medication, they are acting like doctors, "you can't take this medication because it's too expensive let me give you this other type of medication." Older people are spending their social security check on the prescriptions.

They don't make ends meet because medications are too expensive and seeing a doctor becomes expensive. Insurance premium it goes up every year and something has to be done.

MODERATOR: SO YOU GUYS HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO THINGS, AND A FEW OTHERS, BUT LETS SAY TWO THINGS THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. HOW DO YOU THINK WE SOLVE THEM? DO YOU THINK THAT ON EITHER EDUCATION OR HEALTHCARE THE COUNTRY IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? DO YOU SEE ANY PROGRESS BEING MADE ON EITHER OF THOSE TWO FRONTS?

I see a lot bit of progress on education but like two steps back with healthcare.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT IS THE PROGRESS ON EDUCATION?

More schools being built, technology wise computers in the classroom.

No child left behind act.

Yeah. But with healthcare nothing has been done. It just gets worse.

The requirements to become a teacher now are harder and even for substitute teachers now it used to be anyone, you walk off the street you can be a sub, but now they require you to have a degree and have your (inaudible).

MODERATOR: DO YOU SEE ANY PROGRESS?

I see some progress I mean there could be there a little bit more in the curriculum in schools. A lot of parents don't have the money to send their kids to private schools. That's also why when you go to college you have to do another year and one half of general ed, because you didn't get it in high school.

MODERATOR: SO WHO DO YOU THINK PROVIDED THE LEADERSHIP ON THE EDUCATION FRONT TO MAKE THAT PROGRESS HAPPEN? WHERE DO YOU SEE THE LEADERSHIP?

Well I live in a corporate part of LA so I can get to vote for Mayor, I don't know if I consider him my Mayor but I do because I live in Las Angeles but I think it's him.

MODERATOR: AND SO ON THE HEALTHCARE SIDE THAT YOU DON'T FEEL THERE IS PROGRESS, WHY DO YOU THINK THERE HASN'T BEEN PROGRESS?

The downside of a capitalistic society.

MODERATOR: Canada is capitalist?

Yeah but they mix, they're mixed, they're socialized too. Their government pays for their healthcare. Our government won't pay for our healthcare. Why? I mean the drug company has got to get its cut. The insurance company, they got to make money and it's harder to make money because the technology is making the treatment more expensive. So how is that thirty dollars a month you pay your company before taxes, how is that going to pay for me breaking my leg and 2,200 dollars worth of surgery. It's not. It just doesn't make sense. And the way it set up it's not going to. They need government help.

Unless we're a socialized country we are not going to solve the problem any time soon.

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR GENERATION CAN HELP SOLVE IT, LIKE THAT SOON?

No I don't think it can be solved that soon.

It can be solved instantly.

I mean like you said it could be but it's not.

MODERATOR: LET'S TALK ABOUT HEALTHCARE A LITTLE BIT MORE AND IF YOU TURN YOUR PAGE TO HANDOUT NUMBER TWO. SO AS WE TALKED ABOUT WE ALL KNOW THE SITUATION WITH HEALTHCARE, THE COSTS ARE RISING, EMPLOYERS ARE OFFERING LESS COVERAGE AND WE HAVE HIGHER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNINSURED AND AT THE SAME TIME WE SEE INCREASES IN OBESITY AND CHRONIC DISEASES. SO IN THINKING ABOUT HOW, WE THINK ABOUT THE PROBLEM I'M GOING TO READ YOU THIS STATEMENT AND I WANT YOU TO MARK OR THINK ABOUT SPECIFIC WORDS OR PHRASES THAT STAND OUT TO YOU AND THEN WE ARE GOING TO 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 GUYS THINK OF THAT STATEMENT? AGREE WITH IT? DISAGREE WITH IT? DOES ANYTHING STAND OUT TO YOU?

I agree with it somewhat but the way I see it an insurance company would rather treat a disease then prevent it so that's where everything starts.

MODERATOR: SO THERE NEEDS TO BE A LINE IN THERE THAT INSURANCE COMPANIES NEED TO...

