



# THE CONTENDER

THE GAME OF PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE



**The Contender is a social card game inspired by the vim and vigor of a real presidential debate.**



This do-it-yourself sample game contains a set of 100 cards for you to print, cut and enjoy while you flip-flop over buying the real thing. The boxed version of The Contender contains 500 cards in the same style as those included here.

If you play it and love it, we'd love to hear from you. If you don't like it, tell us how to make it better. You can find our contact info at the bottom of the page.

United we stand,  
Justin, John, Meg & Faun

*Justin* *Meg*  
*John* *Faun*

**AVAILABLE NOW**

Web: [TheContender.us](http://TheContender.us)

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Contact: [TheContenderGame@gmail.com](mailto:TheContenderGame@gmail.com)



# Candidates, welcome to the Presidential Arena!

During the following debates, you will use attacks, distracts, and facts to convince America that you are fit to lead the free world.

## ★★★★★ The Deck ★★★★★



### 40 TOPIC CARDS

Each card contains a topic and a question relating to that topic. Topics include Gun Control, Education, Women, Corporate Handouts, and more. Candidates use Argument Cards to respond to the question.



### 460 ARGUMENT CARDS

Candidates string together multiple Argument Cards to create the best argument, attack opponents, or rally the public to his or her cause. Fill in blank spaces on cards (\_\_\_\_) with the topic from the current Topic Card.

## ★★★★★ The Rules ★★★★★

### 1. SETUP

Whoever has the most presidential hair is the first Moderator. Everyone else is a Candidate. All Candidates draw 5 Argument Cards.

### 2. GAME PLAY

The Moderator draws a Topic card and reads to the Candidates.

The Candidate to the left of the Moderator responds by playing one, two or three Argument Cards while reading the text aloud.

Play continues in a circle until each Candidate has played exactly three cards. Candidates who do not play all three at once will take several turns.

Candidates always draw to hold 5 Argument Cards.

### 3. WINNING

At the end of a round, the Moderator awards the Topic Card to their favorite Candidate. That person becomes the new Moderator.

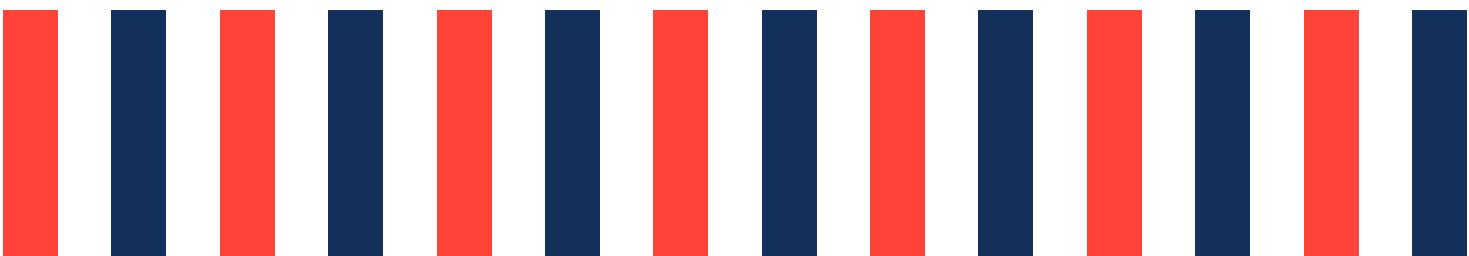
Whoever collects the most Topic Cards wins.

## ★★★★★ Find Us Online at: ★★★★★

[WWW.THECONTENDER.US](http://WWW.THECONTENDER.US) • @CONTENDERGAME

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★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## America

Candidate, what is the first thing that comes to mind when I say the word “America”?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Christmas

Candidate, over 50 percent of voters who describe themselves as Christian claim there is a culture war on Christmas. Do you believe the reason for the season is under fire? Or should those concerned realize there’s more than one way to deck the halls?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Civil Rights

Candidate, your opponents have supported sweeping civil rights legislation, while you’ve remained opposed. Can you explain why you’ve been at odds with those who say they would just like to even things out?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Climate Change

Candidate, this year more Arctic ice will melt than in any 12-year span in recorded history. Is climate change a settled issue for you? Or has the debate only begun to heat up?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Corruption

