

# Say What You Mean: Debating the Issues

How to Effectively Discuss Controversial Political Issues without Arguments



**SAMPLE**

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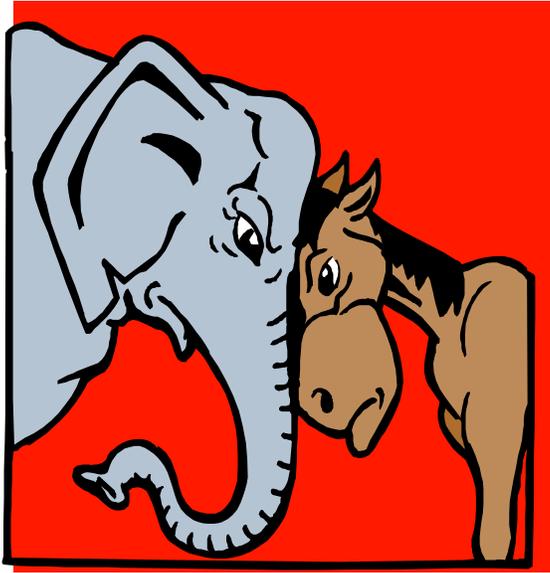
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## Section I: Introduction



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**Note:** This is a sampling of excerpts from some of the lessons found in *Say What You Mean: Debating the Issues*. To order the full version, click here:

<http://artofeloquence.com/store/SpeechDebate/SWMDI>

# Introduction

*“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.” -Jeremiah 29:7*

These are politically turbulent times. Passions run deep on both sides of the political aisle. Many Christians are upset about the direction the U.S. government is taking. Others are fearful of what is to come. The one thing that binds them together is that all are uncertain of how to address their concerns and ideas in a way that will be effective and avoid arguments.

The Lord gives us direction about our government in His Word. He tells us to follow the rules of the government under which we find ourselves unless it goes against God's laws. That means we are to adhere to our government's rules and attempt to make the changes we believe are necessary within those rules in order to bring it closer to Biblical principles.

Welcome to Say What You Mean: Debating the Issues. The Art of Eloquence family is excited to offer this new eStudy based on our years of experience in sharing our Christian, conservative political beliefs with various friends and family members who did not necessarily embrace them. This eStudy takes a Christian, conservative approach to each issue. After giving you some background information on the topic as well as some general tips, I give you the typical liberal and conservative viewpoints in chart format which makes it easy to see the major issues on either side and how to answer them. Since we don't always have a great deal of time when political issues come up, I also I give you some tips for discussing each topic effectively in just a few minutes. In addition, I provide you with some tips on answering typical objections and how to steer clear of conversational pitfalls. Lastly, I provide you with various clickable resource links where you can find even more in-depth information on each topic and a practice assignment to help you hone your skills.

This eStudy is designed to make it easy to reference each topic for easy review or if you need a quick response or resource after discussing a particular political issue. I have included a pre and post study test to help you evaluate your strengths and weaknesses in each area and so that you can see how far you have come after having gone through the study. It may help you, especially with certain topics you are most unfamiliar with, if you go through those sections more than once. The more you are familiar with the facts, arguments and communication techniques, the more comfortable you will feel when discussing these topics.

Before I get started with each topic, I'd like to share a bit of political background and some general tips for sharing your political ideas.

## **Why Write this Book?**

I'm writing this book at a time in our nation's history when there is a huge division between conservatives and liberals. It's a time when passions run deep on both sides of the political aisle and where Americans are frustrated. Not only is our nation divided, but the media is divided as well. The mainstream media is decidedly left leaning while there are several political blogs, newsletters, radio and cable TV shows that openly admit they have a conservative viewpoint. Fox News is becoming a huge media force and, while having “Fair and Balanced” reporting, many of the shows on the network are hosted by conservative commentators.

