

DCORP Transcripts

Name: Group 3-Florida
Company: --
Group Specs: Hispanic (non-Cuban) Women, 30-50, income \$50K+, college grads, likely voters, half Bush and half Kerry 04 voters
Date: 5/01/06
Time: 5:30 p.m

(MODERATOR OVERVIEW)

(PARTICIPANTS' INTRODUCTIONS)

I'm Amalia, a stay at home mom, with 3 little girls.

I'm Beatriz. I do CAT scans. I'm in the medical field. And I'm a mom, too. I have 3 kids. And love to swim and stay outside by my pool.

I'm Clarissa, teacher but right now staying home to take care of my third child. I like to hang out at the pool. Coach softball for my other daughter. Work from home on eBay.

I'm Daniela, 2 children, pre-school teacher for 10 years. In my free time, I like to go to the beach.

I'm Elena, work in Disney, in the financial field. Have no children, recently married.

Flor, I am a teacher but I'm not working right now. I stay at home and am looking for something that keeps me busy. My children are grown up. I am from Panama.

I'm Gloria, also a teacher and a stay-at-home mom with my 16 month old baby. I am from Chile and in the United States since 1994. In my free time, I don't have much free time. But I like to go to movies.

I'm Hilda, a flight attendant with United Airlines. Been doing that for 11 years. No kids yet. Love to travel. Half Puerto Rican, half Italian. Grew up in New York.

I'm Isa, originally from Puerto Rico, but raised here in Florida almost all my life. Work in the medical field for the last 12 years. I have a 12 year old daughter. When I have free time, I like to scrap book.

MODERATOR – THINKING GENERALLY ABOUT THE COUNTRY, DO YOU THINK THAT THINGS ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR THE WRONG DIRECTION?

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong.

MODERATOR – EVERYONE AGREES WITH WRONG? NOBODY SAYS THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

I think it's moving in the right direction.

MODERATOR – YOU THINK SO. SO WHY DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

The war. It's never ending. There seems to be no solution to it and people keep dying.

I think that they're too focused on international affairs than our own backyard.

I agree.

I look at it from a numbers perspective, as well. The interest rates, housing market, the gas prices, the way finances are going. . .

Healthcare.

. . .the salaries are not keeping up. So I think that's going the wrong way.

A lot of people are being left behind the way housing and healthcare costs are going. People work hard all their life. The elderly also.

We've gone back home with my parents. My mom's just (inaudible).

They work all their life and they can't afford the medicine.

Yup. My mom says, I can't stay home. I can't retire. I can't afford my medicine. We feel it. The kids feel it, wanting to help.

The United States is not the only one with the problems that we have. The economy is going up. Everywhere we have a lot of jobs. (Inaudible) the housing is going up, yes. . .

But the pay is not. Housing's gone way up but the pay isn't going anywhere in Florida.

. . .we still have the war and people still keep buying. They say we don't have money, but they still keep buying. So I don't think that is (inaudible).

I don't agree from a real estate market because I've seen it slow down a lot over the past 6 months. I don't think people are buying as much as they were before because of the interest rate increases. Just on my street alone, there are 6 houses for sale and they're still for sale a year later.

I would like someone to explain why the gas prices are just going up.

The war in Iraq.

Yeah, but it's not like we went into the war yesterday and in the past month, the increases on gas has been tremendous.

MODERATOR – WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THE PRICES ARE GOING UP? YOU MENTIONED THE WAR IN IRAQ.

The war being so long, it's started to trickle down.

It's hard for us to be there and this is how they're going to hit us.

(Many speaking at once).

All the oil companies in this country made \$20 billion in the first quarter of this year. That's crazy.

(Many speaking at once).

They're maximizing their profits and taking it out on us.

MODERATOR – WHO DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE?

I think it's a combination. I've heard there's a shortage of production areas here in the U.S. Other areas, for example, Venezuela provides a lot of our oil. Their economy is going really bad so it's affecting us. So I think it's a couple of different things involved.

A lot of different things.

I think it has to do with the demand, too.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OUR CONTINUOUS INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ?

I think that if they have resolved the major issues, if they've already resolved the new government and trained the people in the new government, I think it's time to come home. It's way past due. I think maybe they stay over fear that the minute we leave, it's just going to begin again.

MODERATOR – SO EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE THINGS THAT (NAME?) NAMED HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

I think there's a cover up.

Government tells you what they want you to know.