Candidate, inconsistent reports of recent administrations are indicative of corruption at a national level. Are these blunders the result of chronic incompetence? Or is that exactly what they want us to think?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Corporate Handouts

Candidate, the country is recovering from a devastating real estate bubble, yet the current administration continues to dole out billions to America’s wealthiest corporations. Does this strategy make it rain on a needy economy? Or does it leave the poorest among us without an umbrella?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Crime

Candidate, violent crime is on the rise for the first time in a quarter century. As president, how would you get Americans to put down their brass knuckles?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Debt

Candidate, most Americans under 30 have been saddled with a record amount of debt. At over \$1 trillion it has surpassed the total US GDP as of 1970. As president, how do you plan on helping young Americans wash off the red and get back in the black?



★ ★ ★ ★ TOPIC ★ ★ ★ ★

## Democracy

Candidate, a record number of world governments will hold free elections this year—a new gold standard for democracy. In your term, what will you do to ensure that countries continue to embrace the steel ballot box over the iron fist of dictatorship?

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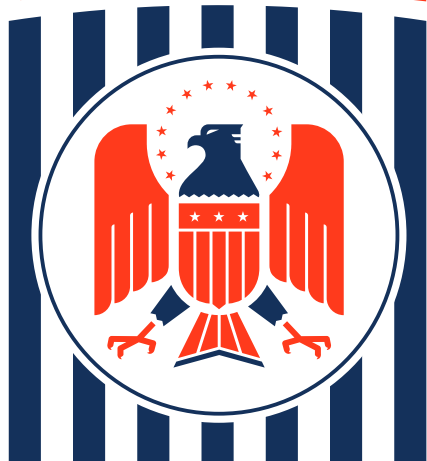
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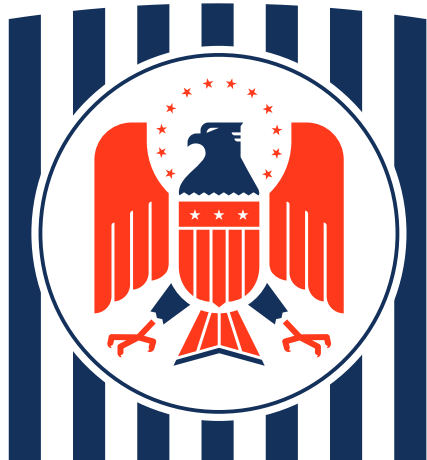
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**Kids these days.**

*Clearly we are raising a generation in which too many young people are spiritually impoverished, without a sense of right and wrong.*  
**Steve Forbes**



**But what's in it for us?**

*The law of the land, passed by Congress, says that we cannot accept a treaty in which we are not equal.*  
**Ronald Reagan**



**We can't get something for nothing.**

*A generation of office seekers has tried to tell the American people that they could get something for nothing.*  
**John B. Anderson**



**Sigh...**

*[Audible sigh]*  
**Al Gore**



**#NoFilter**

*A gaffe in Washington is someone telling the truth, and telling the truth has never hurt me.*  
**Joe Biden**



**That's too much of a good thing.**

*A man can take a little bourbon without getting drunk, but if you hold his mouth open and pour in a quart, he's going to get sick on it.*  
**Lyndon B. Johnson**



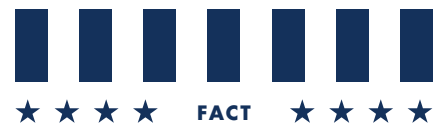
**You're dead to me.**

*[NBC and Comcast are] friends of mine, but I'll probably never speak to them again.*  
**Donald Trump**



**Seems okay to me.**

*A general prosperity is visible in the public countenance.*  
**James Madison**



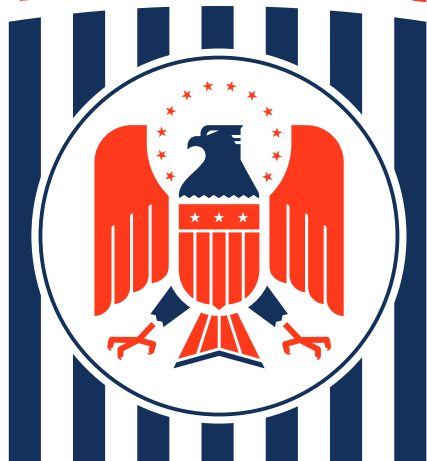
**If it's good enough for America, then it's good enough for me.**