There is no shortage of information in the Information Age, but often there is a shortage of full disclosure and misinformation abounds. Anyone can put up a blog but not everyone has all the facts. Even the large and well respected websites/blogs are sometimes full of, as Ronald Reagan put it, “things that just aren't so.”

Additionally, the reason I wanted to write this eBook is because so many people try to discuss political issues by adopting a more formal debate-like posture which is inappropriate and counterproductive when dealing with friends, neighbors and family members.

Lastly, for many years Christian conservatives have kept silent on political issues fearing repercussions. Many weren't sure how to address the issues and so they kept their thoughts and feelings to themselves afraid of being called intolerant or judgmental by the left. I believe it started at the Scopes Trial. The Christian reaction was initially strong and harsh but quickly turned silent due to the backlash from the opposition. So for years the other side has been speaking up for their beliefs and it's about time we stood up and spoke out (in love and grace) for Christian conservative beliefs. The time is ripe for it as many Christians are now willing to stand up and speak out, they just don't always know how to discuss the issues respectfully and with conviction.

#### **Four Political Reasons to Learn Effective Communication**

*1. You have no right to complain if you don't speak out.*

I often hear conservatives complain that they are unhappy with the current administration, but when asked if they shared their views with friends and neighbors or even voted, many say no! Far too many conservatives took this approach and it is no wonder many good people are misinformed about politics.

*2. All evil needs to flourish is for good men to do nothing.*

This saying enlightens us about the consequences of not speaking out. For the reasons stated above, when good men do nothing it catches on. Some don't speak out because they don't really know what to say. Others don't speak up because they are afraid of starting an argument. Knowing what to say and how to say it will help both groups to contribute to the discussion in order that more may come to understand the conservative Christian viewpoint and the need for all good men (and women) to speak up with their voices and their vote.

*3. Your children's futures and the world they will inherit.*

Your children will inherit the world you leave behind. Unfortunately, conservative Christian values are being stripped away from society. If you believe this to be true, you will want to learn how to share your beliefs with others in order to secure your children's futures.

*4. One person can make a difference.*

Another reason folks don't speak up is that they don't believe one person can effect change. One person may not be able to sway the popular vote, but one person can reach other people who will reach others in turn. There is another saying, “It only takes a spark, to get a fire going.” Your spark can ignite others.

## **Dangers of Approaching People the Wrong Way**

As you probably already know, approaching the sensitive subject of politics the wrong way can turn a discussion into an argument. What most people don't realize is that an argument can make the other party even more steadfast, intolerant and unwilling to listen to differing ideas. This results in the argument causing strife, hurt feelings, irreparable damage to the relationship, all without the benefit of being compelling or persuasive. The ideas presented in this study will help you share your political opinions with those who hold opposing views in a way that will be persuasive or at least make them receptive or willing to entertain your viewpoint.

So how should we object? What's the best way to disagree? How can we voice our opposition when someone presents us with something that goes against what we believe? How can we discuss and share instead of antagonize and frustrate? How? Just the way you would wish someone else would disagree with YOU!

## **General Tips for Effective Communication in Political Discussions**

*1. Each person is a unique creation of God having his own way of looking at the world.*

Not everyone is ready to hear the full Word of God and not everyone will respond the same way. It is important that you use your "Listening Skills" in order to determine how open the other person is to hearing God's Word. That will tell you how much to share and in what ways you should share.

*2. Nobody wants to be preached to or told what to think.*

Think of it as sharing what you believe with others instead of telling them what they should think.

*3. Remember the first rule of communication.*

It is the speaker's job to be understood and not the listener's job to understand. Most people have this rule backwards and then get upset when the listener doesn't "get it" or misinterprets the motive. If you know it is your job to get your point across to others, you will take greater care to do so with grace and patience.

*4. The best way to share is from your heart.*

Pray that God will guide your mouth and direct your words. Sometimes He will bring to your memory the very words the other person needs to hear.

*5. Be calm and confident.*

The moment you get riled up, the other person will conclude that you are too emotional to be right. Getting upset can be interpreted as defensive, antagonistic and aggressive.