MODERATOR – WHAT IS IT THAT THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW?

I don't know. That's a good one. I don't know.

The government only wants you to know whatever they want you to know. I think Bush owns a lot of oil. I don't vote by party lines. I believe what's right is right. I think the oil is number one and that it's going to be \$4/gallon. And they want to open and explore new areas here off the coast. Nobody wants to do it, but he wants to do it. So we're going to be pushed to the corner until that this is the only solution that we have.

MODERATOR – SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN IRAQ?

I have two nephews there and I want them out. They went in there and they've been there for quite awhile and that's it. Now they are just policing the nation. They need to train police officers. They need to train people.

They didn't ask us to go. We put our nose where it doesn't belong. We had an interest. France was getting this money because they had a treaty. It's greed and money and power, that's all it is. The more you know about politics and government, the less you're going to like it. They wanted a share of it even though it cost us so much money.

I agree that they didn't ask us to be there but then if you see the overwhelming response from our people being there, not from the government side, but the people that were imprisoned in their own country, then I think that a part of it was good. But I think that once those people have gotten the help they need, that they've gotten the leadership set up, that we should go now.

Then why don't we go to Cuba, to Panama, to Columbia?

I just feel like we got there and we met some of their needs, though initially they didn't ask for it. Some of it was good, some of it was bad. But I think that now it's time to go.

The President of Venezuela has publicly threatened George Bush. He calls him Mr. Danger. Why doesn't anyone do anything about him?

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF HISPANICS GOING TO THE WAR IN IRAQ?

A lot.

Do you have the statistics?

I've heard a lot of Hispanics.

There are a lot of Hispanics also that don't have citizenship and they're going to the war.

There's a lot of young kids in the war. They're young. They're 17, 18 years old. There's nothing out here for them to do. They don't want to go to college. The other thing is, you don't have money to go to college, you go into the service. That's why my two nephews are there.

MODERATOR – SO WHAT ELSE? WHAT ELSE IS GOING WRONG IN THIS COUNTRY?

Healthcare.

Spending. More and more people are going into debt. They are spending like they're using credit cards and people are getting into debt.

The interest only loans. People are going to start losing those home.

The jobs going overseas. Already United has their reservation center in India. Those are jobs that are taken away from us here. So big companies looking for cheaper labor. What happens to us?

There are so many jobs are going to other countries. Yet there are so many immigrants here and they don't want to give them the legal documents so they can work here.

You see more and more companies making more and more money and they don't want to give back to the community. They don't want to pay people \$10, \$15, \$20/hour to have the work here.

Pensions, that's another thing. Out the door. But no, the CEO's, they still got theirs. Did they take pay cuts? No.

My husband works for Delta and he's been there 25 years and now he's taking a pay cut and an hourly cut.

MODERATOR – DO YOU ALL AGREE?

Yes, I agree. The costs and the salaries aren't in line. I read an article where a CEO gets to pay for a stripper as an expense on their expense report. That's ridiculous.

Last week, Universal announced that they were increasing their hourly rate and Sea World followed. Disney didn't do a thing and they make beau coup money.

The thing that I don't agree with is a psychological salary. I don't agree with that at all. They say that at Disney, they make less money because of all the benefits.

MODERATOR – LET'S TALK IN GENERAL, NOT ABOUT SPECIFIC COMPANIES?

One of the things that I don't agree with, I've been in this country since 1994. When I came here, it wasn't that way. There's no job and you can't think, I'll get this job and I'm going to retire here. It's not that way anymore. There's no security.

That's right.

My husband lost his job 3 times. Luckily he got hired by a good company. But he was 6 months without a job. All our savings were gone. And we have to start all over again. There's no job in the world that you can say that this is a secure job.

That's why I think more and more people are going towards more home-based businesses and trying to create their own. Like more and more, you see more eBay.

More home based business because you have control over that and if you find a market. And then when that market is no longer there, you create a new market for yourself.

They're not showing loyalty to people that have been there for 5 and 10 years.

I wish there was a way that you could hold big corporations accountable. And that you could question the CEO's and bring them to account and say, why are you going out of the country with those jobs? Why is Mr. Smith and his family being put out of their home when he's worked for you for so many years?

I agree that there's no accountability for these people in these corporations because there's nobody monitoring them. But then we are in a free country, and if you set those systems up, monitoring systems, but there needs to be.

