



GREENBERG MILLENNIAL PROJECT

FOCUS GROUP #3
WHITE, COLLEGE GRADS, MIXED GENDER
NEW YORK
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MODERATOR: INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

My name is Marlena. I live in Brooklyn and I'm a sales rep for DKNY.

Allen. Also in Brooklyn. I'm a private investigator and I work with my Dad.

Angelena. I live in Long Island City, just in Queens and I work in real estate.

I'm Elana. I also live in Brooklyn and I'm an actress and a director.

My name is Tom. I'm from New York, Brooklyn side. I'm a tutor for a private (inaudible) company. We do some teaching also.

I'm Matt. I'm 26. I live in the West Village. I've been in New York for about five years, originally from outside of Philadelphia. I'm in finance. I actually went through high school in Delaware, Archbury Academy.

I'm Jen. I'm from Hartsdale, which is in Westchester. I work at Revlon and I work in product development.

I'm Benjamin. I live in Brooklyn and I work in customer service.

I'm Deena from Manhattan and I work in a travel agency.

I'm Alex. I'm 29 and I live in Manhattan. I'm originally from Brazil.

MODERATOR: AS I SAID ONE OF THE THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT AND IS KIND OF A FRAMEWORK FOR A LOT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS IS THE IDEA OF GENERATIONS IN AMERICA. THE IDEA OF PEOPLE BEING A CERTAIN AGE HAVE A CERTAIN SET OF EXPERIENCES, SHARED COMMON EXPERIENCES, BELIEFS, ATTITUDES THAT KIND OF SET THEM APART FROM OTHER GROUPS OF AMERICANS. IF YOU LOOK AT AMERICANS UNDER THIRTY RIGHT NOW DO YOU SEE THAT AS A GENERATION THAT IS MEEK? THAT IS KIND OF DIFFERENT FROM GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOURSELVES?

I think people are a lot more political now then probably they were back in the day. I mean maybe not in the sixties or so but I think that trend is happening where people are really getting involved in environmental issues, political issues, pretty much everything more so then I would say in the nineties and eighties.

I feel like things are very cyclical for the most part historically speaking. Like you said people weren't very active in the sixties but I also see a lot of apathy even though there a lot of people that do participate actively in governmental or social groups or agendas, etc, whatever they participate in. But I see a lot of people who don't know really know what to do or they're frustrated and they talk a lot but they don't really actively do anything.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? DO YOU SEE YOUR GROUP OF AMERICANS UNDER THIRTY AS A UNIQUE GENERATION? SEPARATE FROM THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAYS?

I think so. I think the way that I look at my parents and my parent's generation sort of it has people that were maybe a little bit less proactive and outgoing and open to new things. Our generation and the people in their twenties there are a lot of new things out there maybe wouldn't have been acceptable to even talk about or experiment or do back when my parents were growing up. It seemed a lot more closed off. Things have progressed. A lot more going on.

I kind of agree with that. I think awareness is getting younger and younger and people are a lot more privy to things that used to be a little more hush, hush and sheltered I guess. I think people are a little more open, I think even parents maybe are sharing a lot of things that may have been kept quiet, again just being sheltered. And I think also education and technology the way things are going in that aspect. Things are just a lot more accessible.

I think that is the same for every generation. Like I see my parents and my grandparents and they are definitely more open now then what they were. So I don't think it's specific to our generation. I think it's just times are changing.

I just see a lot more opportunity. I mean hearing what my relatives and people before me and the opportunities that I have today pretty much they did not have. I definitely do think that as a generation we are definitely doing a lot of great things. I think a lot of people are doing different things, good or bad but at least people are out there. There is more opportunities and more things accessible. There is also different ways of interacting. There is so much things that we can do basically with one touch or one turn of a button people have so much information. It's incredible. Just looking at that and I think it's only going to get better. I think there is going to be more information and more opportunity. There is going to be more access and I think definitely this generation is the tip of the iceberg right now.

I agree with the access that you mentioned. I think with the internet and everything that is going on I think we have access to many different point of views now that maybe other generations didn't have before. You look at the internet like My Space, Face Book and you look at these

things and kind of get a more personalized view on what people are all about. I think it's changing.

You also look at My Space and it's covered with people like (McCain) and people on Face Book click to join a cause and that's the extent of it. They join a cause on Face Book.

It's just access to information. I think the more and more you get access to China, Korea just different points of views that maybe you didn't have before.

At least it's there.

But it's not specific to our generation. Like I look at my grandparents and my grandmother now knows how to email.

I think the Face Book and My Space and all those are a little more specific to our generation and younger. I mean my Mom has email but she doesn't necessarily know about My Space or Face Book and that kind of thing. So I think with each generation there is more and more awareness and accessibility that is easier and more convenient. I mean if you have a desk job you spend a lot of the time on the internet and I think that is a new vehicle for freedom of speech as well, you know it's my page and I'll say whatever want I want and however reads it take it for what it is.

MODERATOR: YOU GUYS ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO REALLY GROW UP WITH THE TECHNOLOGY WHETHER IT BE THE INTERNET, CELL PHONES ALL THE DIFFERENT PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY THAT IS OUT THERE. HOW HAS THAT KIND OF SHAPED YOUR ATTITUDES, YOUR BELIEFS, YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD?

I actually don't like it so much in a sense. It's a little overwhelming and I almost like the whole safer feel of things. I'm guilty of it too, I leave work I'm on the phone, I get in an elevator and I'm on the phone and I just think you lose a lot of personal connections with that especially at work, there is causes of controversy through misread emails stuff like that. I think you lose personal connections and things can get misinterpreted.

Absolutely.

I totally agree. You lose the inflection of someone's voice especially via email.

I think with the cell phone I definitely think it's done a lot of good. I can remember using a pay phone and the pay phone would never work. Maybe the cell phone is annoying, I think a lot of people agree, people in their cars with cell phones or maybe on the bus or whatever it is annoying. But I think just the fact that people have something in their hand that they can use in case of emergency, anything like that. I think that's great. People should have the right to use something like that. I think maybe it gets a little excessive. I think everybody understands that but at least it's there.

MODERATOR: WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW IS HOW IT HAS SHAPED YOUR ATTITUDE.

Well for me its opportunities, I was telling you earlier, especially with the internet. I mean there is so much things now then just going to the library on my off time or if I want to read about something that I am really interested in whether it be about politics, news, stock market, anything I can have so much information just by clicking Google. So for me if I read a book, read a newspaper I have something else that will supplement that. So definitely it has shaped my opinion to just learning so many different things. Maybe I don't agree with everything but at least I have something to shape it.

I think, I mostly during college was when I really was on the internet all the time. In high school it was there but like, the late nineties, it wasn't as huge as it was for me in college as the years progressed. So it's really more high school kids now that are really feeling the major, they are really growing up with it...

Junior high.

...yeah even that. I can remember the difference doing papers before internet and now afterwards and it is so much easier and life is so much simpler. Yeah it is a constant flow of information and it is overwhelming and at the same time I'm sure that's what they said throughout all the ages and all the years like no we can't have cars horses are fine or no we can't have telephones, telegrams are the way to go. So I think it's just the changes of time.

I think it has changed me going along with whatever is being said about access and access information and all that stuff. I think it is empowering the idea that, I feel that if I need to solve something or I need to learn about something or I need to get a hold of something I can do it. I can do anything. If somebody says "no we can't really do that" and I'm thinking to myself "why not?" we will figure out how to do it. There is definitely a way to do it you just have to figure it out and tap into the internet or tap into whatever means of information getting or contacting or blasting an email.

I think that it kind of, exactly what he said, I feel like people can look up information really quickly but I also feel like it has shortened a lot of attention spans. Given to the whole, I feel like a lot of people have that sort of instant gratification that they need and they want and they are not willing to wait for things because everything is, you're used to getting things so quickly. So I know that at least me and my generation, we are pretty impatient. People that I know if your computer is slow or you have to wait for a subway or anything like just for a few extra minutes you get cranky or huffy and you like things to work smoothly and I think that's been a pretty big thing. As far as the computer goes when I was in high school it was pretty big and I know that a lot of my social life in high school was really helped out by the instant messenger and that's how I would talk to a lot of my friends. Not so much now but in high school, definitely in high school and college instant messenger was really a good way to talk to a lot of people at once.

I think it has also made us, I'm sure we're all guilty of it to some degree, more some and others less but just more greedy in a way. Things are coming out, like you buy the new I-phone and the next generation is out and you want that instead, you're constantly looking for upgrades and your not as satisfied with what you have kind of thing.

I'm still stuck on the cassette player.

Some less but that's fine.

I hear you though.

MODERATOR: ARE THERE SPECIFIC EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE SHAPED YOUR GENERATION? COMMON EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE KIND OF SHAPED YOUR OUTLOOK, YOUR WORLD VIEW?

Are you talking about, to what extent technology wise?

MODERATOR: ANY WAY.

I would say September 11th more then anything else.

MODERATOR: AND WHAT WAS THE IMPACT? WHAT WAS THE CONSEQUENCES?

I think just New York completely changed. The way people related to each other.

I think the world changed.

Yeah. Absolutely but just in a small perspective just looking at New York I think afterwards people just became much more friendly, you don't put your head down and go to work, people started looking up and caring a little bit more about each other. If I had to pick one event I think September 11th.

I think with September 11th aside from that I think it is directly related to why our generation is much more political now because of Bush and Iraq and everything. I think from the middle of some (dohicky) town in the middle of the country know what terrorism is, know what Alkyda is whereas before September 11th they probably didn't. And being New Yorkers we usually have more access all the time no matter where we originally are from New York is like a Haven for information even before the internet. But I think in general like the younger generation as a result of September 11th they are much more aware of what is going on in the world even if they don't want to know it's like being pushed into their heads.