*A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.*  
**Theodore Roosevelt**

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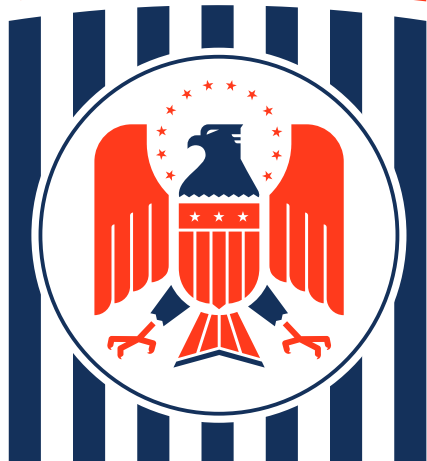
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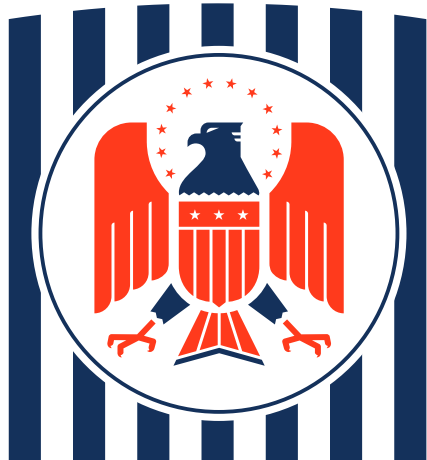
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**I can't do everything.**

*A president can't be all things to all people.*  
**Gerald Ford**



**There are three  
basic values: oppor-  
tunity, responsibility,  
and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Above all, we must honor those basic values of  
opportunity, responsibility, and community, of  
work and family and faith.*  
**Bill Clinton**



**The power of  
\_\_\_\_\_ has been  
in our hearts the  
whole time.**

*America's greatness is not found in the size of  
its government. America's greatness resides in  
the hearts and the minds of the people.*  
**Rick Perry**



**Where are your  
facts?**

*A president is called the commander-in-chief.  
And he's called that because he's supposed to  
be in charge of facts and run our government  
and strengthen our nation.*  
**Walter Mondale**



**No second-guessing.**

*All my life, whenever it comes time to make  
a decision, I make it and forget about it.*  
**Harry S. Truman**



**Anarchy!**

*Anarchy is a crime against the whole human  
race, and all mankind should band against  
the anarchist.*  
**Theodore Roosevelt**



**You don't know me.**

*A president's hardest task is not to do what is  
right, but to know what is right.*  
**Lyndon B. Johnson**



**America!**

*America! America!*  
**Elizabeth Dole**



**We need better  
computers.**

*And any research or development along the  
Star Wars schemes would inevitably involve our  
most advanced computers, our most advanced  
engineering.*  
**Walter Mondale**

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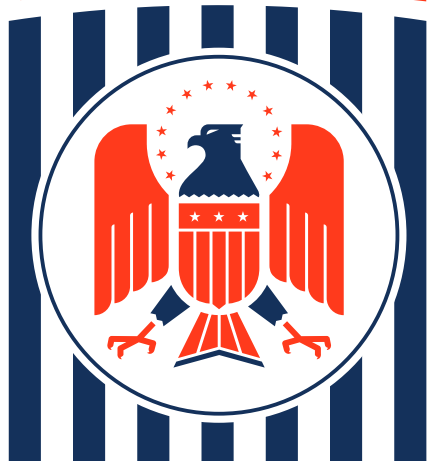
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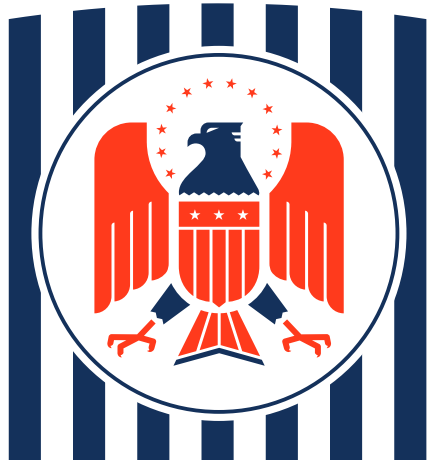
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**I am just delighted  
to be here.**