MODERATOR – ANYTHING ELSE?

I think the status of teenagers now in the U.S. There's not so much parenting. The teenagers that I deal with on a regular basis. Because you have a two income home, so the mom and the dad are not home which leaves the child to be more independent. Not so much that wisdom from older people coming to the kids.

MODERATOR – I'M GOING TO DO SOME NAME ASSOCIATIONS NOW. SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO YOUR MIND. FIRST NAME, ALBERTO GONZALEZ. DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?

No.

He's the lawyer to President Bush.

The attorney general.

He used to be his (inaudible).

I don't know.

I think it's good that he has somebody who's Spanish in the White House.

I think that the government has seen the force of the Hispanic population in this country.

His sister-in-law is Hispanic.

But I just don't think it came from his heart.

That he got the position because he was a token.

We don't know anything about him really. We can [opinion-ate] about George Bush's and his reasoning for it. He could have genuinely earned that position. He could have worked hard as heck for that position.

MODERATOR – NEXT ONE. JEB BUSH.

I like him.

I think he's more down-to-earth and more down to take care of us.

He's a people person.

That's good.

More normal people.

He seems impressionable.

He's calm and strong with all the hurricanes, we never saw him flustered.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON?

Powerful.

Powerful figure, yeah.

I think she's powerful.

I think she's smart.

I don't like her.

MODERATOR – WHY?

Her demeanor, just the way she is.

I think she wants to be a man. I think a woman can be powerful and be a woman. But just based on what I saw when her husband was President, I was embarrassed for her. Or for him, thinking, I don't know how to explain it. Just her demeanor.

It's like anything you can do, I can do better. And she's going out to show that she's going to do it better. But I don't take offense to her.

I love her.

I like her, too.

She's a strong woman.

I think she's a strong woman.

I think she handled the Monica issue pretty well.

She's going to prove that she can do it.

I think she was half-way running it when he was in there.

I think that she's fine in politics.

For me, she's okay as a woman because she can be great out there.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT BILL NELSON?

He's one of the senators from Florida.

I don't know too much.

I don't really have an opinion.

I don't think he's a strong person for Florida.

MODERATOR – OKAY. NEXT ONE. KATHERINE HARRIS.

Weak in politics.

I don't know who she is.

No. Don't know her.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

I'm Catholic.

I'm Catholic.

I am, too.

What's the question?

MODERATOR – WHAT'S THE FIRST WORD THAT COMES TO MIND?

Organized. Very organized.

They need to lower their standards a little bit now.

Yeah.

Get a little more relaxed.

I think it's going in the wrong direction. I think that they need to reorganize and that they need to clean up all those people that were sexual predators. I think that that is going to take away a lot of the people from it.

I agree with what you're saying. I think that when something bad happens in the Catholic Church, you hear it everywhere. But when something bad happens in any other religion, it's let's just pray for him.

I think that the Catholic Church is very powerful. They have a lot of money.

Everybody is watching them because of the Pope.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT TOM DELAY? KNOW WHO HE IS?

No.

A radio guy or a political guy?

No, don't know.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE CONGRESS?

It's mostly Republican right now so they have a strong party if they want to. If they get organized and if they step forward.

They have power and they would be the regulators of the government. They can't do anything that (inaudible) besides that.

I think it's each individual person is how is this going to benefit me.

Their pockets.

Yeah, it's back to their pockets.

MODERATOR – OTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CONGRESS? HAVE YOU HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THE CORRUPTION?

Oh, it's been there forever.

They don't want to do nothing to disturb that, that they are in control of the Congress. That they're one-sided. Even if they have their own opinions, they want to control it.

We choose them. The people choose them. So why are we talking about it? We voted for them.

MODERATOR -- IS THE CURRENT CONGRESS WORSE THAN IN TIMES PAST OR IS THIS JUST POLITICS AS USUAL?

No, the public is more aware of what's going on. It's always been there. I've been in politics. I never talk about politics or religion unless I know people well because those two sensitive subjects, it's been there for centuries and centuries. It's just that now people are aware because of TV and computers. You can find out anything about anybody.

MODERATOR – OTHER THOUGHTS?

They need more people with courage.

MODERATOR – DO YOU SEE ONE PARTY AS MORE OR LESS CORRUPT?

No. I don't think so.

There's always going to be corruption in government. It happens here and it happens in all the countries around the world.