That also effected that we get more exposure to what is going on, you got so many different opinions after that, people taking credit for it and (inaudible) and you have to see what their ideas are and everybody is taking some type of credit for it so it gave more exposure and people got more interested in knowing the politics that are going on with the Presidency and everything.

I think like email and that whole My Space thing, that whole generation of cell phones and all that, I think it helped because you connect with people that you normally wouldn't connect with. It helps you keep in touch so I thought it's a good thing.

I think the one big event would probably be September 11th but on a broader scale I think the evolution of the internet, just having access to other people's opinions and not just being force fed the same news from the American media but gaining access to world media and you can get different opinions.

MODERATOR: AND DEENA ALSO MENTIONED BUSH, IRAQ THAT'S ANOTHER COMMON EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS GENERATION. HOW DOES THAT SHAPE YOUR WORLD VIEW AND YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THINGS?

I'm afraid to answer that one.

It's kind of frustrating. The whole thing. It just seems like it's dragging on for a very long time and it just seems like we're not doing the right thing. Like get in there, do what you got to do and leave.

MODERATOR: AND AGAIN HOW HAS THAT IMPACTED YOU?

I think it's made a lot of people very disillusioned when you feel like you are being lied to by a government especially growing up in America where your public schools teach you this sort of history of America that is so Norman Rockwell like Columbus discovered America, we are freedom fighters, we fight for justice and good and I know that's the history I grew up with in elementary school and then you go from predominantly most people, at least in suburbs where I grew up, living a somewhat predominantly sheltered life and then like 9-11 happens and you have the internet so you have all this information that you get so fast because once 9-11 happened it's like now we're suddenly interested in the world and what circumstance led to someone attacking the United States. I think those things are definitely.

It is just so upsetting. These boys over there, they are boys, they are so young and for what are they losing their lives? Coming home and everyone is like numb to it at this point. It's been going on and when it first started everyone was very much interested and on edge and right after 9-11 everybody just like very, just everything and I'm guilty of it to and you just kind of lose that pride and it's been a long time and you see no results. I don't think about it but it's sad.

The information we were being fed right after 9-11 it's like what do you believe. Unless you look at so many different sources, BBS News and the Canadian News even then you just don't know what the agenda is, I mean you kind of do but you don't really know.

I think I have a different opinion of this one so please don't throw rocks at me. I sympathize with a lot of people here basically about the mission itself and how definitely there has been a lot of dragging in the sand, a lot of different things. I think a lot of people would like to see everybody

come home. For me in know with not only the first floor Trade Center attack struck I had in my mind (inaudible) also the attacks in Yemen, (inaudible) Bosnia and the rise of the Taliban. For me I think the agenda is, while a lot of people don't want to go there and such I support these guys 100%, a lot of people support these guys 100% but I kind of feel like at least there haven't been any attacks on this soil in the past six or seven years. I do kind of feel like with the success of the last few months the troops are having I think General Petraeus; he is doing a good job. I think at least there is some stability. Obviously the job is not done and it should have been shorter but I kind of feel at this point at least we're there. I think it is the best option for me, I'll support it.

MODERATOR: BACK TO YOUR GENERATION AGAIN IN AMERICANS UNDER THIRTY. WHAT ARE THE VALUES AND THE GOALS THAT MOTIVATE PEOPLE YOUR AGE? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT MOTIVATES THEM?

Money.

Money.

It goes back to instant gratification I think.

Money has always been there.

(Many people talking)

MODERATOR: ANYTHING BESIDES MONEY? ARE THERE OTHER THINGS THAT MOTIVATE PEOPLE AND DRIVE THEM?

I can say money but I know a lot of people in my age group in New York and even outside of New York that aren't driven by money but they are driven by, I mean I know a lot of artists and obviously they are not making money by doing art and they are still pursuing that because they want to make some sort of different in whatever art form, whether they are painting or acting or singing or whatever, playing music. So I guess I do battle with what really drives people in that sense. But yeah I definitely see security and success whether it's in the form of money or recognition, fame I guess might be what drives them.

There is also like this huge, where it didn't exist as much before, like this whole obsession with (celebrityism) and all that...

TMG.

...and I love it. I will never be without like a trashy magazine ever. But this is like a new phenomenon. I don't think it was ever this huge before. It's probably directly related to the internet because of all the celebrity gossip websites and all that. Everything is out there and everything is like right in front of you so much so that you know which star is getting what nose job when and how much...

It's not even specific websites, it's when you click on your email it pops out right in front of you.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE IS IT THAT ANIMATES AND MOTIVATES YOUR GENERATION?

I'm going to say something that is maybe a little off course again, the word pragmatic. I think a lot of people in our age generation especially I think are a little bit nervous understandably I think we all are, about what is going to happen in the next five to ten years. Are you going to start a family? Are you going to have a steady job? Who is going to provide income? Where are you going to live in the next five to ten years? How is the world going to be like? All this stuff we're talking about I think relates kind of to the word pragmatic I like to use because I think a lot of people are just not sure. While they're interested and excited to see what is going to happen in the future I think at the same time also people are just a little unsure of it. I think that is kind of what contributes to everything you are talking about so far. I feel at least personally.

I feel like in previous generations they were a little bit more selfless and they lived for the further generations. People were inclined to be more family oriented and like they married younger and they looked to have children and marry and pass off those values. But I feel like our generation isn't as quick to want to settle down and have children. We are more selfish. We want to live our lives and do our thing and we don't want to have to think and live for another generation we want to live for ourselves. I think that is a huge difference.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT THAT? DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE YOU ARE MORE SELFISH?

Yeah.

Yeah kind of along those lines. I feel like now people are more willing to like take a stand on the way they grew up and mistakes that their parents made or that the older generation made. People are more willing and able now to actually do something about it and change the way that we are to insure or to do our best to make sure that some of things don't happen like divorce in the United States, which a lot of time stems from...

Just not ready.

...financial troubles, it stems from substance abuse. I mean there is a lot of different things that are starting to be talked about and it just doesn't seem like they are issues.

Also we are willing to put up with a lot less. So even though people that are older than us got married younger they put up with a lot more than what we would tolerate. I think because our attention span is a little shorter and instant gratification, it's all that and so we are not willing to put with what those that got married earlier.

I see it as a good thing because like you said you don't want to get married when you can't financially support anybody just common sense. If you have to wait a few years I think it's a hell of a lot of better then putting yourself in a situation so maybe you should be selfish in that sense.

Well also women are having children much later and they can.

They should. If they're ready then let them.

I feel that there is a lot more breaking or tradition in our generation. That we are not as quick to just go along with the traditions that were passed down to us by our parents or grandparents like people marry more interracially with people from other ethnic backgrounds more often now...

And religious backgrounds.

...and I think that is more accepted. Yeah religious backgrounds as well. I think that homosexuality and same sex couples are more prevalent now and people more openly discussing that. There is just that acceptance of breaking those traditions, which I think the internet has helped because you have that voyeuristic ability now to look into the lives and how other people are living and see alternative ways that you might have not have been exposed to before.

MODERATOR: LET ME GET BACK TO SOMETHING ELENA SAID EARLIER WHICH IS ABOUT SELFISHNESS. IN THE EIGHTIES AND NINETIES AND GENERATION WAS LABELED THE "ME" GENERATION, SAME IDEA THEY WERE ALL ABOUT THEMSELVES, TRYING TO MAKE MONEY. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SIMILAR TO THEM OR DO YOU THINK YOU ARE MORE INCLINED TOWARD KIND OF THE GREATER GOOD.

I think it's very dependent on who ask and what city. New York everyone who is either from New York or moved here came here most likely for money and opportunities. So most of us are probably going to be like me, me, me, me. I feel the same way. It's really dependent, going and asking somebody in like the middle of Minnesota or something where the culture is more to have kids younger and to get married younger and all that maybe it is more about family. I think for New Yorkers I would probably assume that we are more...

I don't know, yeah I guess so but at the same time if you are from a big city or you have moved to a big city you also have, you do look at the bigger picture in terms of politics and in terms of what is going on in the world. You have access to that and you are more open to what is going on, it's not just me, me, me I think.

I think it's like 50/50. I think a lot of it's me, me, me just because of the opportunities we have, the accessibility we have but then look at the environment for an example. The whole green movement, people are more conscious of that and that is all towards a greater good whether it's buying a hybrid or recycling. I work in cosmetics and we look at biodegradable packaging and all sorts of stuff that for the greater good. So kind of taking a step back from being very selfish and seeing what is good for the world. Especially for me like the end of that is because how is

that going to affect us down the world so it does kind of come back to a selfish attitude because we know it ten years global warming and whatever else.

I think we are sort of, it may sound vague and simple, but I think we are smarter and we are more involved then in the eighties and nineties when people were our age. I was born in eighty one so it's not like I really remember the eighties but it just seems like the eighties were more excess and me, me, me as opposed to now where I feel people have, there is so much access and so much information that you have. You have all the tools that you need. You have a more educated population. You have a smarter population. You have all the tools to apply whatever you would like to do and causes that you want to support.

MODERATOR: BUT MY QUESTION IS ARE PEOPLE DOING THAT? ARE THEY TAKING THOSE OPPORTUNITIES OR ARE THEY STILL ME, ME, ME? IS IT ME OR IS IT WE?

Both.

I think it's more we then it has been. It's not all we.

I feel like it is really trendy now to do these sort of things, to be green and proactive. So I feel like, and I think that's a good thing, but I think that's why a lot of younger people are doing that because it's so in vogue. You turn on TV and all those shows on like MTV or America's Next Top Model or the Real World or whatever is that people younger then us or even our age are watching there is always advertisements for being green and look on the subway and there is all that "Energy Star" and saving this and here is tips to save energy. You know it's all over the place and it's so accepted and it makes you look good like its trendy. I think that might be because of our generation. Its possible other generation could have made this trendy also but that awareness I think is part of our generation. I think that our generation made it more trendy.

