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1st Presidential Debate 2012

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 This paper will give a brief summary on the first presidential debate that aired on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. This debate had been between President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney. I will discuss the performance detailing some of the content, but mostly the presentation in which it had been given by both candidates. I will include in each any parts that I was able to relate to. Therefore, I would like to begin with the opening of the debate.

Both President Obama and Governor Romney looked very professional and authoritative dressed in a suit. The President had sported a blue tie, and Governor Romney wearing red each representing their parties. They both came onto the stage with an air of confidence as any president or candidate running for office should. They shook hands each grabbing the other just above the elbow of the opposite arm. This I believe showed a mutual respect for one another. Both Candidates opened with an acknowledgement to the appropriate people, and then a joke in which they both received chuckles from the audience. President Obama was first to address the topic of jobs. To establish his knowledge of the topic he decided to use his past four years in office. He used statistics such as to say there have been “5 million jobs created in the private sector”. What I did not hear the President discuss was his plans for the next four years. Governor Romney then had his two minutes to discuss how his plan differs from the Presidents. The Governor started by talking about experiences he and his wife had in different states with people who were out of work or lost their homes. Since the President did not even say what his plan was Romney then discussed how the past four years had not been as victorious as the President claimed. The Governor used talking points to demonstrate the steps he would focus on as president. His points were easy to follow and I can still 6 days later remember what he discussed. After the Governor had finished the moderator then asked the President to respond directly to Governor Romney about the Governor’s comment about top down government.

The President instead of defending himself started detailing his plan, and when he did make any comments about Governor Romney’s plan he would not look at the Governor. The President then began to speak on education and how he wants to add theses enormous amounts of teachers. Giving inflated numbers made him look desperate. Throughout the debate the President was very reluctant to make eye contact with the Governor. I found this to be a sign of disrespect, or perhaps the President was having some self-esteem issues. The President showed a strong sense of weakness and shame as he looked to the ground as Gov. Romney brought up the obscene amount of money that he had irresponsibly wasted on ventures such as Solyndra. The Presidents body language was all wrong. When he began speaking about “Obamacare” he was addressing the “American People”, he seemed uncomfortable, and tense; however, he did use some talking points that gave a more detailed description of “Obamacare”. Within the same segment he made light of going over his time, and gave the moderator an innocent smile.. For some of the topics such as entitlement programs the President drew off of personal experience, but more so his grandparents experiences. The President then started talking about the past four years instead of discussing plans for the next four years. Governor Romney gave a more detailed description on the topic of social security, Medicare and Medicaid; however, this time the President rebutted Romneys statements, but he still would not directly address the Governor. I now will discuss the last segment of the debate, the role of the federal government.

President Obama began this segment. This was to be a topic of the role of the federal government. I was very turned off to almost everything that the President said. He was not very articulate; furthermore, he did not sound like a graduate of an Ivy League college, an attorney, or a professor. The President of the United States should know the Constitution. He spoke as if the role of the federal government was to control all aspects of the people. Then within the same segment he attempted to use talking points. He went from point “a” to” 2” there was no number “1” or “b”. Governor Romney on the other hand gave an outstanding explanation of what he thought the role of the federal government should be. He showed knowledge of what our forefathers wrote and the meaning behind those words. The Governor’s words had substance and conviction. As for the closing statements I had not been overly impressed with either candidate. After the debate both candidates had family come up on stage. I thought that the President and the first lady left a bit prematurely. This left Governor Romney dominating the stage.

In closing I do not believe this was the greatest presidential debate I have ever seen. Governor Romney dominated in both his performance and presentation in all areas of this forum. President Obama lacked any so called “star power” that he may have shone in the past. It almost seemed as though he may have been lost without his teleprompter.