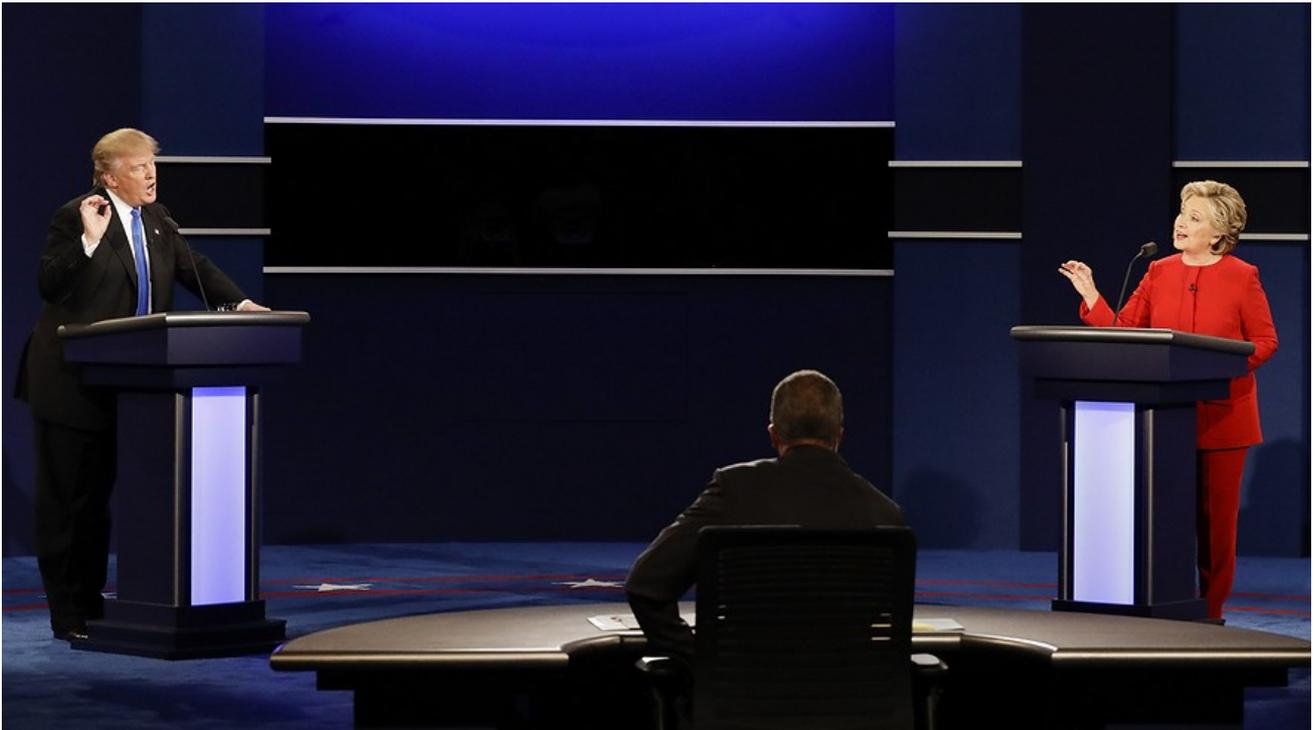


Clinton and Trump argue over their different visions for the U.S.

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.27.16

Word Count **921**



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (left) and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton spar during the presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, Sept. 26, 2016. Photo: AP Photo/David Goldman

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — The first presidential debate in the race to become the 45th president of the United States took place on Monday night. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton criticized Donald Trump for keeping his personal tax returns and business dealings secret from voters. She also said he spread a "racist lie" about President Barack Obama. Meanwhile, businessman and Republican candidate Trump repeatedly tried to label Clinton as a "typical politician" as he tried to appeal to Americans' frustration with Washington politics.

The two candidates are currently locked in an incredibly close race. They argued for 90 minutes over their very different visions for the nation's future. Clinton called for lowering taxes for the middle class, while Trump focused more on changing past trade deals that he said have caused companies to move jobs out of the country. Trump supported the

controversial "stop-and-frisk policing" tactic, where officers in New York City stopped people on the street and searched their person, as a good way to bring down crime. Clinton, meanwhile, said the policy was unconstitutional and ineffective.

Candidates Squabble Over Secrecy

The debate was heated from the start. Trump frequently tried to interrupt Clinton. He spoke over her answers. Clinton was more measured and restrained, but she also provoked Trump over his business record and wealth.

"There's something he's hiding," Clinton declared. She laughed at his repeated excuse that he will not release his tax returns because he is being audited, or being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service.