I think every generation is different. I think there is definitely some good. I think the "Me" thing is a good thing in a sense because you want the economy to keep growing. You want people to be working and it is good people are because you want people to work and you want people to have opportunities. In terms of opportunities I see a lot of people doing a lot of great things out there and I think we should continue to encourage them. I think this generation is definitely different then every generation because you have got to ask yourself I wasn't in that generation. But at the same time I want to take what Generation X did, I want to take what the other generation did before that and I want to try and think about it and what I am doing in this generation and maybe what I can use good and bad and see how it can affect me and not just affect me but other people too. I like both "Me" and the "We" thing because you know what I think you have to have a combination of both and that's just my opinion.

I think you need to separate, at least in my case, I'm nine to five, I'm a hard worker, I have a family to provide to and I have no options. My nights are different, as a working professional I don't really care I'm there for myself. Anything for my own. From five and beyond my attitude

changes a little bit. I may go out to a restaurant or see a different movie that has a cultural aspect to it but I think there has to be some sort of separation in the world.

I think of course each person of course has varying degrees but it's still the same "Me".

I think there is a big "We" in there because we are now more career oriented and we want to (inaudible) your family where as the previous generations a lot of them work in factories not college jobs but they're just working for companies and everything. Some people can't have families because they are living like the last penny. I think our generation is more like let's get ourselves settled first even though we are a little selfish and we want everything, we are getting ourselves settled and then people are marrying late, having kids late and they are more settled in their careers or whatever it is.

MODERATOR: SO YOU SEE THAT AS KIND OF LOOKING OUT TOWARDS THEM?

Yeah towards the future.

I think like getting back to a word that I associate our generation with is the wherewithal and like preparedness to have the, no matter what the circumstances are when you finally settle down have the ability, have the wherewithal to do what you need to do to take care of your family and take care of your situation, to be that good person you want to be. Just have, just strive for the wherewithal to do whatever you want.

MODERATOR: A COUPLE OF YOU GUYS ALREADY OFFERED SOME, LIKE TOM SAID PRAGMATIC. HOW WOULD YOU LABEL THE VALUES OF YOUR GENERATION? IF YOU HAD TO GIVE THEM A WORD OR PHRASE HOW WOULD YOU LABEL THEM? DESCRIBE THEM.

I think a lot of it is trendy. The fact that when Bush went to his second term and there was like Paris Hilton in Times Square wearing a t-shirt saying like "Rock the Vote"...

"Vote or Die"

...like on one hand I appreciate that because it is really getting these people interested in something where like maybe ten or fifteen years ago nobody knew or cared about voting, our generation, but now it is so like overly trendy that it has almost pushed me away from it. I would use the word trendy and it has some positive attributes to it but also negative because it is too much.

I think that might be very specific to the United States because in other countries it's mandatory to vote, when you're seventeen you get sent.

Venezuela is an example of that.

Australia too.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE WORDS OR PHRASE.

Selfish.

Careful. Like a lot of planning, very systematic.

I think we are kind of risk takers.

I would say risk takers too.

Personalized.

Customized yeah.

MODERATOR: HOW SO?

You have less traditional plain vanilla values that our parents might have had and now maybe the values relate to what you are interested in whether it's a cause, whether its' making a lot of money. People are making their values, they cater to what they are doing or what they want to do and they are still pretty good in it.

They are not personalized in terms of like communications. Like getting back to the whole email thing its not personalized.

MODERATOR: A LOT OF TIMES YOU HEAR WHEN IT COMES TO POLITICAL VALUES EVERYTHING IS KIND OF ON THIS TWO DIMENSIONAL SPECTRUM, LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE. DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATIONS VALUES FALL SOMEWHERE ON THIS SPECTRUM OR DO YOU THINK THEY ARE KIND OF OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Definitely more liberal. I think it has to do with trendiness to be liberal for people in their twenties. Maybe people in their, I think its affecting everybody...

We are aggressive people.

...yeah probably due to the fact that we are so against the government, like almost everybody is against what's happening right now in America. And because he is Republican and because it is so like strict I think there is like that backlash that everyone is falling completely the opposite now.

MODERATOR: DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH HER? DO YOU THINK THAT THINGS ARE MORE LIBERAL IN THIS GENERATION?

I don't know I think the definitions of those have changed drastically. Like the Republicans are not what they used to be...

Either are the Democrats.

...and everything has kind of shifted to the right slightly.

MODERATOR: WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE.

It's the same thing, I mean come on, 80% of Republicans (inaudible) conservatives, the Democrats like the same number is liberal so like in a sense it is the same kind of thing.

I think that it is hard to say a lot of people are calling themselves independent in that spectrum because there are a lot of issues...

MODERATOR: IS THAT ON THAT SPECTRUM OR IS THAT NOT?

It's not.

MODERATOR: THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING IS INDEPENDENT A SPOT IN THE MIDDLE THERE OR IS IT SOMEWHERE NOT REALLY ON THAT.

It should be pretty much in the middle.

See I don't think it's in the middle.

I think it's somewhere...

(Many people talking)

MODERATOR: WHY DO YOU SAY (INAUDIBLE)?

I just do. It just belongs on its own because you have your own opinions about everything.

I agree it's not liberal and not conservative and it's not really in between.

MODERATOR: WHAT IS IT?

It's own self.

It's a triangulation.

What is the exact question again?

MODERATOR: DO YOUR GENERATION'S VALUES FIT SOMEWHERE ON THERE OR DO THEY NOT REALLY FIT ON THAT SCALE?

Yeah more liberal. It's almost not even a question for me. Why would it be more conservative? Does anybody think it's conservative? Everything is liberal, the New York Times, the Daily News there is a different agenda.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH CONSERVATIVE? WHEN YOU THINK OF CONSERVATIVE WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

Business, corporations.

Way upper middle class, Protestant, blah, blah, blah.

I associate liberal with a sort of openness to make your own decisions and conservative more strict by the rules. I think liberal is more malleable. You can change things.

I mean I think it's like I said I think it's liberal to a point. To the point where everybody is throwing their hands up in the air because everything is so crappy right now so they mind of veer all the way to the left to the point where it is almost unrealistic to pretend that everything is...

MODERATOR: WOULD YOU GUYS CALL YOURSELVES LIBERALS?

Definitely not.

No.

MODERATOR: WHY NOT?

I still have, before your question about values a lot of it at the end of the day for me comes down to tradition and family and while our world is selfish and exposed to everything at the end of the day for me that's what is important. So there is almost something nagging from a conservative perspective that brings you back to reality and puts things in perspective at least for me.

It brings you back to the center.

It does.

Basically for me I feel definitely conservative I want the free market, let the free market laissez faire I mean the liberals used to be good at that back in the sixties and the fifties with John F Kennedy. They were great with the market. They were great with cutting taxes. I look at that and me in the working class I just know seeing my father working the jobs he had to work and that once things started, when the taxes were cut, when the job reform was created I just saw my own family being benefited. So that always made me kind of lean towards Republican or Conservative because I saw a lot of people that I was living with, I come from the working class

part of Brooklyn and I saw a lot of people because of the free market, because of the tax cuts, job revenue, the economy it helped me and it helped a lot of people I live with maybe who weren't racially and like that. And I know for me maybe I don't agree with some of the social parts of it but definitely as a whole, I call myself as I always say center right.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CONSERVATIVE AT THIS POINT? NO. WHY NOT?

I think maybe conservative liberal.

That's the third way.

I get the sense that conservatives generally want to have an agenda that they want people to live a certain way. Where as liberals have the agenda that they want people to live the way that they want to live. It's more of a hands off. He disagrees...

(Many people talking)

MODERATOR: IS THERE A BETTER TERM?

Triangulation. It's famous when Bill Clinton was President. Triangulation. Fiscally it was a good idea. I mean I'm not going to say that I'm against, some of the things he did, cutting taxes.

MODERATOR: ANYBODY ELSE? IS THERE ANOTHER WORD THAT BETTER DESCRIBES YOUR GENERATION THAT'S NOT ON THIS SPECTRUM?

Triangulation definitely. But American people have always been triangulation. They have always believed that there is a third way.

Independent.

It don't exist though.

They do exist.

MODERATOR: WHY DO YOU SAY, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

It means that I don't like to be affiliated with such extremes. Like it's not black and white to me. There are too many shades of gray. For instance when I vote, the last election was my first very exciting but I don't like voting for either of the major parties because it's too extreme for me. But when you're an independent there are certain issues that you would vote on. Like I said shades of gray, what is important to you, what is going on in the world.

MODERATOR: LET'S CHANGE GEARS A LITTLE BIT. YOU LOOK AT YOUR COUNTRY TODAY. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY

TODAY? NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT BUT POLITICAL LEADERS OVERALL, (INAUDIBLE), ALL THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP THAT WE HAVE IN OUR COUNTRY.

The celebrities.

MODERATOR: DO YOU CONSIDER THEM TO BE LEADERS?

No.

MODERATOR: OVERALL WHEN YOU LOOK AT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

Corrupt.

Corruption.

Selfish.

Certain groups of people in the United States it doesn't really take into account how laws effect out. People from lower socioeconomic standards are affected by certain laws.

There is also a thrust where a lot of people involved in politics and political leaders are involved in businesses, they are CEOs of companies. So I think that has a huge impact on the laws that are being passed to benefit corporations as opposed to individuals and people.

A lot of hidden agendas.

MODERATOR: WHAT ARE THE HIDDEN AGENDAS? ARE THE PERSONAL? ARE THEY DIRECTED TOWARDS CERTAIN GROUPS?

Directed towards certain socioeconomic groups I would think.