**I'm in favor of a lot  
of things.**



**I'm tired of this.**

*And I am just delighted to be back here in Austin.*  
**Hillary Clinton**



**Quoth the bard.**

*And I just want to tell you this: we're in favor  
of a lot of things, and we're against mighty few.*  
**Lyndon B. Johnson**



**Let's keep \_\_\_\_\_  
in the family.**

*And I'm tired of these debates....*  
**Steve Forbes**



**Duh.**

*And so it reminds me of the Shakespeare line  
"thou protestest too much."*  
**Michele Bachmann**



**You had your chance.**

*And with all due respect, I am here to tell you it  
does not take a village to raise a child. It takes  
a family to raise a child.*  
**Bob Dole**



**My party will  
continue to protect  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

*And, of course, obviously I wasn't killed because  
here I am.*  
**Elaine Brown**



**That's dumb.**

*Are you better off now than you were four  
years ago?*  
**Ronald Reagan**

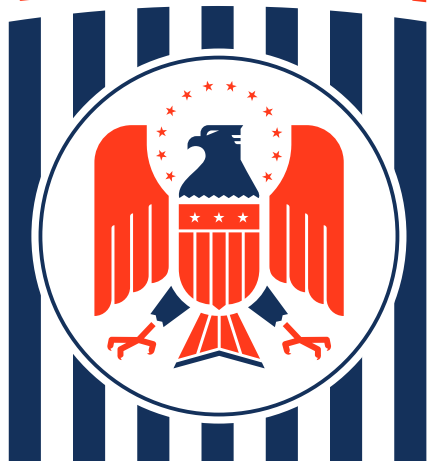
*As long as there is a Democratic president  
in the White House, we will have a strong  
and viable Social Security system, free of  
the threat of bankruptcy.*  
**Jimmy Carter**

*Because I would be saying, "That's a dumb idea,  
and now let's put an end to it." And I would  
speak up on that type of thing.*  
**Lloyd Bentsen**

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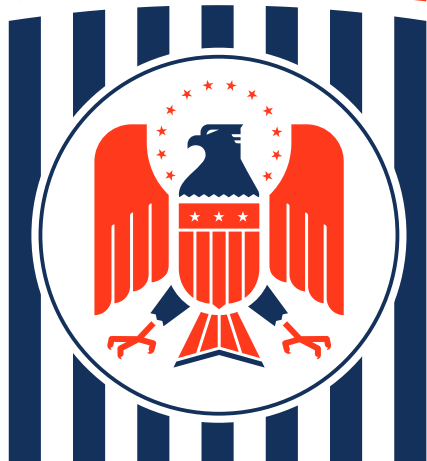
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**That's a tough question.**

*Boy, that's a tough question.*  
**Ron Paul**



**People want answers.**

*But people are suffering. People are literally choosing one month to buy prescription drugs, pay their rent the next month. They want answers. They don't want our best shot at each other.*  
**Al Sharpton**



**I will not support this boondoggle.**

*But, unlike Governor Reagan, I do not support a boondoggle like the MX missile.*  
**John B. Anderson**



**This is a good thing.**

*But I do think it's necessary to have debates.*  
**Geraldine Ferraro**



**There's no reason to go to war over \_\_\_\_.**

*But this administration doesn't believe the way to reduce unemployment is to go to war, or to increase the number of people in the military.*  
**Gerald Ford**



**We can spend our way out of this.**

*Buy America, or it's bye-bye, America.*  
**Dennis Kucinich**



**If not me, then who?**

*But I enlisted in the Army because I knew if I didn't go, someone else in the small town of Carthage, Tennessee, would have to go in my place.*  
**Al Gore**



**We do what we must.**

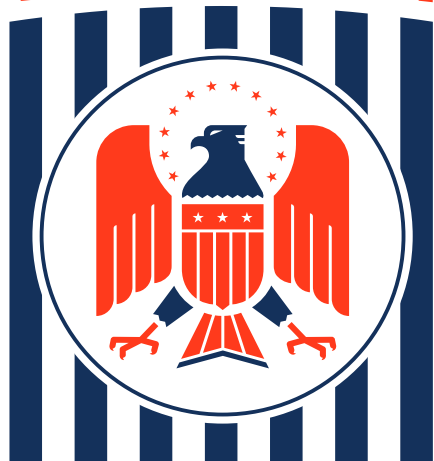
*But we make history today only because we must.*  
**Cynthia McKinney**