*6. Don't exaggerate!*

Words mean things. Any inaccuracies, exaggerations or even statements that seem to the listener as being too difficult to believe may give him cause to doubt the whole of what you say.

*7. If you don't know, say so!*

If, in the course of sharing your political beliefs with another, he asks you a question for which you don't have an accurate answer, confess it. Tell him that you don't know and offer to find out and get back with him when you do.

### *8. Don't expect to win every political discussion.*

Don't expect to convert everyone to conservatism. There are benefits of not winning each and every battle. You might just win the war! Yes, agreeing to disagree can pave the way for future political conversations with either yourself or others. Not leaving a bad taste in the other party's mouth is a win/win situation as it allows you both to live to discuss another day.

### *9. Be careful of Left Wing Media tricks of the trade.*

The mainstream media has been left leaning for a very long time. Where news reports used to be impartial and hard-hitting, they are now op/ed pieces masquerading as journalism. The mainstream media and liberal politicians use various communication tricks in order to paint a better picture of their side of the issue. Here are a few:

Redefining words like tolerance, racism, and choice have allowed them to characterize Christians and conservatives as intolerant, racist and against choice because we disagree with them on various political issues. I'll talk more about this as I get to each topic. Politicians will often misrepresent facts in order to illustrate their point. In my experience it has been pervasive on the left, but occasionally on the right as well, so be careful of the statistics you quote.

The mainstream media and politicians will often skew statistics by only taking into account partial data further their argument. For example, the unemployment figures have been reworked several ways from Sunday in order not to count people who no longer qualify for unemployment insurance because they have been out of work so long or are new to the workforce like those who are new college graduates.

More often on the left than on the right, pollsters use misleading or leading questions in order to get the responses they desire. "Do you agree that Global Warming is one of the most important issues facing us today or don't you care about the environment at all?" Well, maybe not quite that blatant, but it was close!

Another tactic is that often the sample survey consists overwhelmingly of liberal Democrats. I remember one taken where they actually surveyed liberals 2:1. It was no wonder their results showed an overwhelming support of the liberal position. This is not always the case, but do look at the way in which these polls are conducted, who they asked, what kinds of questions were asked, etc. I might help you refute some statistical data used against you in a political discussion.

### **How this Book Works**

I'm going to share the typical political positions on both sides, then give resource links for you to do your own research. Next, I'll share tips for sharing your views, the salient points and typical objections you will come across. I will also share some of the traps you may fall into when discussing each issue with others. I'll give you examples of how best to address these issues based on specific circumstances, time available for discussion and typical objections you will encounter. I'll also discuss the typical people who raise some of these objections and what they need to hear, which may not always be what it sounds like they are asking. Along the way, I'll introduce additional communication tips I haven't covered in previous lessons. This is designed so that you aren't overwhelmed with communication techniques all up front.

I will also share with you how best to live and let live or agree to disagree and when it is beneficial not to argue the point any further, by letting it go or by giving them a place to research it for themselves

and allow them to come to their own understanding in their own time. Finally I'll give you ways in which you can hone your skills.

### **Why Don't I Give You All the Political Details?**

I'm going to give you the salient points from each of the typical conservative and liberal positions, but the study would be thousands of pages long if I included all of the possible arguments from both sides for all of the issues. In each lesson there will be embedded resource links to the best sites we could find where you can learn more about each issue.

Besides knowing that God didn't make cookie-cutter people, you may feel a bit differently about some of the topics and, perhaps, those who disagree with you, may feel a bit differently about the typical liberal viewpoint. That's okay. This is a jumping off point. These are my views and that of most typical Christian conservatives. The embedded research links are there to help you.

God tells us to think for ourselves. It's important to do our own research. Times change and statistics can change with time. Don't take anyone's word for anything. Do your own research. Do your due diligence so you know these things for yourself and can speak more intelligently about them. Don't believe them because you have heard them from someone you believe to be a credible source, but because you did your own homework. You'll have more passion and credibility when your beliefs come from your own research.