It's been like that from the beginning of time. I mean it's not like a new thing. There is racism and (classism) that exist and that is something that, I think now there is a lot more awareness aside from the sixties, Martin Luther King era but I think there is a lot more awareness to change that and there is a lot more younger people who are trying to fight all these (isms) but it still exists in the (inaudible).

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE?

I can speak?

MODERATOR: JUST JUMP IN.

I feel like just maybe from local, political people I feel like they're working for me and a lot of the constituents and I think they are all working hard. I have spoke to a lot of them, met a lot of them, wrote letters. Okay maybe they don't have the good images of everybody but sometimes you got to have a conscious too. I think it's understandable about everything with people having an opinion but I think for the most part I have been given an opportunity and I feel like I'm not in poverty or anything like that, I'm able to provide for myself. So I feel good about things.

MODERATOR: IN TERMS OF THE LEADERSHIP?

I feel good.

I don't think the leadership is great. Most of our generation is without health insurance. They don't have any sort of coverage. They don't have anything to fall back on...

Everybody is like that.

...I don't know if everyone is like that but I know that people went to college and they got jobs. Why do people go to college there are no jobs. They have nothing to fall back on. They have loans to pay back but they don't have an income to pay back those loans. So that's what I see, a lot of people struggling with in my generation.

I'm not.

MODERATOR: SO I HEAR LEADERS ARE SELFISH, I HEAR THEY ARE CORRUPT, THEY ARE TARGETING THINGS TOWARDS A SMALL GROUP...

It is somewhat of a lack of transparency as well. I think even with all the access to information I think there is still a lot of closed doors and I think transparency is a key issue.

See he hit on a key point but the thing is ultimately to a lot of people the so called status quo will change well ultimately people can not change it unless they decide to get up and vote. Otherwise if they have a problem with the way things are going, I think some people touched on this earlier, that's how it is.

They say when you divert, you are actually voting...

People should come out to vote, it's despicable to have a 20% turn out at an election.

MODERATOR: HOW ELSE ARE OUR CURRENT LEADERS EITHER SUCCEEDING OR FAILING?

Even with the leaders who are more localized like let's say councilmen they are good people...

They are very good people.

...they are good to you but then again they also have their agendas where as they want to get a higher position so they are going to help out this group of people over that group of people. So you see more that they are helping you because they are more localized, there are still other people that are still getting hurt by that.

The councilmen part though, they are a lot more helpful then a congressmen would be because remember it's a lot more personalized. And maybe they are looking for a higher position but you want to be helped, that the big part of it.

MODERATOR: OTHER VIEWS ON LEADERSHIP?

I think it's really just, we are all from what it seems, I don't anyone is like struggling I mean to an extent like we can all eat but there is lots and lots of groups of people that fall through they cracks, specifically minorities. There is just a lot we don't know and certain rules are said and done and Medicaid is supposed to be wonderful and great for everyone but it is not. Public school systems, free education for everyone but people living in crappy areas get crappy education. So there is a lot of discrepancies and if you are middle class or even lower to upper middle class and white, you have it pretty good generally speaking. People outside of that area, lower then that, they are pretty crappy.

I think, it's a little different for me, I think the people in the middle class have it the worst. I think the people that are higher up they are the ones that have the benefits and they have the money to take care of themselves. The people that don't have the money that are at the lowest point, they are the ones that the system actually does and will take care of. The hospital has...

But the middle class are the ones that don't have health insurance and don't have...

I think we are screwed but we have more access to education. We have the internet, we have computers at home to make changes.

Right education yes but healthcare no.

But Medicaid is pretty...

MODERATOR: WE'LL GET TO SOME OF THOSE ISSUES.

I think along those lines, (inaudible) it's been for yourselves like you have the access to everything but you have to fend for yourself.

I also see more of polarization dissipating middle class where as there is really, really, wealthy, comfortable people and then there are people that are struggling, people that used to be middle class are now struggling month to month to make ends meet.

MODERATOR: SO IS THIS, AGAIN I WANT TO STICK TO THIS THEME OF LEADERSHIP, IS THIS A RESULT OF THE LEADERSHIP OR FAILED LEADERSHIP OR IS THIS JUST A NATURAL...

Definitely.

I think it's a result of failed leadership.

MODERATOR: HOW SO? HOW ARE OUR LEADERS FAILING US?

Well I don't really know the ins and outs of economics at all but you can see that, I know that middle class was doing better when Clinton was in the White House and there were more consideration for the laws that were passed as far as tax benefits or returns, I haven't been in the real world that long but since Bush I noticed that there is a decrease and you notice that unemployment is higher and people like the increment for making more money has decreased. I see the middle class just struggling more and more as prices go up for real estate and just the cost of living is going up but the salaries aren't going up to meet that.

MODERATOR: SO WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE US? WHAT IS THE SOLUTION? YOU GUYS SAY CORPORATE LEADERS ARE HURTING US, POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS HURTING US, HOW DO WE CHANGE THINGS?

Grass roots organizations, nonprofits those kinds of, all those kinds of like start up and go kind of organizations that usually start with people from our generation who are disgruntled about the way we are treated economically or politically or what not. I think it starts with us, that's what everyone says. Although there is a kind of laziness that you don't feel like doing it because personally I'm okay, I'm not struggling so I'm not going to go out and do picket lines and stuff. But that is I guess the goal.

I don't think it's the job of a private citizen to take care of, it's the job of the government to provide food for the needy, to give healthcare, to give social...

But it doesn't happen, that's the thing.

You cannot depend on government to do, I mean the good things the government done during Hurricane Katrina, the post office if you want the government...

But that's why you pay taxes right?

...we pay too much taxes if you ask me we should (inaudible) the sixteenth amendment.

MODERATOR: OKAY. BUT YOUR POINT IS WE'RE PAYING THE TAXES BUT THEY AREN'T DOING THEIR JOB.

(Many people talking)

...pay more taxes if you want government healthcare that's why...

I'm not saying we should be paying more taxes I'm just saying it should be spent in the right places.

I mean in a country that has such a surplus and that you say is so rich, they should be able to provide for their people. There is no reason why someone should be sitting on over one hundred million dollars while people are struggling. Certainly not government leaders should be sitting on that much money. I mean if you are a government leader you should be serving the people not your corporation.

Everyone knows the story of nine billion dollars that went to Iraq and six billion dollars disappeared on planes.

There is a lot of people like Bloomberg he has given a lot of money to a lot of causes, not every person who makes money is bad. People say Donald Trump is a bad person but do you know how much money he has given to charities. You look at...

MODERATOR: (INAUDIBLE) THE POLITICAL DEBATE IN THIS COUNTRY. WE HAVE HEARD A LOT IN RECENT ELECTIONS ABOUT SO CALLED SOCIAL ISSUES ESPECIALLY ABORTION, GAY MARRIAGE DO YOU FEEL THAT THESE ARE ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE A MAJOR PART OF OUR POLITICAL DIALOGUE. IS THIS THE STUFF THAT OUR ELECTION SHOULD BE CENTERED ON?

Not the...

Yeah absolutely that's part of our quality of life and freedom of choice. Yeah definitely.

But to that extent I don't think the government should have any say, it shouldn't be an issue, it shouldn't even be a government agenda. Like whether or not the government should be passing a law whether or not a woman has the right to get an abortion or a couple that is the same sex should have the right to marry. The government should absolutely no say in personal matters like that.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I agree with that.

It shouldn't even be like talked about, it's your decision.

It seems like every time something major happens they bring up abortion or gay marriage to like distract people from a larger issue at hand.

MODERATOR: LET ME GET BACK TO THIS IDEA OF LEADERSHIP. WHAT ROLE CAN YOUR GENERATION PLAY IN ADDRESSING THIS FAILURE THAT WE SEE SO FAR, THAT YOU GUYS HAVE IDENTIFIED.

Voting in somebody new that we do like.

Vote for me. I have considered about running.

You're too right wing.

MODERATOR: WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO BESIDES VOTING?

Support local businesses, like she said grass roots if people did get more involved and sometimes you do see more involvement.

At the end of the day I just don't think that's enough, sadly, and I support that fully but it's not enough of us to make a impact.

MODERATOR: SO IS IT THAT THOSE STEPS AREN'T ENOUGH OR THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PEOPLE TAKING THOSE STEPS?

There are not enough people taking those steps. You know it has to start somewhere so if you get the amount of people, even if there is a few steps then those few steps will grow and you just, the support increases.

MODERATOR: SO INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS LIKE VOTING OR SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES, DECIDING HOW YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. DO YOU THINK THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE OR IS THAT REALLY NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THESE ARE HUGE ISSUES THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

I think they always say all it takes is one person and all that but there is a lot of apathy especially in our generation and we think "whatever let somebody else do it, no it will never work, it doesn't matter what I say or what I do" that is usually the general attitude I think. I don't know maybe it's some self defeatist or something.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I agree. I feel as though organized it could change for the better but I just don't think we have the power to do it yet.

I think they are all liars.

MODERATOR: SO WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE?

I think like Deena said if you are comfortable you're not going to fight but the people that need the most don't have the luxury of being able to take their time to protest or to do these grass roots fundraising or whatever because they need their time to work and make money to provide for their families or provide for themselves so it is just this sort of catch 22 like if you're comfortable you're not going to fight but if you are in that situation you don't have the luxury of having the time to be able to do that. I think it's necessary but there is definitely laziness and apathy that is prevalent in our generation.

I think media also can play a major role in this. I mean the message that media puts out, if you go back to September 11th America was under attack and let's be patriotic and let's support Bush and Bush's rating was 95% fantastic, now we're at war, we've been at war for six years, we're tired of it and the media is constantly bashing and bashing. I'm against the war as well but at least give him a little bit of support to put some people behind us. So I think media is a power that is not really being utilized the right way.

MODERATOR: CAN MEDIA BE USED FOR POSITIVE TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE?

I think it has to be used in a positive way.