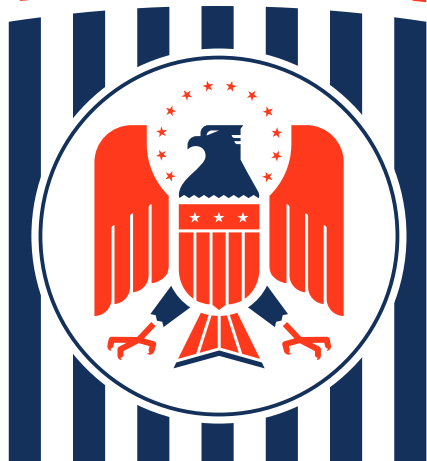
**YEAAAUUGHHH!**

*YEAAAUUGHHH!*  
**Howard Dean**

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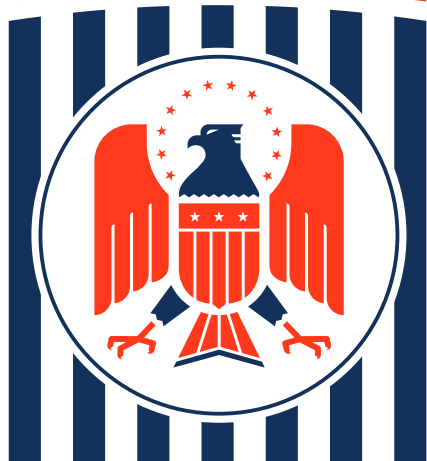
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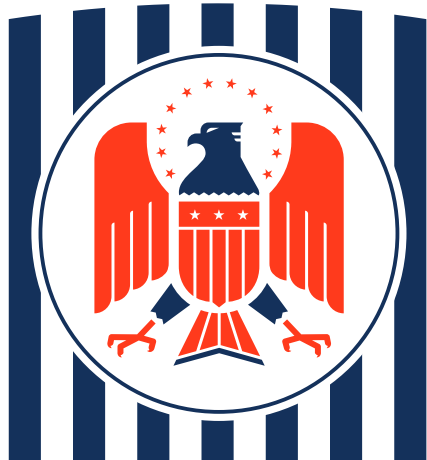
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**Are you taking  
crazy pills?**

*Calling same-sex marriage a marriage would  
be like calling a cup of tea a basketball.*  
**Rick Santorum**



**There is not one  
study showing that  
\_\_\_\_\_ can harm us.**

*Carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful. But  
there isn't even one study that can be produced  
that shows that carbon dioxide is a harmful gas.*  
**Michele Bachmann**



**Think outside the  
box.**

*Conformity is the jailer of freedom  
and the enemy of growth.*  
**John F. Kennedy**



**I have to be  
optimistic about  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Candidates who run for president are very  
optimistic people.*  
**Joe Lieberman**



**Life moves pretty  
fast.**

*Change is the law of life. And those who look  
only to the past or the present are certain to  
miss the future.*  
**John F. Kennedy**



**I will work with  
Congress.**

*Congress, they're all good people. They're all  
patriots. But you've got to link arms and work  
with them.*  
**Ross Perot**



**We must eliminate  
\_\_\_\_\_ to appreciate  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Capital punishment is our society's recognition  
of the sanctity of human life.*  
**Orrin Hatch**



**We should support  
\_\_\_\_\_, not the  
federal government.**

*Child support should do just that—support  
children, not the federal government.*  
**Paul Ryan**



**Let's talk money.**

*Connected with this subject is the character  
of the currency.*  
**William Henry Harrison**

