



Political Debate Scorecard



Instructions: Below is a scorecard that can be used to evaluate performances in political debates. Based on the criteria, indicate who you think won each category by checking the box below the candidate’s name. Briefly explain your scoring in each category on the second page of this scorecard.

Category	Questions to Consider as You Score	Check which candidate did better in each category	
		Candidate’s Name	Candidate’s Name
Opening Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate’s opening statement seemed most persuasive, inspiring? Who “hooked you” from the very beginning? 		
Organization and Clarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate seemed best prepared? Which candidate presented ideas most clearly? 		
Presentation Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate came across as the best debater? 		
Use of Facts and Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate used facts and examples most effectively to support positions? Which candidate came across as most credible or believable? 		
Substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate addressed important issues the best? Which candidate did the best job of actually answering the questions that were asked? 		
Strength of Rebuttals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate responded most effectively to his or her opponent’s challenges? 		
Stamina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate seemed healthier, more able to endure the demands of office? Whose arguments remained strong as the night progresses? 		
Personal Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate “looked” the best? 		
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which candidate’s closing statement was most persuasive, inspiring? Who “went out with the biggest bang?” 		

Explanations: use the spaces below to explain why did you rated one candidate higher than the other in each category.



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1. Opening Statement:

2. Organization and Clarity:

3. Presentation Style:

4. Use of Fact and Examples:

5. Substance:

6. Strength of Rebuttals:

7. Stamina:

8. Personal Appearance:

9. Closing:

Summary and Reflection

- Who do you think “won” the debate?
- Of the 9 categories listed in the scorecard, which were most important to you?
- Describe any other matter that seemed important to you in the debate.