MODERATOR – HOW DOES CORRUPTION IN CONGRESS AFFECT YOU PERSONALLY?

It affects you everyday like I said. It's the domino effect. If it's something that I want, I can buy you with money and I'll buy you. and a lot of people do that. Money is power.

Yeah, it's just a trickle down effect. It's a domino.

It comes down to the businesses. It comes down to the community. It comes down to the small people. Like minimum wage. They vote for it over there. people in businesses say, don't pass that. We don't want it going up because we pay our factor workers \$6/hour. I'll vote for you if you don't pass that law.

Exactly.

It's the bullying that goes on. Like I'm running a business from home and I've got a company that is battling with me. They've got more money and they've got more connections than little me. It's the bullying. No, you can't import directly from China and sell something. You have to buy it from me at \$3 when I could buy it there for 75 cents and make my little pittance.

MODERATOR – YOU MENTIONED MINIMUM WAGE, HAVING YOUR OWN BUSINESS. WHAT OTHER WAYS DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

Education. Health insurance.

(Inaudible) it takes forever to have something done. and something that was so important. It's going to be important at some point in this country in the future. It's affecting a lot of other people that want to have a family.

MODERATOR – LAST NAME I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS GEORGE W. BUSH. WE'RE GOING TO WRITE IT DOWN BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT IT. ON THE FIRST PAGE, WRITE DOWN WHAT GOOD THINGS COME TO MIND ABOUT BUSH AND ON THE SECOND PAGE, WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE THINGS THAT COME TO MIND? SO WHAT POSITIVE THINGS DID YOU WRITE DOWN?

I remembered how he addressed the people after 9-11.

MODERATOR – WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THAT?

When it was happening, I think he was sensitive to the people at the time. He was concentered about them.

He demonstrated a lot of strength and courage in times like that.

I believe that he's a family man.

That's what I wrote, too. And has good morals.

Reacted strongly to terrorism after 9-11. That was the only thing I could think of.

I have nothing.

I share what she said about families. There haven't been any family scandals or anything known. Also, what she said about 9-11, at that time, when the country just went ballistic, it kind of gave you a sense that everything is going to be all right. Not necessarily what happened later. But at that time, I think he did provide that, I am President. I am the leading man. Calm down. Everything is going to be okay.

I think he has a strong mind. That he sets goals and accomplishes them. That he looks to solve the problems. No (inaudible) weakness.

He was very strong after what happened at 9-11.

I have nothing good about him.

MODERATOR -- WHAT DOUBTS DO YOU HAVE? WHAT WORRIES YOU ABOUT HIM?

I think a lot of people think he's lost the credibility because of what he said about the war. That they had weapons of mass destruction and we went over there and didn't find anything. So what was it? Just a personal thing that you wanted to get over? Also, what I said earlier, he's so focused on other parts of the world. And yet inside our own house, there are many things going wrong that he could take less time to fix and then more people would be happy.

I think he's getting money hungry, power hungry. Letting the whole world that he's in charge and control. When 9-11 happened, when two planes had come down, that's what he said, but only one plane had come down. And no one ever mentioned that again. So how did he know that two planes came down when only one plane came down? It was never reported again and no one ever in the whole world mentioned it. But when he addressed the nation, he said, two planes came down. I believe a lot of stuff that happens in life, there's a reason behind everything.

He's more for the big corporations. The people and the CEO's, the people with money, big businesses, and he's not really for the blue collar people. He also wants to break the unions.

(Inaudible) money into the country.

What about us? I know, but I'm not rich. If you make more money, you have to pay more taxes. That's the way it goes. I think he needs better counsel with the war. I think he needs to (inaudible) other countries before he goes and acts upon it because it affects all of us.

I don't think he's really speaking for the people inside the nation. It's more for the outside, other countries.

He needs to help out Americans more than those in other countries.

I don't know what his position on the war now is. I don't know what his real, what's keeping us there. And his financial gain or not in the war.

Most of the time, he gives me the impression that doesn't know what he's doing. He doesn't have even a clue where he is standing.

I feel that way, too.

I think he's kind of lost right now.

I think at the beginning he started out making us feel that he did know. And now he makes people doubt him because he seems so unsure. Or that he's scared.

Lost and regretful.

How do you tell a nation, I'm sorry?

MODERATOR – SO DO YOU THINK HE'S WEAKER OR STRONGER THAN WHEN HE WAS ELECTED NOW?

Oh, yeah.

Yes.