I'm not a political expert. This book is not as much about the political issues as it is about how to share your views with others effectively, convincingly and without causing World War III with your family!

I want you to do research on your own, regardless of whether you are a teen doing this study as part of your schooling or you are an adult seeking to better understand how to share your views with others. Doing your own research means you will learn more about the issues as well as learn how best to present them.

### **What to Do about Resource Dead Links and How to Find Even More Information**

I have tried to give you many resources in order to help you learn more about each issue if you are not yet familiar with them. Over time, links can change, become outdated or the information can simply be taken off the website. We at Art of Eloquence have no control over that, but we can help you to find the information you need.

If you find a dead link please let us know and we can update the eBook periodically to correct them. Then check Yahoo or Google for keywords (the names of the lesson titles would be a good start) and/or check the general resources we have listed for you at the end of the book.

**WARNING:** The links we provide in this eBook are to websites we have no control over. YouTube videos are known to attract people of all beliefs (on both sides) who feel the need to use foul language and rude comments in making their viewpoints known. These individuals have obviously NOT read my communication studies. [Giggle] We wish you to be aware of this and take care not to open these with small children around.

# Pre-Study Quiz

The idea of speaking to others about our political beliefs can be intimidating, but this study will familiarize you with each topic so you can feel less fear or intimidation about discussing politics and are free to concentrate more on an effective approach. Twice during this study, you'll be asked to evaluate yourself on these three areas for each topic covered. The idea is to help you evaluate where you are, how far you've come and what areas you still need to master. Our goal is for you to be able to rate yourself higher at the end of the study than you did at the beginning and middle.

## **1. Rate your fear level for each topic from 1-5, 5 being most fearful.**

ObamaCare:

Stimulus Package:

Big Government:

Gun Control:

Abortion:

Liberal Bias:

Fairness Doctrine:

Parental Rights:

Immigration:

War on Terror:

Racial Profiling:

Christian Discrimination:

Separation of Church and State:

Ground Zero Mosque:

Global Warming:

Nuclear Power:

Tea Party Movement:

## **2. Rate your comfort level for each topic from 1-5, 5 being least comfortable.**

ObamaCare:

Stimulus Package:

Big Government:

Gun Control:

Abortion:

Liberal Bias:

Fairness Doctrine:

Parental Rights:

Immigration:

War on Terror:

Racial Profiling:

Christian Discrimination:

Separation of Church and State:

Ground Zero Mosque:

Global Warming:

Nuclear Power:

Tea Party Movement:

**3. Rate your understanding of each topic from 1-5, 5 being least understood.**

ObamaCare:

Stimulus Package:

Big Government:

Gun Control:

Abortion:

Liberal Bias:

Fairness Doctrine:

Parental Rights:

Immigration:

War on Terror:

Racial Profiling:

Christian Discrimination:

Separation of Church and State:

Ground Zero Mosque:

Global Warming:

Nuclear Power:

Tea Party Movement:

4. Share what you'd like to gain from reading Say What You Mean: Debating the Issues:

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## Section II: Economic Issues



- \* **ObamaCare**
- \* **The Economy: Stimulus, Jobs & Government Spending**
- \* **Big Government and Government Takeover**

# ObamaCare

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:  
*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*” -Psalms 103:2-3

## Background of ObamaCare

The Healthcare bill termed ObamaCare, was passed in March of 2010 by the Democrats and President Obama over the objections of most of the American people. The Federal law was over 2000 pages long and was passed though most of those who voted for it never read the entire bill. It begins to tax the American people in 2011, but does not provide coverage until 2014. The idea is to solve the health care problems and cover the majority of American citizens, even those with pre-existing conditions.