I think it's constantly...

MODERATOR: IS THERE ANY EXAMPLE OF THAT? CAN YOU POINT TO ANY PRECEDENT OF MEDIA BEING USED SUCCESSFULLY TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Look at Al Gore and look at what happened, the inconvenient truth, he put a huge campaign behind him for global warming. This whole movement...

I think it put it on the map.

...exactly and it was a great movie, it was a great cause, it was a good message and everyone was behind him.

Remember how we talked about though in the first step how we said that there was so many choices with the media? I mean granted you're going to have CNN, FOX News, MSNBC whatever but I think with the media themselves I'm sure there is bad things, (inaudible) if I see a media opinion where maybe it is too right or too left, I will check the internet. I got blogs, I got radios, newspapers, there are so many more choices. We shouldn't just say, they should have a right too if they are against the war, let them say it.

MODERATOR: OTHER WAYS THAT YOU SEE IT POSSIBLE TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE TODAY?

It motivated people to vote before Bush went in to the second term, like they're polling stuff on MTV and vote, vote, vote and like I said all these celebrities making TV shows about how important it is and how cool it is to vote.

(Many people talking)

I don't know what the numbers were but I'm sure more people voted that year than years before.

Higher turn out than 2000.

No actually it was lower they said.

No it was 4% higher. I checked the Board of Elections website.

MODERATOR: OTHER THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO TO CREATE THAT SENSE OF MOMENTUM AND CHANGE? SPECIFICALLY THINKING ABOUT YOUR GENERATION WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE THEM TO SAY YEAH WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND YEAH IT IS WORTH MY TIME AND ENERGY.

I think it's having that dialogue whether it be on the internet, with each other on blogs and whatever else. But it's not enough have that conversation, that dialogue, that exchange of ideas, it's doing something. It's taking that next step and that's why I think that maybe our generation lacks a little bit of.

MODERATOR: THE MEDIA IS THIS HUGE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND YOU GET A MESSAGE THROUGH. WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IS MORE ORGANIC, IT'S PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, IT'S KIND OF SIDESTEPPING THE TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CREATING THAT PERSONAL STUFF. DO YOU THINK THAT THE CHANGE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THAT WAY? SIDESTEPPING THE TRADITIONAL HUGE INSTITUTIONS AND DOING IT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE?

Definitely.

I think it's just the way you live your life I mean (inaudible) on words. I mean people can always just balk. Just the way that you want things to change and you would like to see the world moving in one direction and you think it's the right thing then make that a part of your life. Talk about it when you have conversations with people instead of talking about "The Sopranos" talk about something that matters.

I agree with you I just think it's very frustrating because you talk, talk, talk and it's like you're talking to walls unless you look at Bill Gates, well Warren Buffet donating 52 billion dollars. I think it's fantastic I think a guy like that can totally change the world but he's one in six billion. Bill Gates sure he can also do it but people to people it's hard to do.

I think it's people are overwhelmed. I think that they can but if everything thought that they could.

I think it's a combination of that and our generation is guilty of talking and not acting on any of their beliefs, wants, desires, anything unless there is like incentive attached to it.

More people seem to get involved.

Get involved in a cause. If there is something that you want to see corrected then get involved in the cause that is working to fix it and instead of talking about it just do it.

That's the thing it is so easy to say that.

MODERATOR: THIS GOES BACK TO WHAT DEENA STARTED WITH SHE SAID THERE IS A LOT OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS OUT THERE, THERE IS NONPROFITS AND STUFF DO YOU SEE THEM MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

I think that on a micro level they do. I actually am a part time social work student so I work in one of these organizations part time and I think with other social workers helping the needy and helping people in certain situations, we are helping but on a grander macro scale it is really difficult because all these agencies, all these grass roots organizations many of them get maybe possibly get money from the government or get money from bigger institutions that really have the say. So we can kind of go like this but the bigger picture, it's the President and the government and all that, that make the rules.

I can just point in the direction people did speak out if something did happen, just (inaudible) fare hikes, they were going to hike the fares, they were going to hike everything and because a lot of people went to the hearings, a lot of people did petition, a lot of people did things and there was some success. So I think people should just look at the small, small steps and small little things...

Baby steps.

Exactly.

MODERATOR: WHAT I WANT TO DO NOW IS TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES AND GET INTO DETAILS A LITTLE MORE HERE. YOU SEE ON HANDOUT ONE FIRST THERE IS A PLACE IN THE UPPER, RIGHT HAND CORNER FOR YOUR NAMES PUT YOUR FIRST NAME THERE. IT ASKS FOR IT ON EVERY PAGE BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO THEY ARE ALL STAPLED TOGETHER. WHAT YOU GOT HERE IS TEN ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY. TEN OF THE CHALLENGES THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS TO DEAL WITH NOW AND WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS RANK ORDER THEM, ONE THROUGH TEN.

(End of Side One).

... WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE THROUGH TEN, ONE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT, THE MOST URGENT FOR US TO DEAL WITH AND TEN IS THE LEAST IMPORTANT, THE LEAST URGENT OUT OF THOSE LISTED. OKAY I WANT TO GET A SENSE OF WHAT EVERYBODY'S TOP THREE WHERE. TELL ME JUST ONE, TWO AND THREE BY THE LETTERS. TOM START.

One terrorism, two illegal immigration, three American's rapidly growing national debt.

G, A and D.

C, E and A.

D, A and C.

G, E and C.

D, B and G.

G, I and C.

G, C, J.

G, D, C.

G, C, J.

MODERATOR: SO MOST OF YOU WENT WITH TERRORISM AS YOUR NUMBER ONE. WHY OUT OF ALL OF THESE IS THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT AND THE MOST URGENT?

It's so in our faces and it's so there and I mean even if people want to say that everyone is forcing us to believe and media is telling us and it is actually not that scary. I mean I believe it. Even if there is some things that they are lying about it's already happened, we know it can happen. We know they have power, we know Iran has a leader who wants to kill America. It exists, it really does even if you don't know the extent of which it does exist.

It's so destructive on so many levels.

None of the other things (inaudible) if you're not alive.

Definitely common sense. If someone was up in your face on a one and one situation and was like I want to kill you, you would do something about it so it's on a larger scale I don't see why it should be any different.

MODERATOR: OKAY C, THE RISING COST OF HEALTHCARE AND THE GROWING NUMBER OF UNINSURED GOT THE SECOND MOST. WHY IS THAT SO URGENT?

Because that is so important to have healthcare and a lot of people can't afford it. If you don't have insurance you are screwed.

It's the health and longevity of our world, well just America.

Also just in terms of like world healthcare and the Center for Disease Control, if you don't have health insurance potentially there could be an epidemic of something that could be coming up again that was curable many years ago because people just cannot afford to take care of it.

Also people, if they don't have to worry about struggling for their healthcare they can spend money and help the economy, they don't have to worry about doing all this medical, if they are provided for they can focus more on their job, on working and not having to worry. I mean if you see the people that are predominantly affected by diseases, people in lower income brackets are the ones affected by diseases that could be curable, diabetes, heart conditions stuff that with education and if they had health insurance they could be prevented.

MODERATOR: WHO ELSE PICKED HEALTHCARE AS A TOP ONE?

I did and I just think its common sense that you need to be able to remain healthy. I know life isn't fair but it's only fair that you should be able to be healthy without worrying about getting sick and not being able to do anything about it. It just kind of sucks.

I think it's a basic necessity, you just got to be healthy. It's just basic.

To accomplish anything for yourself and the greater good you need to be healthy. So it just goes to support what he is saying.

MODERATOR: THE DEBT, AMERICA'S RAPIDLY GROWING NATIONAL DEBT. HALF OF YOU PICKED THAT ONE WHY?

I think it just relates to what we saw last week where the Prince of Saudi Arabia bought in to City Bank. We've seen in going on with Chinese holding a lot of our currency. We've seen it with a lot of other countries such as Russia expanding and I think the debt as a whole relates to terrorism, it relates to foreign oil, it relates to so many different things on this list. If the debt continues to rise then ultimately a lot of these countries will take our dollar and just crumble it up and that means they take more of our businesses, all that kind of stuff. So definitely the national debt, it should be a lot lower obviously. The government needs to just calm down.

MODERATOR: WHO ELSE GOT THAT ONE?

Did you say debt is connected with terrorism?

No foreign oil, to some extent terrorism because other countries such as we saw China rolled a lot of stock in reserves in our banks, oil, Saudi Arabia so it definitely relates.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE WHO PICKED THAT WHY?

If we are in debt then that means that we don't have as much security and we are not as powerful, our dollar doesn't go as far. And then we become a weaker country because we can't carry out things as far as we once used to.

I mean it's like we just can't go as far, we can't do as much because we are weak economically.

It just changes the position that the United States has against the world. If China, I guess Japan is the number one holder of US currency but you are no longer a bigger power. I think it does reflect somewhat on terrorism just because it's directly related to how much we are spending on the war.

And it goes back to being able to provide for your people with the healthcare. If we are in debt how can we provide for our own citizens.

MODERATOR: SOME OF YOU GUYS FOREIGN OIL, AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE OF FOREIGN OIL, FOSSIL FUELS, NATURAL GAS AND OIL. WHY IS THAT A BIG ISSUE?

Once again depending on other countries takes away your power when you are dependent on these countries then they set ground rules like they have a certain amount of control over you because they have something that you need. Also it goes back to just the environment. We shouldn't be dependent on these. We should be self sufficient, we should be working on alternate forms of energy because not only would that make us stronger but it would mean that we are not dependent. If you have dependency you are not powerful.

Right and I think that also relates to what is going on in Iraq and also you see a lot of taxis now that have compressed natural gas, that's fantastic because they don't rely on foreign oil.

MODERATOR: OTHER THOUGHTS ON THE FOSSIL FUELS AND THE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL?