There is women out there, twenty six-year-old, twenty seven-year-old with breast cancer but generally an insurance company won't pay for a mammogram until she is older then forty years. If you need a CAT scan for a mass you have the insurance won't cover it because they don't have this, they don't have a family history of this, they don't pay for tumor markers unless you have a family history of cancer but nowadays anybody with no family history of cancer has cancer so they have to start paying for preventive care then treat the disease itself.

MODERATOR: SO YOU THINK THIS PUTS IT TOO MUCH ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND NOT ENOUGH ON THE ACTUAL WHAT'S GOING ON, FINANCIALLY.

(Inaudible) everybody should watch what they eat and how they live. People are having more problems with healthcare nowadays then before because more people are sick now. More people are realizing how much healthier is a necessity because everybody in America, not everybody, the majority of people have an unhealthy lifestyle. There is people that live on frozen food and McDonald's day after day and you don't think eventually that is going to cause a health problem? Of course it is, you're putting preservatives and junk in your body. And that's what causes all these diseases. That's probably what causes, I mean that probably leads to a lot of cancers.

MODERATOR: SO HOW DO WE FIX THAT?

I think we need to educate the public in nutrition before anything and see how that effects in the years to come. See if diseases decrease in young children.

MODERATOR: BUT WHO IS GOING TO DO THAT? DO YOU SEE PEOPLE LIKE YOU DOING THAT? WHO DO YOU SEE DOING THAT?

You know what, I'm going to school for culinary I think I could see myself doing that. Actually I do want to start doing journalism on the side after I finish.

MODERATOR: AND SO WHAT WOULD MOTIVATE YOU TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THAT GOAL?

The knowledge would give me the drive. If I have an absolutely massive amount of culinary knowledge I will go out of my way and I will write periodicals. Maybe low budget periodicals and send them out. I think it all starts with the individual, what do you want to do for yourself and your friends and your peers.

MODERATOR: EMILY DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN? CHANGING HEALTHCARE, MAKE IT BETTER.

You've got to educate the parents obviously. I mean I don't know I'm kind of, like if there was more, I don't want to say free clinics but like if there was more places that actually had that

platform that they do actually want to help instead of worrying about insurance and stuff like that I think that would help a lot, instead of for the money for better healthcare for our children.

MODERATOR: SO WHO DO YOU THINK COULD CHANGE THAT AND MAKE THAT HAPPEN? WHO DO YOU SEE MAKING THAT HAPPEN?

I think if someone wants to do it they're going to do it. I know there is people out there that do want to make free clinics (inaudible) I know it's a lot of money and stuff. I could see our generation doing it.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD MOTIVATE? WHAT WOULD BE THE CATALYST FOR THAT?

I think if people actually have an idea that they could do it, like kind of like if they were presented with the problem and look you can help us with this, you can help us out and actually fix this situation I think more people would be involved in it.

It's having more responsibility. If you know what's going on and how to fix it why not say a word about it.

MODERATOR: SO PEOPLE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEMSELVES YOU THINK?

No I mean for everyone around them. Say if you have knowledge that this person doesn't have why not help them out?

And share it.

MODERATOR: SO WHY DON'T PEOPLE HELP THEM OUT AND SHARE IT?

Because people are focused on the dollar and their time that's why. Like you said it's a capitalist country and people are focused on one idea and that is making more money.

MODERATOR: SPEAKING OF SOMETHING THAT MAKES LOTS OF MONEY WE ARE GOING TO TURN NOW TO ENERGY ISSUES AND FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS. SO WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS A LITTLE BIT IN TERMS OF THE WAR BUT HERE WE HAVE ANOTHER STATEMENT THAT I'M GOING TO READ TO YOU AND WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT. "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 GUYS THINK?

I agree.

In a perfect world.

MODERATOR: CYNTHIA?

I agree with it but you know why did it take them so long to figure this out.

MODERATOR: THAT THIS WAS A PROBLEM?