The CBO estimated that the cost of ObamaCare to taxpayers would be \$989 billion from 2010 to 2019. Others say that estimate is front loaded which masks the true cost. Tax hikes begin years before the “benefits” kick in in 2014. The cost in the first ten years of ObamaCare (2014-2024) is closer to \$2.5 trillion by some estimates.

ObamaCare is said allow for those on Medicare to keep their own health insurance plans if they like. Those who choose not to purchase ObamaCare, would have to pay a fine.

## General Tips

1. Actually most Americans oppose ObamaCare and many of them want it repealed so this topic won't be contested as often as you might think.
2. However, most of the people who are in favor of ObamaCare are loyal to the President and often feel as if a disagreement is an attack on him personally or on his race. Be aware that a discussion of ObamaCare can result in you being called a racist simply because you disagree with something the president has proposed. In fact, this has been a common theme for those who disagree with anything President Obama says or does. If this comes up, it is important to make the distinction between not liking someone simply because of the color of his skin and not agreeing with someone's policy or ideology.
3. Be very careful only to attack the issues. Do not fall into the trap of name calling or any attack of a more personal nature against President Obama or any other Democrat. Making derogatory comments about particular politicians are common in political arguments. Often it is thought to be funny or a way in which the person can show the error of the other side's ways. Often it is done in order to get their opponent off guard. However, this is exactly why political discussions become political arguments. Use proper terms of respect by talking about him as The President or President Obama.
4. Don't think of the other person as your opponent. Try to point out where the two of you agree. The more you find in common, the easier it is to discuss the issues without argument.

## ObamaCare at a Glance

The following chart is a quick overview of the most pertinent points made by people on each side of the ObamaCare issue. Each issue presented on the left (typical liberal view) is countered on the right

(typical conservative view). Additional views on the right are also presented.

Go through each point on the left and imagine yourself involved in a political discussion about ObamaCare. Answer each point on the left using the point on the right. For now, don't worry about what other points might come up next. In a real conversation, the arguments will not necessarily come up in this order. This exercise is to get you familiar with the views on the left and how to answer each of them. Once you are familiar with each point and how to answer it, you can move on to answer them in a real conversation.

In a real conversation, you'll be able to concentrate more on your delivery, eye contact, inflection, and keeping it cordial if you don't have to also worry about what you'll say next. Once the issues become second nature, you'll be more comfortable and handle each point with more ease.

I suggest you take some time going over these issues and their answers until you feel more confident that you can answer them without thinking much about them. Once you have familiarity with each point, you might want to take some time to go through the resource links at the end of this lesson and learn more about ObamaCare. You can even spend some time looking up additional resources, YouTube videos and political pundit articles so that you can round out your political education. You'll find that the more you know about a topic, the easier it is to speak about it. However, knowing the basics first will help you form a solid foundation without becoming overwhelmed.

Liberal Views on ObamaCare	Christian Conservative Views on ObamaCare
1. Healthcare is broken in this country and has to be fixed.	The U.S. health care system is far from perfect, but ObamaCare will not fix it. It is, in fact, one of the best in the world as many come to the U.S. for better health care.
2. Too many people are without healthcare today.	The number of people in the United States without health coverage is rather small. The number of uninsured is inflated because it includes illegal aliens, young healthy people and others who choose not to be covered. The problem is that the cost is too high. ObamaCare does not bring the cost of care down. The cost of malpractice insurance and law suits are what drives prices higher for healthcare. Profit motives, competition, and individual ingenuity have always led to greater cost control and effectiveness.
3. ObamaCare is constitutional as the constitution gives us authority to tax for government programs. We have several in existence already. Americans already pay taxes for them.	Requiring someone to pay a tax is different than requiring them to purchase a product. It is not the function of the government.
4. The cost to fund ObamaCare is worth it in order to get everyone access to quality medical care.	The country cannot afford ObamaCare. The CBO estimated that the cost of ObamaCare to taxpayers would be \$989 billion from 2010 to 2019. The problem with that estimate is that the bill is front loaded which masks the true cost. Tax hikes begin years before the “benefits” kick in in 2014.. The cost in the first ten years of ObamaCare (2014-2024) is closer to \$2.5 trillion by some estimates.