I feel that.

MODERATOR – WHY?

The polls show it.

It's just like 29% approval and it used to be 54%.

MODERATOR – WHAT ARE THE REASONS?

Because he's so focused on the war.

The gas prices.

The war and the gas.

And the job losses.

MODERATOR -- NOW I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT SOME OF YOU MENTIONED AND HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS A LOT LATELY – ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CURRENT DEBATE ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?

This country was made by immigrants.

We're not Indians. We're all here.

American Indians.

A lot of people have referred to this country, even U.S. citizens as the melting pot. So what is it now? I do believe that we just can't let anybody come into because you have to have some rules. But this is the melting pot.

I think we pay a lot of taxes and yeah, there should be rules. But sometimes people have it easier to get over, like people from Canada. Some people have it easier. Who's discriminating? Who's saying who can come here and who can't?

It's always the Mexican frontier that's in the news anymore. And they never talk about the Canadians.

Because most of the Canadians do not have an accent.

Exactly. But that doesn't mean. . .

That's the honest truth.

They blend in?

They just don't have the physical traits that stand out.

I just don't know how much we're going to give. They come here and our country gives them everything. It seems like, I'm not just talking about Mexicans. Because I do have friends that are Colombians and all different things. It seems like they all get government help.

I don't think so. My husband used to work, you know what it is, it's easy for all of us. I told my husband to talk if you don't know what goes on. My husband worked for the government at one time. You'd be sorry to know how sad it is for them. If they're from a different country, then get to know how most people come here, even if you have an education when you come here. There's people who I know who are doctors who work in a hospital cleaning because they make more money here.

I think that if people are coming here from other countries, I welcome it if they would be responsible and go through the right process. But then I think that on our behalf, we need to not make it so impossible for those people who are struggling to be a part of our country to become immigrants. Today specially I heard a story. It just broke my heart. A Mexican man, came and married an American woman, filed the papers. Of course, they had children. And waited the 3 or 4 year process and got denied his residency. He had to leave this country and leave his wife and 3 children here. They've been fighting for two years and he was the bread winner of that family. We shouldn't make it so impossible for people who honestly want to be a part of this country. And that want to work and pay taxes to be a part of our system.

I agree with what she said. My in-laws are from Columbia. They've been here for over 30 years. They did it the right way. But I do agree. We can't just let everybody or anybody come in. But try to help these people out, too.

I came here with a Visa and I became an American citizen. I did have to work for \$5/hour and had to clean bathrooms to make a living. I was a teacher but I still had to clean bathrooms. But I

know how it is. And it's tough to have a decent job. The thing is that a lot of people come to this country that are coming to abuse the system.

Yes, they learn the system.

I knew someone that was getting food stamps and that person didn't need it. And there are also criminals coming into this country. So there has to be a better checkup.

I was agreeing that it's those that learn the system and they learn it quickly. And those that really truly need the help are then denied and they can't find the help, what papers, where do I need to go. I don't know how they do it, but they learn the system well.

MODERATOR – HOW DOES ALL THESE PROGRAMS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT YOU PERSONALLY?

I think a lot of them work very hard and they put a lot of the food on our table. A lot of us are very lazy. I'll say myself. I'd rather go and have a very easy job. I make good money. I'm not going to go and do that and have somebody get \$5/hour and pick the fruit and bring them in. I'll go to Publix and buy them. a lot of us do that. not many people are going to go and do that. there are white and black people that were born here that do that, but it's mostly all migrant workers who bring the food to our table. They're the ones that go in the sun and the rain and everything.

Not only that but how about all the construction that goes on?

MODERATOR – OTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW IT AFFECTS YOU PERSONALLY?

I saw this movie recently and we joked about it at work, but it makes the point. A day without a Mexican. It was supposed to be funny but it did have a message. Imagine if we got rid of every immigrant that came into this country. What would happen to our way of living? Our way of life? It would not be the thing.

I think that the economy would suffer. A lot of people won't do those jobs.

Then the people that have the farms would have to pay Americans more money to do those jobs. And then you'll have to pay in Publix \$5 for the tomato.

It would come from other countries.

MODERATOR – SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION THEN?

Me, I would stick for them. I think that we should try for them. Canadians come here, they're not going to want to pick our oranges. They usually are nurses and professionals who don't have an accent and they're white and they fit right in. I have a lot of friends how are Irish. They come here, they have an accent. A lot of Congress people are Irish. They take care of themselves. They come here as maids and then they go to school and take care of themselves. It's us, the Spanish people who suffer the most. So we should stick for one another and help one another.