Yeah they put somebody on the moon why couldn't they invent something that is similar to...

Run cars on garbage.

Because it wasn't a problem before it was just business and now it's a problem.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE IF WE DON'T, IF THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T, IF WE ARE NOT IN THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGING THIS TECHNOLOGY?

We will never be in control of our own destiny.

I think we are gradually destroying ourselves.

MODERATOR: IN TERMS OF?

Our environment and our personal lifestyles. I think it is gradually getting worse and worse because we are not going about it the right way, the way it should be done.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT WOULD BE THE RIGHT WAY?

The right way, it's right here written down. I mean we need to stop focusing on things we don't need. Did we really need to put a man on the moon? Did we really need to? I think that was just national pride, we're trying to beat the Russians. Well (inaudible) and let's look at the real issue. Our people and what they need.

MODERATOR: SPEAKING OF SOLUTIONS AND THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE CHALLENGES ARE THAT WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, ENERGY. YOURS IS THE LARGEST GENERATION IN THE UNITED STATES DEMOGRAPHICALLY PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTY AND REALISTICALLY BUSH ISN'T GOING TO BE ONE TO SUFFER FROM GLOBAL

WARMING, MOST LIKELY YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO HAVE, IT'S GOING TO HAVE MORE OF AN IMPACT ON YOU AND YOUR KIDS SO THINKING ABOUT THAT HOW DO YOU THINK WE GO ABOUT BUILDING WHATEVER KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT WE NEED TO MAKE CHANGE, LIKE AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, CORPORATE LEVEL WHERE DO YOU SEE IT COMING FROM? DO YOU SEE IT COMING FROM BUSINESS? DO YOU SEE IT COMING FROM COMMUNITIES?

I think it has to be a group effort. You have to incorporate industry with the government. That's the only way because in industry if it's not making money then they are not going to push it. They are going to need the government subsidizing to help fill the voids to make sure everything flows okay. The only reason that would happen is if people pushed it or if the government saw the need to change it bad and made it cool like they are trying to do with hybrids right now. It's cool. They're getting Hollywood people to drive hybrids, they're the only ones making it, they're pushing the awareness. Bush might be talking about global warming and the emissions we're going to cut and stuff but as far as on a general level, a common level the only people pushing it are the celebrities. And now starting the Ford, the companies they dabbled and people bit, they were willing to pay the extra little buck to save it so they were able to make that money. So now they're making a push. What they need to do now is make it affordable for everybody. When you make it affordable for everybody then I don't have to make a decision. Well I would get a hybrid but I'm not going to get a hybrid because it's more expensive so I'll get this regular car.

MODERATOR: SO SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT THAT AS KIND OF GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING THE TAX SUBSIDY, INDUSTRY IS PROVIDING THE TECHNOLOGY AND THEN CELEBRITIES ARE PROVIDING THE COOL, THE MARKETING.

Yeah.

MODERATOR: SO IT'S KIND OF A COLLECTIVE EFFORT? LEADERS ACROSS DIFFERENT, SO IS THAT HOW WE BRIDGE THE GAP?

If you only see like one person doing it you are always going to think what that person wants to gain from it. You're not going to see it as helping, you're just going to think they are...

MODERATOR: OUT FOR THEIR OWN SELF INTEREST?

...yeah instead of the people.

MODERATOR: SO IF LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS AGREE YOU GUYS FEEL LESS CYNICAL ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE GOING FOR?

Yeah.

Because the government could mandate it. They could mandate.

MODERATOR: BUT THAT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK.

That doesn't always work but when you take the option out of it, are we doing this? Is it optional that we want to preserve our environment? Is that optional? So everybody has got to have a hybrid.

MODERATOR: SO WHEN YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT CHANGE, SOCIETAL CHANGE IN THE FUTURE DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR GENERATION BRINGS A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADERSHIP? DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD LEAD DIFFERENTLY THEN CLINTON OR THEN JFK OR FDR? IS IT THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOU HAVE? IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT GOVERNMENT, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THIS IT'S MORE MULTIFACETED.