5. You will be able to keep your own healthcare plan and doctor if you want.	Research from the government, private research firms, and think tanks show ObamaCare would cause 87 million people and 4 out of 5 businesses to lose their health plan. ObamaCare would put its private sector “competitors” out of business sooner or later.
6. Healthcare premiums will actually be lower under ObamaCare.	Even if you choose to keep your private insurance, they would have to conform to new federal standards causing premiums to rise.
7. Patients with pre-existing conditions can still get health coverage.	There is a real danger that the Federal government would be involved in making decisions about your healthcare treatment options. Other countries who have socialized medicine have long waiting times for treatment and/or do not have the option for a particular treatment at all. This is why many come to the United States to pay for it out of their own pockets. This takes away individual freedoms.
8. Medical professionals can concentrate on healing the patient rather than on insurance procedures, malpractice liability, etc.	Less doctors will remain in the field and care will go down as wait times for treatment goes up. Loss of private practice options and possible reduced pay may dissuade many would-be doctors from pursuing the profession.
9. Nobody can afford healthcare so the government must provide it. Medicare patient care will improve with incentives to improve efficiency.	There isn't a single government agency or division that runs efficiently; do we really want an organization that developed the U.S. Tax Code handling something as complex as health care?
10. We can eliminate wasteful inefficiencies such as duplicate paper work, claim approval, insurance submission, etc.	The health-care industry likely will become infused with the same kind of corruption, back-room dealing, and special-interest-dominated biases that is already prevalent in other areas of government.
11. People are going into debt when they get ill or die because they have no coverage.	Just because Americans are uninsured doesn't mean they can't receive health care; nonprofits and government-run hospitals provide services to those who don't have insurance, and it is illegal to refuse emergency medical service because of a lack of insurance.
12. Americans will be better off under ObamaCare, even the ones with their own coverage.	Government is more likely to pass additional restrictions or increase taxes on smoking, fast food, etc., leading to a further loss of personal freedoms.
13. We can develop a centralized national database which makes diagnosis and treatment easier for doctors.	Patient confidentiality is likely to be compromised since centralized health information will likely be maintained by the government.
14. It's not socialism, it simply increases choice and expands current programs.	Like social security, any government benefit eventually is taken as a "right" by the public, meaning that it's politically near impossible to remove or curtail it later on when costs get out of control.
15. Free medical services would encourage patients to practice preventive medicine and inquire about problems early. Currently, patients often avoid physicals and other preventive measures because of the costs.	Free medical services will cause patients to use more services needlessly because they don't have to pay for them.

	Additional Conservative Points
	1. Currently there is no exclusion for taxpayer-funded abortions.
	2. Health care equipment, drugs, and services may end up being rationed by the government. In other words, politics, lifestyle of patients, and philosophical differences of those in power, could determine who gets what.
	3. Patients aren't likely to curb their drug costs and doctor visits if health care doesn't cost them out of pocket; thus, total costs will be several times what they are now.
	4. ObamaCare means more taxes for individuals and for small businesses. A proposed surtax on the wealthy will actually hit hundreds of thousands of small business owners who are dealing with a recession. If it is enacted, America's wealthy (job creators) will carry a larger overall tax burden affecting the overall health of their company and threatening jobs.

### How to Discuss ObamaCare if You Have Only a Few Minutes

Now that you are familiar with the points of both sides of the issue, you can begin to feel more comfortable in approaching the situation as it comes up. If you are waiting in line at the grocery store or in the dentist's office when the topic comes up, you may only have a few minutes to respond.

If you only have an opportunity to make one statement, choose wisely. The best response might be to suggest a link or a book with further information where they would get all of their questions or concerns answered. If you know of a great YouTube video or article that you feel will serve this purpose, you might suggest they find it. This is something you can say quickly and in passing that will help them learn more about why you believe ObamaCare is wrong. The idea is not necessarily to give them all the facts, but to give them what you can in the time allotted to get them questioning and interested in looking into the issue further.