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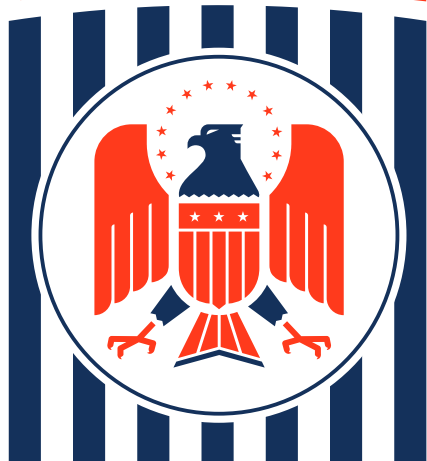
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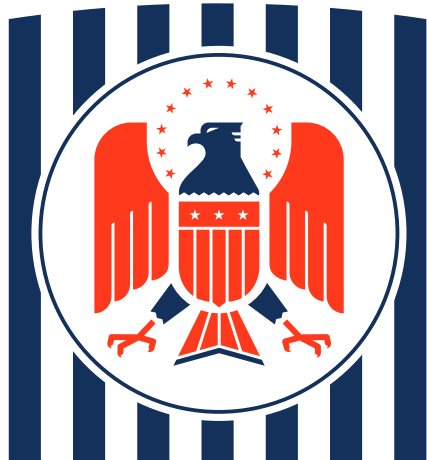
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**I'm Superman!**

*Contrary to the rumors you have heard, I was not born in a manger. I was actually born on Krypton and sent here by my father, Jor-El, to save Planet Earth.*

**Barack Obama**



**Never give up;  
never surrender.**

*Do not yield. Do not flinch. Stand up. Stand up with our president and fight. We're Americans. We're Americans, and we'll never surrender.*

**John McCain**



**I will be America's  
champion.**

*Everyday Americans need a champion. And I want to be that champion.*

**Hillary Clinton**



**Dark clouds are  
dissipating into an  
emerging blue sky  
of opportunity.**

*Dark economic clouds are dissipating into an emerging blue sky of opportunity.*

**Rick Perry**



**Yada, yada, yada  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Do you want to fix the problem or sound-bite it?*

**Ross Perot**



**\_\_\_\_\_ will continue to exist whether  
or not we believe.**

*Facts are stubborn things, and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the states of facts and evidence.*

**John Adams**



**You would say anything to win.**

*Did you come in to win, or did you come in to stand up for something—and make that win?*

**Al Sharpton**



**We get it—you have  
feelings.**

*Empathy is a virtue, but it should not be a guiding judicial principle.*

**Gary Bauer**



**Everybody has a  
price.**

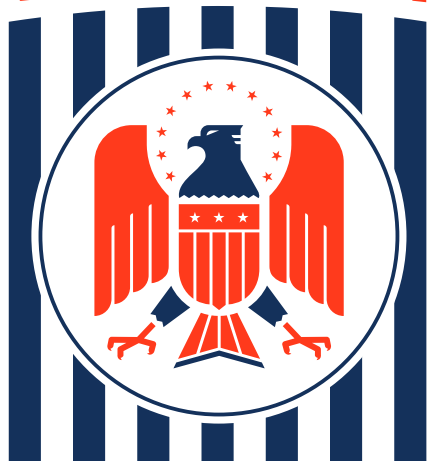
*Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.*

**George Washington**

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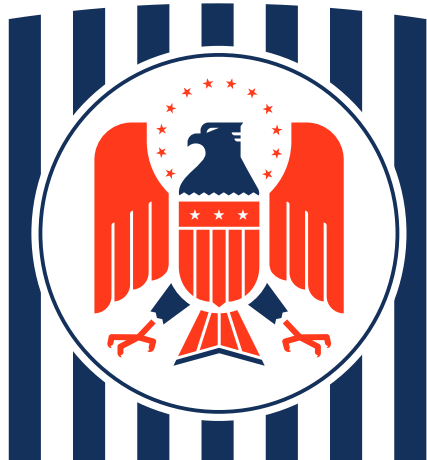
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**We need to love and nurture \_\_\_\_\_.**

*First contact should be with the mother when she's pregnant. That little child needs to be loved and hugged and nurtured and made to feel special, like your children were.*  
**Ross Perot**



**...or so I've heard.**

*For our friends in the press who place a high premium on accuracy, let me say: I did not actually hear George Washington say that.*  
**Ronald Reagan**



**Stop pandering to the 1 percent!**

*George W. Bush has helped those who have most, hurt those who have least, and ignored everyone in between.*  
**Wesley Clark**