If you put it that way I think so. We are more into the environment, whatever we can to help the environment, to help the next generation. So I think we are.

MODERATOR: SO YOU ARE DIFFERENT IN THE SENSE OF BEING MORE FOCUSED ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

I think we are the generation that kind of realized that these issues being in the past need to be fixed now or it turns into a downward spiral.

MODERATOR: YOU THINK YOU HAVE MORE URGENCY?

I think our generation has more urgency to help the environment and to create progress in education.

MODERATOR: AND WHAT DO YOU SEE AS BEING THE VEHICLE FOR THAT URGENCY? WHERE DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE PUTTING THAT ENERGY, THAT CONCERN?

I think every day when I walk outside University I think it gets voiced out, people what they read or write or what they want to express. Maybe they will build a sign and get a rally going on.

MODERATOR: YOU SEE THAT HAPPENING? PEOPLE BUILDING AWARENESS?

I think that's what is going on. I think we are creating awareness and once enough awareness is created that's just going to spark a movement.

MODERATOR: EMILY DO YOU AGREE?

I think, you said do you see our generation progressively moving forward?

MODERATOR: OR HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR GENERATION LEADING?

I do think it is going to be different. It's going to be totally different well not only because of technology and everything I just think that people aren't scared to voice their opinions now, our generation is very adamant about what they want to get done. So I think, I don't think, like you said it has to be collective so unless everyone doesn't work together then it's not going to work.

MODERATOR: SO HOW DO YOU SEE GETTING EVERYONE TO WORK TOGETHER? HOW DO YOU THINK THAT GETS STARTED? WHERE DOES THAT SPARK COME FROM?

One person has to start it. Whether it would be corporate or the government, someone has to start it.

MODERATOR: AND IT WILL SORT OF TRICKLE?

It should. I mean if it is for the good of our environment and what we are going to be living in.

MODERATOR: SPEAKING OF WAYS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN WE ARE SKIPPING HANDOUT NUMBER FOUR AND I WANT YOU GUYS TO PLEASE TURN TO HANDOUT NUMBER FIVE AND THIS IS A LIST OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF THINGS THAT YOU COULD ENGAGE IN, IN POLITICS AND SO IF YOU COULD PLEASE CHECK THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE, SO THAT IS THE HAVE COLUMN. THE LIKELY COLUMN IS THE THINGS THAT YOU KNOW IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY YOU WOULD CONSIDER IT. IT IS WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY IN THE PROBABLE AREA AND THEN THE LAST COLUMN IS THAT REALLY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO THAT, REALISTICALLY.

It's not plausible.

MODERATOR: YEAH THERE IS NO PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY ON THAT. SO IF YOU COULD JUST GO THROUGH AND LIST THOSE WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THEM. SO VOTING WHO HAS DONE IT? YEAH EVERYBODY. NEXT BLOGGING ABOUT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES OR PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE CHAT GROUPS OR FORUMS WHO HAS DONE IT? HALF OF YOU THAT IS ACTUALLY A LOT. WHAT MADE YOU DO IT?

Personal feeling.

MODERATOR: WAS IT A PARTICULAR ISSUE, SOMETHING SPECIFIC?

I grew passionate just about, what did I write about.. I think I was actually writing about how people were just brainwashed from the media and how it is a scheme and it's a manipulative tool.

MODERATOR: THE MEDIA?

The media.

MODERATOR: SO JUST FELT LIKE YOU REALLY NEEDED TO SAY THIS AND THAT GAVE YOU THE SPACE TO DO THAT?

I think what got me going was just my roommates, how ignorant they were and...

MODERATOR: SO YOU WERE UPSET AT YOUR ROOMMATES BUT YOU BLOGGED OR YOU TALKED TO THEM.

No I blogged. I went on My Space and made my own blog.

MODERATOR: AND WHAT ABOUT YOU EMILY?

I've talked about it in chat groups for school. About like gas prices and stuff like that and how people were going to protest by not buying gas for like a day or something.