Trump aggressively tried to turn the questions around on Clinton. He wanted to point out that she was hiding something, too. Throughout her campaign, she has struggled to overcome voters' concerns about her honesty and trustworthiness. Not long ago, she faced a scandal over using her personal email server for her government work. She has been investigated by government agencies. Still, there were emails sent from her private server that have been deleted.

Trump said he would release his tax information when Clinton releases the emails she deleted.

Tax experts say Trump's audit is no excuse, though. It should not affect his releasing his tax information.

Clinton was remorseful in addressing her controversial email use. She said simply that it was a "mistake." Notably, she did not fall back on many of the excuses she has often used for failing to use a government email during her four years as secretary of state.

"If I had to do it over again, I would obviously do it differently," she said.

How To Help The Working Class

The debate was the most anticipated moment in the election so far. This year's campaign has been both historic and unpredictable.

The candidates debated trade, taxes and how to bring good-paying jobs back to the United States.

Clinton said her Republican rival simply wanted a "Trumped-up" version of trickle-down economics — a philosophy used by President Ronald Reagan that focused on tax cuts for the wealthy. She called for increasing the national minimum wage. She argued that the government should spend more on infrastructure projects, such as roads or parks, and guarantee equal pay for women.

Trump attacked policies that he said have led to American jobs being moved overseas. He said the jobs were moved, in part, because of trade deals with other countries that Clinton supported.

Obama's Birth Certificate

Trump struggled to answer repeated questions about why he only recently acknowledged that Barack Obama was born in the United States. For years, Trump insistently asked for Obama's birth certificate. He argued that he was not sure whether he was born here, and therefore could legally serve as president.

"He has really started his political activity on this racist lie," Clinton said.

Clinton's team spent the days leading up to the debate asking the media and voters to hold Trump to a higher standard than they believe he has faced for much of the campaign. They said they were concerned that if the sometimes bombastic Trump managed to keep his cool onstage, he'd be rewarded. They were worried people would find him likable even if he failed to explain his policies or tell the truth.

Different Voters, Different Policies

The centerpiece of Trump's campaign has been a push for more restrictive immigration rules. Trump has called for the building of a physical wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He also had an early proposal to temporarily prevent foreign Muslims from coming to the U.S. Still, he has been less detailed about other ideas. He has yet to reveal his plan for defeating the Islamic State extremist group in the Middle East.

Clinton, who has worked as a lawmaker for many years, is hoping voters see her as a steady hand who can build on the record of President Obama. She's called for expanding Obama's executive orders if Congress won't pass laws to drastically change the nation's immigration system and to create stronger gun control laws. Overseas, she has promised to fight the Islamic State group without putting American soldiers on the ground in Syria.

For Clinton, victory in November largely depends on getting the same young and diverse group that elected Obama to vote for her. This group, though, has yet to fully embrace her.

Trump has tapped into deep-seated fears among some Americans, particularly white, working-class voters who feel left behind in a quickly changing, quickly diversifying country. The real estate developer lacks the experience Americans have traditionally wanted in a president. However, he is using the frustration many Americans have with career politicians to push him toward victory.

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article BEST explains the success of Trump's campaign?
 - (A) Trump supported the controversial "stop-and-frisk policing" tactic, where officers in New York City stopped people on the street and searched their person, as a good way to bring down crime
 - (B) Trump aggressively tried to turn the questions around on Clinton. He wanted to point out that she was hiding something, too.
 - (C) Trump struggled to answer repeated questions about why he only recently acknowledged that Barack Obama was born in the United States.
 - (D) Trump has tapped into deep-seated fears among some Americans, particularly white, working-class voters who feel left behind in a quickly changing, quickly diversifying country.

- 2 Read the sections "Obama's Birth Certificate" and "Different Voters, Different Policies." Which paragraph from these sections shows a major obstacle for Hillary's campaign?

- 3 Which of the following is a critique that BOTH Clinton and Trump used against their opponent?
 - (A) The other candidate does not support equal pay for women.
 - (B) The other candidate does not have experience in politics.
 - (C) The other candidate has not been honest and transparent.
 - (D) The other candidate has made racist statements.

- 4 Based on the article, which of Clinton's criticisms was Trump LEAST prepared to respond to?
 - (A) He has kept his business dealings secret from voters.
 - (B) He should release his personal tax returns.
 - (C) His focus on Obama's birth certificate was racist.
 - (D) He is overly concerned with tax cuts for the wealthy.

Answer Key

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 - (C) Trump struggled to answer repeated questions about why he only recently acknowledged that Barack Obama was born in the United States.
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- Paragraph 18:**
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