**Ohhh, no. I'm not falling for this again.**

*Fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me—you can't get fooled again.*  
**George W. Bush**



**Enough is enough.**

*Found a boy—excuse me, but this gives the flavor—a boy in Houston kept a chicken in the bathtub in downtown Houston and missed 65 days going to livestock shows.*  
**Ross Perot**



**The major cause of unemployment is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Governor Reagan has said that the major cause of unemployment is the minimum wage.*  
**Jimmy Carter**



**\_\_\_\_\_ won't be an issue when we live in space.**

*For NASA, space is still a high priority.*  
**Dan Quayle**



**That's the rooster taking credit for the sunrise.**

*George Bush taking credit for the Berlin Wall coming down is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise.*  
**Al Gore**



**It's nobody's fault.**

*Governor Reagan is not responsible for what has happened over the last four years, nor am I.*  
**John B. Anderson**

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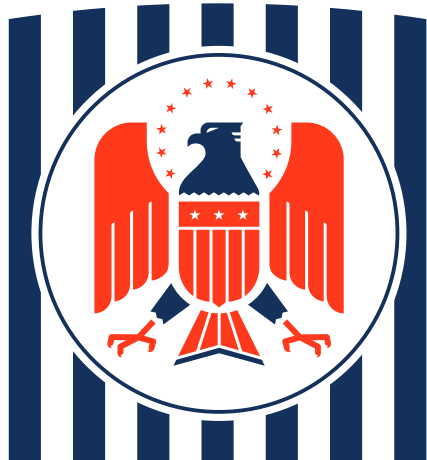
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**That's a voodoo  
policy for \_\_\_\_\_.**

*...what I call a voodoo economic policy.*  
**George H. W. Bush**



**I take pleasure in  
the simple things.**

*He [Gerald R. Ford, Sr.] and Mother had three  
rules: tell the truth, work hard, and come to  
dinner on time—and woe unto any of us who  
violated those rules.*  
**Gerald Ford**



**I love this guy.**

*He loves Trump. He goes around saying, "Trump  
is my all time hero." He says it to everybody. So  
Kanye West, I love him.*  
**Donald Trump**



**Someone's been  
drinking the Kool-  
Aid.**

*Great, so first let me say that President Obama  
was drinking the Kool-Aid in a big way.*  
**Jill Stein**



**You can't say that.**

*He can't come here and tell you that he's left no  
child behind, because he didn't fund No Child  
Left Behind.*  
**John Kerry**



**Everyone loves  
freedom.**

*He talked about the reconstruction efforts  
that are beginning to take hold. He talked  
about the fact that Iraqis love to be free.*  
**George W. Bush**



**Watch out, phonies.**

*Guard against the impostures of pretended  
patriotism.*  
**George Washington**



**You're the mayor  
of \_\_\_\_\_-ville.**

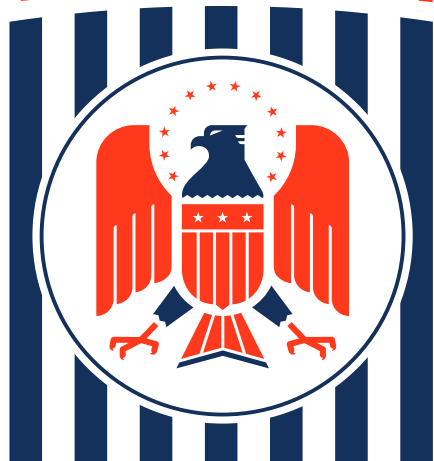
*He just raised taxes this past year. And that's  
why a lot of people refer to him as Tax Hike  
Mike. That's why they refer to the state of  
Massachusetts as Taxachusetts.*  
**Dan Quayle**



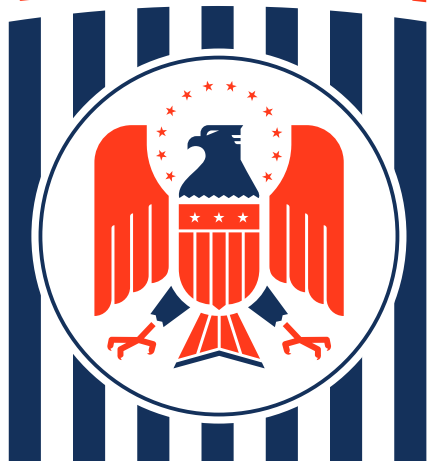
**You want to give  
everything to the  
corporations.**