MODERATOR: AND TRYING TO GET OTHER PEOPLE TO DO THAT? DID YOU FEEL GOOD AFTER?

Yeah I can't say it did anything.

MODERATOR: YOU JUST GOT IT OFF YOUR CHEST.

I usually do that. When I have something that I want to get out that a really can't express. I just write it down. But if have seen that especially on My Space, "Tuesday is national do not buy gas day" try to bankrupt the gas companies for that one day.

MODERATOR: WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS LIKELY TO DO THAT OR NEVER?

Never.

MODERATOR: SIGNING PETITIONS OR SENDING LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS HOW MANY OF YOU GUYS HAVE DONE THAT? WOW YOU GUYS ARE AN ACTIVE GROUP. WHAT DID YOU DO A PETITION OR A LETTER?

A letter to I guess the City because of speeding on my block.

MODERATOR: YOU WANTED A STOP SIGN?

At least (inaudible) or something.

MODERATOR: DID THEY ANSWER?

No but if felt good writing the letter. I guess is one person could make a difference.

MODERATOR: WHAT MADE YOU, DID SOMEBODY TELL YOU TO DO IT OR YOU JUST GOT SO UPSET?

No just the constant scene of the cars zooming by and one of the girls getting startled because of the engine roaring. You just get tired of it.

I signed a petition to lower educational costs for University. I haven't written a letter.

MODERATOR: AND JUST THAT ONE PETITION?

There was probably lots, like textbook stuff.

In Claremont to put up a signal light because there was a kid on a skateboard and got hit and before then there was accident after accident because it was a pretty big intersection but no light.

MODERATOR: SIMILAR. ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS OR FORUMS?

If you have?

MODERATOR: IF YOU HAVE. YOU HAVE? FOR WHAT LEVEL?

It was just a gathering on the campus in Atlanta one of the local mayoral candidates and he had a couple of keynote speakers that I wanted to check out and they were giving their endorsement so I was interested to see what they were going to say. I went to a couple of things. In college I was into that kind of stuff.

MODERATOR: ARE ANY OF YOU GUYS LIKELY? YEAH? SO WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU GO.

School. I don't, not the public school system I use it but if it is going to help at least I would.

MODERATOR: WRITING NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE LETTERS OR ARTICLES? LETTER TO THE EDITOR IF YOU READ SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE? HALF.

Likely.

Unlikely.

Unlikely.

MODERATOR: OKAY. YOU ARE THE WRITER IN THE GROUP CLEARLY. PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC PROTESTS OR DEMONSTRATIONS? MARCHES?

Likely.

MODERATOR: HAVE YOU DONE IT ANY OF YOU GUYS? EVER?

I did it to support one of my good friends for, I think they weren't paying the school workers, like student workers enough.

MODERATOR: YOU WANTED TO RAISE THE WAGES OF STUDENT WORKERS ON CAMPUS.

Yeah.

MODERATOR: YOU'RE LIKELY?

I would love to.

Unlikely.

Likely.

MODERATOR: IF IT WERE AN ISSUE THAT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH THAT WOULD BE THE MOTIVATING THING?

Yeah.

MODERATOR: DID YOU GUYS HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMMIGRATION MARCHES? YOU DIDN'T. OKAY HAVE YOU EVER BASED A PERSONAL PURCHASING DECISION ON THE POLITICAL OR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF THE COMPANIES (INAUDIBLE) PRODUCTS? BASICALLY NOT BUYING NIKE BECAUSE OF CHILD LABOR, NOT BUYING COORS BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE POLICY, NOT SHOPPING AT WALMART BECAUSE OF THEIR LABOR POLICIES?

It was for Walmart. And I don't buy a lot of beauty products because of animal testing.

MODERATOR: THIS WAS NOT A CRITICISM OF WALMART I WAS JUST GIVING EXAMPLES. HAVE YOU DONE IT?

Yeah. Denny's, McDonald's.

Denny's (inaudible) bounty hunter and I always buy Albacore tuna, dolphin free.

McDonald's.