*“Actually, Sir, most Americans are against ObamaCare for various reasons. You might want to check out So and So's (article, book, video) and find out why they feel this way.”*

If you have a few minutes you could share as many of the most pertinent points that are listed above. If the other party asks you why you think it's wrong, just list a few general points. If the other person has made a statement supporting ObamaCare, you could ask them if they'd like to hear why you and most Americans are not in support of it? Or you could just list a few of the most widely held reasons against it. Some having to do with the expense to the country, others having to do with patient care, etc... Again, the idea is not necessarily to persuade your listener right this minute, but to give him enough food for thought that it opens the door for the next conservative that comes along and shares.

Remember to practice the communication tips from the introduction as you speak to this person. Saying the right words at the right time is only a small aspect of effective communication. You'll need also to practice your delivery. I'm sure you've seen people who have all the right answers but who present them in a condescending or antagonistic way. Don't be that guy! Concentrate on making your delivery honest, sincere, grace-filled and humble. Don't fall into the trap of raising your voice or

getting defensive. This is easy to do when someone is calling you a racist as might happen during a discussion of ObamaCare.

### **How to Discuss ObamaCare if You Have More Time**

The longer a discussion is, the higher the chances that it will turn into a heated argument. While you may get away with making one or two short statements about what you believe before getting up to go into the dentist's chair without being challenged, a longer time frame often leads to a discussion where both parties may voice their opinions. Political topics of this nature are riddled with emotion that, in time, can lead to aggression or anger. Keep this in mind as you discuss the issues. Watch for opportunities to diffuse the emotional issues.

Go through the major issues first. Calmly and respectfully share each point. Keep going on to the next points unless interrupted by the other party to voice their opposition. Allow them to speak and be heard. Come from a place of thoughtfulness. Don't immediately dismiss their ideas, but counter them with the conservative points (from above) that you can remember and move on to another point.

One of the traps you might encounter is where an emotional Obama or ObamaCare supporter may suggest that you are against ObamaCare because you oppose anything President Obama favors or that you are a racist and are only against ObamaCare because of his race. Assure them that you are against it because of the issues and not who is in support of it. You can bring up that you were against Hillary Care during President Clinton's tenure (if you were) and they are white so it has nothing to do with the race of the person presenting the material. You can also point out something that President Obama did that you supported. This assures them you are not speaking out of anger or bigotry.

Do not directly attack the president personally or call him names. I know there are many pundits out there who get great big belly laughs from calling the other party names or poking fun, but poking fun at the president is disrespectful and will not be taken well by a supporter. It will be difficult for an ObamaCare supporter to be disrespectful of you, if you go out of your way to be respectful of the man who holds the highest office in our country regardless of whether or not you totally disagree with his ideas.

This is where many political discussions go wrong. I've seen internet forums and even in-person discussions where supposed Christians lash out at the president, the very person they have put their faith and their hope in for the future of their families. It's very much like coming into someone's home and poking fun at their father. Even if they feel the same way about him, they won't hear it from you!

Calmly and respectfully continue the discussion until one of you needs or wishes to leave. Thank him for the discussion. People may, indeed, part as friends even though they completely disagree with one another. They may do so because they have kept the conversation a civil discussion and not an argument. They can do so because they didn't shout personal attacks.