Well I think our country is like the bigger the better, SUV and everything like that even though we may not necessarily need it but because that is our culture and because it's very hard to change a culture that has been in existence for hundreds of years the fact that we have to rely on other countries to feed our culture and the fact that gas can go up within a day just because we are having trouble with middle eastern countries so they have that power to completely screw with us.

I think it's still too cheap.

MODERATOR: LET ME ASK YOU ABOUT ONE THAT DIDN'T GET A LOT OF VOTES AT LEAST IN THE TOP THREE, WHICH IS I, INFLUENCE OF LOBBYISTS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS...

I actually put that as number two. Specifically because on a bigger scale, depending on who influences it and how puts money into the government that's what makes our rules and laws and regulations and all that so if there is lobbyists that are very pro right, anti gay marriages, anti abortion, anti this, anti that then the government will implement what they want because they are getting money from those people...

(Inaudible) boasts about.

...exactly so I think that has a complete relation to how everything is made. If all of the sudden a bunch of liberals started giving money to the government and all these really hippie people started then the laws would totally change too so it really depends who is giving the money to them.

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

I think we are all lobbyists (inaudible) our elected official. The term lobbyist, when you lobby somebody, I don't think it's a big deal.

I think it's a huge deal because these guys are the ones that have a hidden agenda. These are the guys that are supported by big corporations. I do a lot of this in my job and I know how powerful these guys are and unless you are providing something for them they won't do a thing for you. Money talks in a way and I think they can really structure the way things are carried out.

MODERATOR: IS THIS A BIG CONCERN FOR THE REST OF YOU OR NO?

So long as it does what I like. So long as the lobbyist is working for me.

MODERATOR: I'M TALKING THE WAY IT IS FUNCTIONING RIGHT NOW. DO YOU THINK THAT LOBBYISTS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS HAVE...

For me specifically I am okay. I'm pro Israel and I am a Zionist, so everything and I am happy that America supports Israel so for me and there is huge lobbyists that give money to the government to do that so I'm cool.

I'm pro Israel too, very pro Israel.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE IS THIS A CONCERN FOR YOU OR NOT?

On this list for me personally it wasn't one of the most important, not as pressing.

Maybe something that goes along with your theme of where generation cares, I personally about that specific topic I don't care. I really don't. I mean I seriously don't. I know that I am probably not going to have anything to do with it so I'm not going to worry about it. I don't care.

MODERATOR: SO BASICALLY YOU DON'T SEE IT HAVING AN IMPACT ON YOU PERSONALLY?

It might I just don't, I'm not going to worry about it.

MODERATOR: OTHER OPINIONS ON THAT? SO WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THE BIG PROBLEMS HERE. DO YOU SEE US MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ON ANY OF THESE? DO YOU THINK THAT THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER RATHER THEN GETTING WORSE IN TERMS OF ANY OF THESE CHALLENGES THAT ARE FACING US?

With compressed natural gas, yes. That specifically. Healthcare no.

I think threat of terrorism is probably getting worse.

I think it's our anxiety that's getting, becoming elevated, we're sort of just waiting for an attack.

I can point to one thing where there has actually been some improvement on and that's illegal immigration. I think for the first time this year, I think it definitely is. I think a lot of good steps, maybe it wasn't the right bill but at least...

MODERATOR: SO THEY MADE SOME PROGRESS THERE. ANYTHING ELSE?

On that topic specifically I think local governments are doing things but in general there haven't been any laws implementing how we should deal with illegal immigration and as a result mayors in certain towns are making rules for their own little towns, which is actually screwing it up because certain areas of New Jersey are kicking vehemently are kicking with a boot illegal immigrants where other areas are welcoming then in and it's like a safe haven for them so it's actually completely up in arms.

But you've got dialogue. It's the first time we have...

But it's like such a non issue.

It is a non issue.

MODERATOR: LET'S NOT GET TOO FAR ON THAT ONE. OVERALL ANY OTHER PROGRESS? WHY IS THERE NO PROGRESS? WE ALL SEEM TO AGREE THAT THESE ARE THE BIG ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT HOW URGENT ALL THESE DIFFERENT ISSUES ARE. WHY ARE WE NOT MAKING PROGRESS? WHAT IS GOING ON?

The government is a failure.

The leadership is horrible.

The middle class is disappearing. It's something that...

MODERATOR: SO HOW DO YOU REVERSE COURSE? WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Impeachment.

I feel people aren't going to take action until they are pushed to the point where they have to take action because they are not comfortable any more. As long as they are living their lives and you can go day to day and still have those comforts and you can still indulge yourself in things like iPods or computers or cable and you are not feeling those affects. It's not like you are struggling yet to have meals during the day. People have revolutions when they are pushed to that breaking point. So until we are pushed to that breaking point I don't think you are going to see enough people taking action to have that big of an affect that you can see.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? IS THERE A WAY TO AVOID...

No I think the country needs a shakeup. There needs to be. It needs to get a lot worse before it gets better.

Most of the problem is like things are going up slowly. Cable Vision just raised their rates by three dollars. You don't see that but it will keep on keeping up and eventually you will see it.

MODERATOR: BUT THAT'S NOT REVOLUTIONARY?

(Many people talking)

But eventually everything is going to cost a lot more and the cost of living is getting much higher you're just not realizing because it is all these small things adding together.

MODERATOR: SO WE KEEP COMING TO THE SAME THING. WE NEED LEADERSHIP THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT I KEEP HEARING FROM YOU GUYS. WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? MORE SPECIFICALLY WHAT IS THE ROLE OF YOUR GENERATION IN PROVIDING THAT LEADERSHIP. DOES IT HAVE TO COME FROM 50 SOMETHING YEAR OLD WHITE GUYS OR CAN IT COME FROM...

I've seen it locally where I live. I've seen a lot of people get involved. I've seen a lot of young guys running, I've seen a lot of young guys having dialogue with young women too. I've seen a lot of dialogue it's starting slowly. I think in five or ten years I think whether it be left or right, I really think there is something is going to be (inaudible). It always happens.

The problem is only the previous generation could run for President otherwise we would see better changes.

MODERATOR: DOES IT HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT? DOES PROGRESS AND THESE THINGS HAVE TO COME THROUGH GOVERNMENT OR ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS?

Certain things like the threat of terrorism as much as you may try you can't change years and years of countries battling each other and cultural differences. But I think, I'm wondering what can be done by like small grass roots organizations and all that.

Tax payer revolt day.

MODERATOR: ALEX SAYS THIS IS ALL GOVERNMENT.

These big issues are really controlled and monitored by the top unfortunately. And again we can talk all we want and be as active as possible but it is not enough people to make a difference and I don't think we have the authority right now to really impact any of these issues.

I think you can still make a difference.

If you look at trade imbalance we can all make our efforts to buy American goods. But I don't know if it's going to make that much of a difference. Dependence on foreign oil I don't think any of us can control it unless the government supports...

MODERATOR: LET ME ASK THIS THEN IF IT'S A MATTER OF LEADERSHIP AND YOU GUYS PRETTY MUCH FEEL THAT CURRENT POLITICAL LEADERS ARE FAILING WE'VE COVERED THAT. WHY DO THEY KEEP GETTING REELECTED? WHY DO WE KEEP SENDING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 95 AND 98% OF THE THEM BACK EVERY TIME.

Ignorance and complacency.

People are afraid of change.

People are also disillusioned like the whole 2000 debacle with Gore and Bush. Gore won and Bush became President. People got disillusioned.

It's true there is this two party system and especially after you saw what happened with Gore and Bush especially it became sort of like if you vote for a third party it's a wasted vote and you're going to lose. It's like a vote for a third party is a vote for Bush.

It's a waste.

And that sort of a system is very confining and it means that you don't have that choice and you kind of lose of that freedom because you are stuck in the system and it's like someone else said money talks. So the people that are in power unfortunately are the people that have that experience and have been corrupted because they have all this money. They have made those contacts. They owe people the favors and that is how they get out there because they need money. Like I couldn't just decide even if I gave great ideas I don't have the means to get them out there. I don't have the means even with all of the media that's available to you with internet, with You Tube, with everything that is out there you need a certain amount of money and that is what really gets you to where you have to go and you look at the astronomical sums of money that these candidates have, just someone from our generation just a person from our generation can't, it's just not feasible in the environment that we live in.

MODERATOR: LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME OF THESE SPECIFIC ISSUES AND GET A POINT OF VIEW AND SEE WHAT YOU THINK OF IT, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. WHAT WE HAVE HERE THE FIRST THING THAT WE'RE GOING TO RAISE ABOUT THE HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES BASED IN THE COUNTRY. I'LL READ IT ALOUD, YOU READ ALONG WITH ME AND JUST MARK OR UNDERLINE ANY WORDS, PHRASES, ANYTHING THAT JUMPS OUT AT YOU. "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 two key things, the full health coverage and proper nourishment, they definitely go hand in hand. We are so into instant gratification, microwavable meals and all that adds up to health problems later on, which relates to having health insurance and getting that fixed. There are some things that are not preventable but other things are with good nutrition. So I think that awareness, that education.

I think one of the most important sentences for me at least is parents must be taught the impact of preventive care. Especially in lower incomes, you do receive help from the government but it just doesn't go over to the right places. So I think if there is some education along with that.

I think it's important to educate people and that is very true and you don't want your kids going to McDonald's every day but this is kind of assuming that everyone is starting at the same level, the same playing field and that's not true because food stamps that you get, your allotted a certain amount of money and obviously salads and all that healthy stuff may be more expensive. It's the parent's responsibility of course but if they are living off food stamps or they are getting

public assistance it's not exactly this beautiful, you're not going to (inaudible) and fancy green markets to get your food, you're getting the crap of the crap.