Yes.

We should put more into Congress. But we don't have the money and the people that have the money don't care. We just let them go because they're poor and the poor have to fend for themselves and they cannot. It's like the big fish eat the little fish. He's a migrant worker and who cares because they don't do nothing for us.

To me, it goes back to discrimination. I came here in '94. when I came in '94. I came to visit my dad. He lived here at the time. When I was going through immigration, they just took my passport and said, you're coming with me to that little room. They had me there for 2 ½ hours. The guy would ask me the same questions over and over and over again. He was looking for something that he could never find.

MODERATOR – BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

You mean, the policies?

MODERATOR – YEAH.

For new ones coming in or the ones already here?

They're here.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE 11 MILLION WE ALREADY HAVE HERE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THAT?

They're here.

They're here, they're working, they're helping sustain. . .

Yeah, paying taxes. Show that you've been helping this country.

Unless they have any kind of criminal record.

Right.

Yeah.

Like you were saying about the story of the guy that got sent home. They're here, they've been here. They might have been here for years. and they're still waiting for their papers. Meanwhile, they start a family. they have stuff going on here.

I don't think that they should make it so hard that people have to lie. . .

Yeah.

. . .change their identities for a season of their life. Marry people that they don't. . . . **(END OF SIDE A/BEGINNING OF SIDE B)**. . .

It's so sad. She works so hard. They're not even living together.

MODERATOR – SO GOING BACK TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

I think it's awesome. You know that movie, Lean on Me, where they stuck together, power. If we all stick together, I tell all the kids I work with, I tell them you have to have an education, better yourself. Stick for yourself. Nobody will take care of us. You have to take care of yourself.

I can't wait to see what the effects are tomorrow. What happened today? How much did it really affect us?

Maybe it won't.

That Orlando demonstration alone was huge.

I want to see an impact. They just keep talking about it. let's see. what's going to show up tomorrow.

Yeah, what's traffic going to look like. What are schools going to look like? What are stores going to look like?

There was an article today. There was a school with over 45% were children of migrant workers and they were all absent.

I went to the store this morning and it was closed.

A lot of people, even restaurants were closed. We take it for granted.

We're Puerto Rican and my husband wanted to go down, but I had to work. But he's like, we all need to stay together, we all need to support because we're all immigrants.

I thought it was awesome. I think if you come to this country, you should abide by the law. You should learn English. It's not our country. We came to live here.

I agree with her wholeheartedly. I'm kind of neutral about the demonstration that was here because there is a legal way to do everything. I think that the polices need to be more relaxed and not make it so impossible for people to become citizens. But at the same time, the country is not to adapt to immigrants. There are laws. Speak the language. So I agree with her.

MODERATOR – LET'S GO TO HANDOUT #3. CONGRESS IS DISCUSSING PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. BELOW ARE SOME PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION. READ THROUGH THE LIST AND PUT A STAR NEXT TO THE TWO PROPOSALS THAT YOU LIKE THE MOST, AND PUT AN X NEXT TO THE TWO PROPOSALS THAT CONCERN YOU THE MOST.

- a. PROVIDE MORE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL BORDER CONTROL, INCLUDING 10,000 NEW PATROL AGENTS ON OUR BORDERS
- b. BUILD A 700-MILE LONG FENCE ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER
- c. REQUIRE IMMIGRANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH AND BASICS ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND GOVERNMENT BEFORE BECOMING U.S. CITIZENS
- d. ESTABLISH A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN THE U.S. AND OFFERS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP IF THEY PAY FINES AND BACK TAXES

- e. ESTABLISH A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN THE U.S. FOR A SET PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN REQUIRES THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY
- f. IMPOSE MAJOR FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
- g. DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND ALLOW THEM TO RETURN AS GUEST WORKERS
- h. MAKE IT A CRIME FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS, REFUGEE AGENCIES, CHURCHES, AND LEGAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
- i. REFUSE DRIVER'S LICENSES TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

MODERATOR – OKAY. ARE YOU READY? HOW MANY STARS FOR:

A – 0
B – 0
C – 8
D – 7
E – 1
F – 1
G – 0
H – 0
I – 0

HOW MANY X'S?