### **ObamaCare Resources**

ObamaCare text

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h3200rh.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h3200rh.txt.pdf)

20 States that have filed a law suit against constitutionality of ObamaCare

[http://healthcarereform.procon.org/sourcefiles/Case3\\_10\\_cv\\_00091\\_RV\\_EMT\\_051410.pdf](http://healthcarereform.procon.org/sourcefiles/Case3_10_cv_00091_RV_EMT_051410.pdf)

Videos: Mike Huckabee's three part speech against ObamaCare

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ve9IN3ahBw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIoPvdrEaXA>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL6pYVW\\_0hY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL6pYVW_0hY)

Latest Polls on American Support for ObamaCare

[http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/current\\_events/healthcare/health\\_care\\_law](http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/healthcare/health_care_law)

Conservative News Media.com article on ObamaCare just prior to the 2010 elections

<http://conservativenewmedia.com/2010/10/19/obamacare-waiting-in-the-weeds/>

These are just a few of the resources you can find on the internet that will help you round out your education on ObamaCare if you haven't already had time to look into it. However, there are many other links to more information about this topic and more are being added all the time. Remember that links may change and information may be updated (for example the latest polls numbers may change) with time so it may be a good idea to go through these every so often in order to keep up with the latest poll numbers or most recent information on the law suit against the constitutionality of ObamaCare.

### **Practice**

Ahhh...you knew I'd assign you some homework, didn't you? Now that you have this knowledge, you are comfortable expressing it and have become aware of some techniques for delivering it, it's time to put it into practice. I'm not asking you to go out and start talking to strangers about ObamaCare, but just that you don't back down from an opportunity to discuss it effectively if the situation arises.

ObamaCare isn't an issue that will come up too often because, as I said, the majority of Americans report that they would like it repealed. I started with this topic because it's a great opportunity for you to get out there and share your knowledge and your Christian conservative values with others. You may find that speaking to others about ObamaCare will present you with opportunities in other ways.

You may find that you have persuaded a believer in ObamaCare to think it through a bit more. You may be able to convince him or her that it isn't good for America. You may find that you begin talking about another issue. Go with the flow and discuss what you feel comfortable discussing as long as both of you have time and are willing. It can be a wonderful exchange of information. Even if you firmly believe in an issue, you may learn a great deal about how to discuss the issue more effectively by doing so in a real conversation. So if you didn't bring the discussion to the point where the other person now agrees with you (and this will rarely happen), it will be worth your while if you get him to think more about it, interested enough to learn more about the Christian conservative viewpoint or if you simply part as friends who disagree, having learned to do so effectively.

**If you liked this sample, click here to order the entire version:**

Say What You Mean Debating the Issues <http://artofeloquence.com/store/SpeechDebate/SWMDI>

# Helpful Resources

## *JoJo's Articles:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/articles>

On this page of our site you'll find a collection of JoJo's best articles spanning various topics and all age ranges. This page is constantly being updated so check back often!

## *JoJo's Blog:*

<http://www.ArtofEloquence.com/blog>

Communication FUNdamentals is posted several times a week with articles, tips, Friday Funnies and various other ingredients that allow parents to learn more about communication skills in a fun and creative way. You can subscribe to our RSS feed so you don't miss a post! It's a great way to gain insight for your young children!

## *Newsletter:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/newsletter>

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, What's New at Art of Eloquence for free gifts, exclusive offers, specials and advanced notice of new products as well as communication humor and much more! Many of these are ONLY available to our newsletter subscribers!

## *Art of Eloquence Facebook Fan Page:*

<http://www.facebook.com/ArtofEloquence>

Join the fun on Facebook and share communication struggles. Posted each day are helpful resources including: articles, tips, and free gifts and fun videos, audios and other fun illustrations of miscommunication.

## *Art of Eloquence Catalog of Communication Studies:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/store>

Being an effective communicator will enhance your self-confidence, leadership skills, personal presence, understanding of others, ability to persuade and learning effectiveness. It will also help in various aspects of your personal and professional life. Browse our communication studies covering topics from speech and debate to leadership, defending the faith, politics, business and more!

## *Customers who like Say What You Mean: Debating the Issues also like:*

Say What You Mean The Language of Leadership

21 Days to More Godly Communication

Say What You Mean Defending the Faith

Say What You Mean Every Day

Say What You Mean Overcoming Social Anxiety