It can cost a lot of money to eat healthy. I think the key word is preventable because it doesn't have to be this way. These are diseases that people don't have to have. I think another key phrase is poisons that we feed them. The government subsidizes corporations that give us our food that put all sorts of chemicals and preservatives in our food and that is what's readily available to people. It is also our government that forces these people to work, people with lower income brackets to work long hours that they don't have time to provide good meals for their family necessarily. It's unfortunate that they do know the difference. It's common sense. We can't eat, you know fried food is obviously not as good for you as a salad but when it comes down to it feeding a whole family McDonald's is way cheaper than going to a grocery store and buying fruits and vegetables, forget about "organic" but even just produce in general, it's too expensive.

MODERATOR: LET ME ASK YOU, THIS LAST LINE IN HERE IF WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE MONEY ON HEALTHCARE, ESSENTIALLY doing WHAT WE ARE doing NOW AND THROWING MONEY AT THE SYMPTOMS WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES WE ARE GOING TO WEAKEN OUR ECONOMY CHILDREN ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO SUFFER. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? DO YOU AGREE THAT THE IDEA IS TO DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES RATHER THEN PAYING MORE AND MORE AND MORE TO DEAL WITH THE SYMPTOMS?

The think is though they are kind of seeing the root causes as a lack of knowledge and I think that does happen, in a certain way there are people who don't know the importance of nutrition but there is a lot of systemic problems and there is a lot. Medicaid and all those low income insurance are crap like I deal with these people every day and there is so many little holes that they fall into. It's not like, I hope no one every has to be on Medicaid because it sucks.

It's just you go to a low income neighborhood and you see the food that is available there and then you go to a rich neighborhood and you look at the food that is available in a rich neighborhood and it's just your options are limited. Until you can break that cycle of poverty you are not going to be able to break what's going on with the healthcare.

MODERATOR: BUT DO YOU THINK THAT CAN BE DONE THROUGH CONSUMER CHOICES IF PEOPLE BOUGHT MORE HEALTHY STUFF WOULD THEY THEN HAVE MORE ACCESS TO HEALTHY STUFF?

I think it's kind of lame that the government says "Oh it starts with education" because it's like she said we know the difference between healthy and unhealthy. I don't think it starts with education. I think what they need to do is reassess what the bottom line is and what the basic cause is because I don't think it's education, I think it's more of an economic issue than an educational issue.

MODERATOR: FLIP TO HANDOUT THREE. THIS ONE DEALS WITH ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SO THOSE ARE JUST THINGS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER.

“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”.

i agree 100%.

That sounds great.

I don't think there is any reason why there shouldn't be a thrust on producing alternative energy sources. It's a great opportunity for the country to A get out of debt, stop being dependent and become a world leader in environmental like green movements. I think there is a lot of potential and instead of working towards getting more oil if there was just a shift of energy and a shift of your concentration going in this direction it would be beneficial in so many different ways just not even the economy but the environment. I see no negatives there.

This really supports addressing the root cause of things. Cause and effect and our future.

Bottom line, mass transit we've got so many opportunities with that. We should just ultimately spend more money on that. That is one thing I would definitely favor. You've seen with buses now that are getting a lot cleaner. So many opportunities, increase that with biplanes and you would have a much safer and cleaner environment.

MODERATOR: THE FIRST SENTENCE PUTS IT IN PRETTY GRAVE TERMS, OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

No it's a little extreme.

Yeah.

I agree with that.

I think you have to sometimes put things in terms that are a little more extreme to motivate people.

Good point.

Good point.

The thing is with the whole environmental movement it's not political, it's not against, it's not targeting at certain people, it's not religious, there is no hidden agenda behind it and we all know that we have to save the environment otherwise we are all dead, rich, poor, black, white it doesn't matter. So I think a lot more people are okay with trying to help the environment because there is no like political agenda behind it.

MODERATOR: OTHER THOUGHTS ON THAT ONE?

Other than our relationship to like certain countries in the Middle East?

I guess that is true but all of our vision to help, to change whereas some people may not see the healthcare system as bad because they have a good job and they are getting good healthcare so they don't know or they don't realize. We all know that it's bad to pollute. We all know that the global warming, we all know that it exists and I think everyone is willing to make a change to a certain extent to make that go away.

Everyone as in everyone in our generation?

I think everyone on America. Everyone is aware.

MODERATOR: SO AGAIN WE TALKED ABOUT KIND OF HOW THINGS HAPPEN. HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN? THIS ISN'T WHERE WE ARE NOW.

(Many people talking)

Spend a lot of money.

You need to subsidize, I think the most important part is subsidizing the next generation of managing.

Tax breaks for a lot of new energy companies, that's what you got to do.

I don't think tax breaks...

Tax breaks really help.

But there are a lot of people that make a lot of money off of oil.

(Many people talking)

Dick Cheney is another one.

Our President.

Bill O'Reily even said (inaudible).

MODERATOR: OKAY BUT ALEX SAYS TAX BREAK, GOVERNMENT GIVING TAX BREAKS...

Not necessarily tax breaks but I just think you need to (inaudible) it somehow. If tax breaks are the way to do it fine.

MODERATOR: ARE THERE OTHER PLAYERS BESIDES GOVERNMENT OR IS THIS AGAIN JUST GOVERNMENT?

In this case I think there is a lot of private funding that can happen in this case. You look at something, some prior technology, you look at ethanol now.

MODERATOR: DO YOU SEE A ROLE AGAIN FOR YOUR GENERATION HERE?

Yes.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE?

There is always a role.

Yes.

I mean we are a huge demographic that a lot of people target as consumers and I think our opinions matter a lot and if our generation as a whole really boycotted these things like the SUVs and the Hummers and they were really supporting and actively buying products that were green or "organic", I think those things will become gradually more accessible.

I don't know though (inaudible) in our generation that own vehicles and not just in New York City. There are very few people that I know in our generation that actually own a car.

(Many people talking)

I think it can start with us.

MODERATOR: HOW DOES IT START?

I think again it's a small group in the grand scheme but we can help support this with hybrid cars, we are that consumer, we are that demographic, we have...

But we need to make them cheaper.

They are very pricey but there is also a lot of high salaries in our demographic as well. It's just a place to start.

MODERATOR: LET'S LOOK AT ONE OTHER ISSUE REAL QUICK. THIS IS DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE. "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".

Amen.

You're bringing the US back to 1920. I mean you are not efficiently using the capital that you have. If it's cheaper to make something somewhere else then do it and bring the benefits back to us.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

About what he said or in general?

MODERATOR: IN GENERAL.

It's common sense not to spend money they don't have and passing crushing debts to the next generation. It's just silly.

I've got a great theory on this, you have a family, you have a budget right you don't spend within that means, you don't go overboard. The government should do the same thing. As a term that's used for Dr. Martin Luther King "death of common sense" and that is what we have had with government.

Even if you are going to go and spend money you don't have at least maybe subsidize American companies if you're going to spend the money anyway at least improve the country while doing that.

Put the money back in to...

(Many people talking)

MODERATOR: ALEX IS SAYING IT CHEAPER WHEREVER YOU CAN GET IT.

You're cheap.

It's going to come back here.

As long as once you have some sort of surplus you put it into places where the US and government...

More free trade and if not...

MODERATOR: IS IT A SECURITY RISK TO HAVE THE BASIC THINGS THAT WE NEED. I MEAN WE TALKED ABOUT IT IN THE OIL. WE AGREED THAT THIS WAS A NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN. THAT WE DEPEND ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR OUR OIL, IS IT SIMILARLY A NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN THAT WE DEPEND ON OTHER COUNTRIES FOR BASIC COMPONENTS THAT WE NEED FOR EVERY DAY LIFE?

I think we saw it last week with city group.

It's a bargaining chip absolutely. I mean wars are started over much less than that.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT?

In terms of like out sourcing and in terms of having other countries...

MODERATOR: HAVING OTHER COUNTRIES PRODUCE THE BASIC STUFF THAT WE NEED.

In a sense I kind of think that it is a good idea to do that because if it's cheaper then why not and the idea is that in the long run it will be better for us but in the short term people are losing jobs as the result of other countries out sourcing and all that. I don't know who it will but apparently out sourcing and having other countries do other things for us will make a difference. It may be ten years it will change and it will be better for the United States but as of right now because of it a lot of people are losing their jobs or the jobs they still have they get less money for because somewhere else they can get more. So I don't know I would need to be able to be an economist to like really know what is better for us.

Free trade.

MODERATOR: SO WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE CHALLENGES, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THESE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND SOME OF YOUR IDEAS. YOUR GENERATION IS A HUGE GENERATION, THE LARGEST GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. MY SHEER NUMBERS AND MATH YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO A LOT WHETHER IT BE VOTING, WHETHER IT BE SPENDING, WHATEVER IT IS THROUGH SHEER NUMBERS YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO

AFFECT CHANGE IF YOU WANT TO. WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK YOUR GENERATION CAN PLAY? IS THE LEADERSHIP ROLE THAT THEY CAN PLAY DOWN THE ROAD? IS IT HERE AND NOW? HOW DO YOU AFFECT CHANGE?

We're doing it right now by speaking about this. In all seriousness by all of us having this conversation whether we are from left side, right side, any side in between the fact that everybody is talking about this, they're hearing about this I think right now just talking about this helped.

MODERATOR: WHAT DO THE REST THINK? HOW DOES YOUR GENERATION HARNESS THAT POTENTIAL AND DO SOMETHING?

I think with all this technology we are brining it back like with the internet and all that we can put on things like You Tube if we come up with these great ideas to fix things, we can make videos, we can send it out and people are becoming of You Tube not necessarily because they are actors or great politicians but there are all these stars and maybe to a point where it is kind of silly but the truth of the matter is that with the internet now you can share your ideas and have it go to everyone in every country all over the world. I think if we have great ideas and if we want to make change the internet and You Tube and all these technology type things is where we should look to do that.