*He wants to put all our eggs in one basket and  
give that basket to the major oil companies.*  
**Jimmy Carter**

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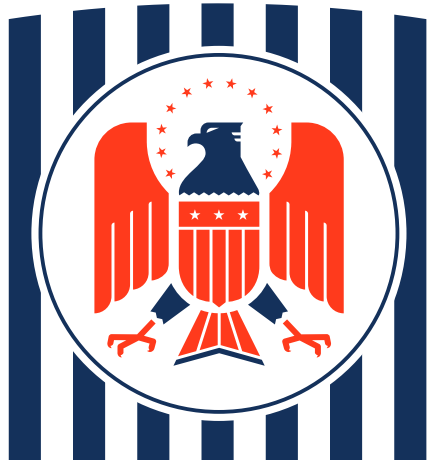
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**I am aware of how little I know.**



**Were you dropped as a child?**



**Pffffffttttt. Women.**

*He who knows most, knows best how little he knows.*  
**Thomas Jefferson**



**\_\_\_\_\_ used to be better.**

*He's a nice guy, but he played too much football with his helmet off.*  
**Lyndon B. Johnson**



**At what cost?!**

*Here, we can thank the influence of radical feminism.*  
**Rick Santorum**



**Everyone's different.**

*Honors to me now are not what they once were.*  
**Chester A. Arthur**



**I have voted for \_\_\_\_\_, and I have voted against \_\_\_\_\_.**

*However just the cause, we should mourn for all that is lost when war claims its wages from us.*  
**John McCain**



**Slow and steady wins the race.**

*Humanity is not common in its views.*  
**Mitt Romney**



**Why bother?**

*I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.*  
**John Kerry**

*I am a slow walker, but I never walk back.*  
**Abraham Lincoln**

*I am inclined to follow the course suggested by a friend of mine who says that he has always followed the rule never to murder a man who is committing suicide.*  
**Woodrow Wilson**

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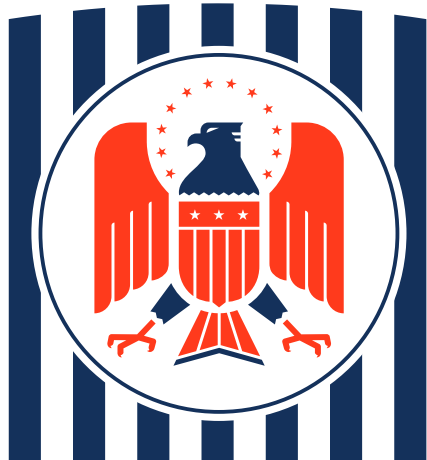
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**You have no experience.**

*I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience.*  
**Ronald Reagan**



**I believe in \_\_\_\_\_ with every fiber of my being.**

*I believe in American exceptionalism with every fiber of my being.*  
**Barack Obama**



**It's easier to change our views on \_\_\_\_\_ than the word of God.**

*I believe it's a lot easier to change the Constitution than it would be to change the word of the living God.*  
**Mike Huckabee**



**I'll compromise with anyone who gives me everything I want.**

*I am perfectly happy to compromise and work with anybody. Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians. I'll work with Martians. If—and the if is critical—they're willing to cut spending and reduce the debt.*  
**Ted Cruz**



**I can see the hand of God here.**

*I believe in evolution. But I also believe, when I hike the Grand Canyon and see it at sunset, that the hand of God is there also.*  
**John McCain**



**I have seen the future.**

*I believe that I've made good judgments in the past, and I think I've made good judgments in the future.*  
**Dan Quayle**



**I summon the goddess of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*I am running for president of the United States to enable the goddess of peace to encircle within her arms all the children of this country and all the children of the world.*  
**Dennis Kucinich**



**Dreams do come true.**

*I believe in the American dream. I'm a product of it, and I want to help that dream come true for every single citizen in this land.*  
**Michael Dukakis**



**Out with the bad, in with the good.**

*I believe that our national security lies not just in protecting our borders, but in bridging divides.*  
**Joe Lieberman**