(Many people talking)

Where they get their nuggets from too especially.

MODERATOR: THE INHUMANE FARMING PRACTICES?

Yes.

MODERATOR: YOU CAN ADD BURGER KING TO THAT LIST IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT AFTER. VOLUNTEERING OR WORKING FOR A LOCAL CAMPAIGN?

Unlikely.

I've done it.

MODERATOR: WHY ARE YOU UNLIKELY?

You've got to dedicate yourself to it too.

MODERATOR: BUT COULD THERE BE SOMEONE THAT INSPIRED YOU ENOUGH?

Not in my lifetime.

Not yet.

MODERATOR: NOBODY?

It might change but right now unlikely. It might change later on.

MODERATOR: COULD YOU SEE A CAMPAIGN FOR A PARTICULAR ISSUE MAYBE?

An issue but not for a person.

Maybe if somebody close to me was running for office then yeah.

MODERATOR: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A FRIEND THAT ACTUALLY WORKED YOU IN TO IT?

It would be someone, because then I would influence them.

MODERATOR: HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE JOINED POLITICAL OR SOCIAL GROUPS AND PARTICIPATED IN REGULAR ACTIONS WITH THEM? LIKE IF YOU ARE PART OF GREEN PEACE?

Unlikely.

I have if you put it, I'm a member of the NWACP.

MODERATOR: SO YOU JOINED. FOUNDING A BUSINESS OR OTHER ORGANIZATION WITH POLITICAL OR SOCIAL OBJECTIVES?

Unlikely.

MODERATOR: STARTING YOUR OWN NGO, EDUCATIONAL, STARTING YOUR OWN NUTRITION PROGRAM, NEWSLETTER...

Newsletter.

MODERATOR: THERE IS A WHOLE SET OF POSSIBLE. RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE?

Maybe.

Unlikely.

Unlikely.

Question mark.

MODERATOR: YOU ALREADY GAVE US YOUR FIRST CAMPAIGN SPEECH.

Mayor of Long Beach.

I've always joked with my friends like "what if I become the Mayor of Pasadena" and roars of laughter came up.

MODERATOR: DO YOU IMAGINE ANYTHING HAPPENING THAT WOULD MAKE YOU MOVE FROM THE LIKELY TO THE HAVE, A PARTICULAR KIND OF THING THAT WOULD BE THAT SPARK? IS IT JUST THE TOPIC AREA? IS IT A CHANGE IN SOCIETY? WHAT DO YOU IMAGINE TO PUT YOU OVER THAT EDGE?

Running for office?

MODERATOR: OR ANY OF THE THINGS THAT NOW YOU SEE AS BEING TOO MUCH OF A COMMITMENT.

Too much of a commitment time wise. And it just has to be an issue that I would feel like really, really strongly about.

MODERATOR: CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE? CAN YOU PICTURE IT?

I could picture something.

MODERATOR: LIKE?

Abortion. That is something I would feel strongly about.

I got one, traffic. Traffic would put me over the edge.

MODERATOR: BUT FOR YOU GUYS IT HAS TO BE A VERY TANGIBLE THING?

It would be something that would impact my life.

MODERATOR: MOVING FROM THE TANGIBLE WE ARE NOW ON HANDOUT NUMBER SIX. THIS IS THE LAST THING I AM GOING TO ASK OF YOU. CORPORATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS OFTEN HAVE A MISSION STATEMENT THAT SEEKS TO CAPTURE THE NATURE OF AN ORGANIZATION, THE VALUES THAT DRIVE IT AND THE GOALS TOWARDS WHICH IT STRIVES. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO THINK YOU FOR A MOMENT AND CRAFT A MISSION STATEMENT FOR YOUR GENERATION OF AMERICANS. IT CAN BE SHORT. IT ONLY HAS TO FIT WITHIN THE BOX, THE ONLY REQUIREMENT I HAVE. THIS IS THE LAST THING YOU HAVE TO DO. MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON IT, THE ONES YOU WROTE ON. THANK YOU.

(end of session)