MODERATOR: OTHER PEOPLE HOW DO YOU HARNESS THIS GENERATION'S POTENTIAL TO DO SOMETHING?

That's a good question. I think that's a question a lot of people in the generation are asking is how can we do things, what can we do.

I think not to pass the buck. It's so easy to do it because there is so many of us that it is easy.

MODERATOR: LET ME ASK THIS, WE'VE COMPLAINED A LOT ABOUT THE CURRENT LEADERS AND THEIR FAILINGS AND SELFISHNESS AND CORRUPTION, HOW DO YOU THINK PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION WOULD LEAD DIFFERENTLY? OR WOULD YOU JUST TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STICK IT IN YOUR POCKET RATHER THEN IN THEIR POCKET?

It would take a very altruistic.

The world is so different. Even though we may all fall in the same twenty somethings, we all come from different backgrounds, different money, different morals, religions, ethnicity, whatever so it is really kind of difficult to come up with an idea that is totally brand new that every single twenty something would agree with. So I don't really know that's why a lot of people end up just doing what's good for them because it works for them so I don't know.

I feel like we are seeing it. Just what I'm seeing I feel like change is coming and it's for good things.

MODERATOR: WHAT IS THE VEHICLE FOR CHANGE? IF YOU GUYS WANT TO TRY TO CHANGE THE WORLD IN WHICH YOU LIVE WHAT IS THE WAY THAT YOU DO IT? IS IT THROUGH GOVERNMENT? IS IT THROUGH BIG BUSINESSES? SMALL BUSINESSES? IS IT THE INTERNET STUFF THAT DEENA WAS TALKING ABOUT? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU USE TO ENACT CHANGE?

One by one. Talk to every person you know about an issue, what you're going to stand on, write to your elected officials, attend the hearings, be more vocal out there, letters to the editor, websites, you've got unlimited information, unlimited access.

In terms of the government I think being responsible when you vote and not just being a one issue voter. Like don't vote just on something specifically I mean you have to look at the bigger picture and I think that is a responsibility as a voter that you have. So that is on the government level.

The ground work is here. It's all in front of us.

MODERATOR: IS THERE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THINGS THE WAY THAT TOM TALKED ABOUT, CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS RATHER THEN GOING THROUGH THESE TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS, IS THERE A WAY TO DO IT THROUGH...

It's so hard.

I know a guy who has done it and he told be about this and for me I feel like it is working a little bit.

MODERATOR: HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU DO YOU THINK THERE IS A POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THINGS THROUGH THAT?

I agree. I said that earlier and I think one of the easiest things you can do is you, yourself just start talking about it, start talking about what's important.

Talk to everyone you know.

I think You Tube is definitely, I know a lot of people that get their things on You Tube. You hear a lot of success stories and people that have gained momentum through just information sharing.

MODERATOR: IS THERE A STRUCTURE TO IT? DO YOU JUST VIEW SOMETHING ON YOU TUBE AND YOU GO THAT'S INTERESTING OR IS THERE AN ACTION IT'S ASSOCIATED WITH OR WHERE YOU LINKED BACK TO OTHER PEOPLE AND YOU BUILD THAT MOVEMENT?

Well people, it could build a movement. It's like anything else you have to market yourself to send that information out. You can't just put on a video and let it sit and not tell anybody about it and expect things to happen.

There is commentary underneath that You Tube video.

But it is so hard to get anything done.

If people are interested in what you have to say then people will listen and more people will listen and then maybe you have live...

MODERATOR: CAN YOU GUYS POINT TO ANY SUCCESSES LIKE THAT OR CAN YOU PUT TO ANYTHING OUT THERE...

Where not a generation of doers we're just voyeurs.

It's true.

There is a city councilman and he is like 29-years-old and there was a 16-year-old girl who was running for mayor outside of Baltimore, plenty of stories. I'm a political junky so just talk to me.

MODERATOR: ANYONE ELSE? CAN YOU POINT TO ANY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES OF THIS?

I think it's really about the mixing because when you hear the word political unless you are really into politics or something it kind of just gets you a little unless you are really active and all that. So you have to kind of put it in terms where our generation will feel comfortable and that's why I said the internet and all that and I don't if this existed before but you see a lot of companies that are connected with political views that you wouldn't think like Avon and breast cancer go together and I don't know if that existed ten years ago but all of the sudden you see these kind of organizations that deal with like makeup all of the sudden are dealing with huge larger issues. If that is possible we can and if that is making people more aware of what is happening out there then I think anything is possible. I think you can connect things like pop culture with politics to make it more accessible to the average.

MODERATOR: LET'S BRING THIS DOWN TO THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL. FLIP TO HANDOUT FIVE AND WHAT YOU HAVE HERE IS A LIST OF ACTIONS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE. WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS PUT EACH ONE IN ONE OF THREE CATEGORIES. SOMETHING YOU HAVE DONE IS THE FIRST COLUMN. SOMETHING THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE DONE BUT YOU WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER IT IN THE SECOND COLUMN AND THE THIRD COLUMN THINGS THAT YOU ARE JUST UNLIKELY TO DO. WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE?

Voting.

Signing petitions.

Base personal purchasing decisions.

Volunteering.

Protest demonstrations.

MODERATOR: HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BASED THEIR PERSONAL PURCHASING DECISIONS? HOW MANY HAVE ALREADY DONE THAT? A FEW. ARE THE REST OF YOU WILLING TO DO THAT OR NO? A COUPLE OF PEOPLE. DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE? IS THAT ONE OF THOSE THINGS?

Yeah.

I don't know if it makes a difference but it makes me feel better.

Exactly.

Definitely.

And by the same token I am willing to spend more on something if it has a good cause.

Or just buy just to support.

Exactly.

Or not buy.

MODERATOR: OTHER THINGS THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO DO THAT YOU HAVEN'T DONE YET?

Run for office. I'm dead serious too.

I've never blogged.

No neither have I.

But I might.

MODERATOR: DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

With our generation? Big time. It's just going back to what we started talking about, accessibility.

MODERATOR: OTHER THINGS YOU ARE WILLING TO DO, LIKELY TO DO.

Attend public meetings or forums.

Join a political social group and participate. I would probably do that if something came along that I didn't have to go in search for too hard.

Volunteering for a political campaign if I find one that I'm really.

MODERATOR: WHAT ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO DO?

Run for office.

MODERATOR: WHY?

It's a responsibility.

I'm American but I can't run for President. It's a responsibility.

I'm not sure.

MODERATOR: OTHER THINGS YOU ARE UNWILLING TO DO.

Founding a business.

I would do that.

Participating in public protests or demonstrations.

MODERATOR: WHY?

Right now I'm not super passionate about something enough to go do that. I think a lot of violence comes out of that.

I say the same thing for the same reasons.

MODERATOR: ANYTHING ELSE YOU ARE UNLIKELY TO DO?

I am not likely to write any newspaper articles.

MODERATOR: WHY NOT?

I don't think I would go that far.

I would not be volunteering to work for a political campaign.

MODERATOR: WHY NOT?

I just don't see myself getting that involved in something political.

MODERATOR: YOU CAN'T COME BACK IN CONVERSATION HERE, GOVERNMENT HAS GOT TO PLAY A ROLE HERE, GOVERNMENT HAS GOT TO PLAY A ROLE HERE, HOW DO YOU GET THE GOVERNMENT THAT YOU WANT IF YOU DON'T ENGAGE IN THE POLITICAL...

Term limits.

I think it's also a luxury to be able to volunteer your time that a lot of people may not have. Especially people that are, the people that need the most help, that need those reforms probably don't have that luxury and people in our demographic that are a little more comfortable when we have some free time we're going to see a movie, or a concert or going to the museum or something. It's like indulgences instead of sacrifices.

It comes back to being selfish. Instant gratification and doing what you want to do.

MODERATOR: BENJAMIN HOW ABOUT YOU? WHERE IS THE BREAKING LINE? WHERE IS THE LINE BETWEEN LIKELY AND UNLIKELY? WHERE DOES IT FALL?

It's different for everybody. I probably wouldn't run for office, I mean it's possible. But I would do all I can to get my views, the views I want to be part of the leadership.

MODERATOR: THE THINGS THAT ARE ON YOUR LIKELY COLUMN WHY AREN'T THEY IN YOUR "HAVE DONE" COLUMN?

Just haven't gotten around to it yet.

I have not built my name up credibly with the people in my district and I am working on that.

Nothing has, it's that selfishness thing. Nothing has been that big enough to propel to like blog about something. That's really sad to say.

I don't even know how you go about blogging.

MODERATOR: SO THAT REALLY SEEMS TO BE THE CRUX OF IT. THE WHOLE LIST OF ISSUES THAT YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT AND YOU THINK ARE REALLY BIG DEALS AND WE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

We're not doers.

MODERATOR: THAT’S MY POINT. HOW DO YOU BRIDGE THAT?

It’s that feeling of apathy, that general malaise and it’s the lack of hope. It takes an individual to really see everything that is going on, feel the necessity to change it and then actually go and do something about it even though you are going to be hit up against brick walls. It takes certain types of personalities.

MODERATOR: HOW MUCH OF A ROLE, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, PEER PRESSURE PLAY? IF OTHER PEOPLE YOU KNOW WERE DOING IT WOULD YOU BE MORE LIKELY TO DO IT?

Yes. I think so.

Definitely.

MODERATOR: IS THERE A SOCIAL CRITICAL MASS THERE?

It’s that trendy thing. Absolutely if like a whole generation of people. I never really thought about environment it was like whatever but now everybody is doing it so it’s like okay got to do it now.

MODERATOR: LAST THING I AM GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO AND WE’RE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS I’M JUST GOING TO ASK YOU TO WRITE SOMETHING DOWN HERE...

(end of session)