A – 1
B – 1
C – 0
D – 1
E – 0
F – 2
G – 1
H – 7
I – 1

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE STARS. THE TWO YOU LIKED THE MOST. FIRST, REQUIRE IMMIGRANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH AND BASICS ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND GOVERNMENT BEFORE BECOMING U.S. CITIZENS. WHY DID YOU GUYS LIKE THAT ONE?

They're going to live here, you've got to adapt.

If you're going to live here, you've got to learn the language.

If you're going to become a U.S. citizen, you're going to have to learn the basics to pass the test.

I think that's why immigrants have such a hard time. I work in a hospital and they're always abused by the police, abused by the everyday person, because they go drinking. In their country and it's okay. But here they drink and they start making noise. We talk real loud so people think

that we're fighting. Then right away, they don't understand. They always have bruises all over them. But they don't know their rights. They don't know the law. So they should learn for their own advantage.

I think something should be included in there about how to pay your taxes. When I came here, I made a mistake and I ended up having to pay \$600 back to the government because they take my taxes right. I didn't have no idea about taxes.

(Many speaking at once).

So it should be in the basics.

I liked that one because it is a country, the language, that should be the basics there.

MODERATOR – SO THE 2ND ONE YOU LIKED THE MOST IS, ESTABLISH A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN THE U.S. AND OFFERS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP IF THEY PAY FINES AND BACK TAXES. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THAT?

I disagree with the fines and back taxes. It's going to kill them.

I think if they're working, they should pay taxes. Everybody else does.

Yeah, but I don't know about the back taxes. Because if they've been here 20 years, back taxes are a lot.

But at least they should give something.

(Many speaking at once).

MODERATOR – ONE AT A TIME.

It would offer a choice because for now, at least what I know, to become a legal citizen or at least have a green card, you either need to be a relative of somebody who's already a citizen. Or you need to win the immigration lottery or something. There are families that come here looking for a better life and they don't have a mom or a daughter or something that could claim them to be legal in this country. If I'm working, I'm paying taxes and putting my two cents in. So at least it offers something for all those people that don't have any other connections.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE ONE YOU LIKED THE LEAST? MAKE IT A CRIME FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS, REFUGEE AGENCIES, CHURCHES, AND LEGAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. WHY DON'T YOU LIKE THAT?

They're just going to lie. They're still going to help them. They're not going to ask, like the Catholic Social Services. They said, I just won't ask where they're from, why they need the help.

I think that's impossible because they can lie.

They can't be cruel. If somebody needs help, somebody needs food, how are you going to turn them away?

You're turning to other principles. Jesus said you must help one another without asking what country are you from. You're talking about churches. They're going to help you.

MODERATOR – OKAY. HOW ABOUT, DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND ALLOW THEM TO RETURN AS GUEST WORKERS?

It's cruel because who knows how long they've been here. Most people when they come here, they love this country. They know this is the better life for them.

If they go back, what if their life is in danger? They've left their country now, they're a traitor there.

They will hide. I would do the same.

MODERATOR – OKAY. WHICH POLITICAL PARTY DO YOU THINK DOES A BETTER JOB HANDLING THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUE? AND WHY?

The Democrats are always for the poor. The Republicans are always for the rich. So I would say that the Democrats would look out more for the immigrants.

I agree with her.

I agree.

I don't know what to say.

The Democrats.

MODERATOR – ANY SPECIFIC REASONS WHY THEY WOULD DO A BETTER JOB?

What I've heard is the Republicans are very conservative. They're not just going to open the door.

They're not going to muddy themselves. It's not their problem.

But some conservatives are conservative in a moral conservative way which is like values and traditional issues and family, but yet have a heart for people.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHER THOUGHTS ON WHICH POLITICAL PARTY DO YOU THINK DOES A BETTER JOB HANDLING THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUE? HAS ANYBODY CHANGED THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE POLITICAL PARTY BASED ON SOME OF THE RESPONSES TO THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE? HAS THIS AFFECTED YOUR OPINION?

I don't know enough about this issue.

I don't really know.

(Inaudible) can you tell me, (inaudible) I don't know.

MODERATOR – WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER, DO YOU THINK THE CANDIDATES' STANDING ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES MIGHT BE A REASON TO VOTE FOR ONE OR THE OTHER, OR NO?

No.

Not a main determinant.

Maybe part of it.

I think that after today's demonstration, candidates on both parties are going to take the issue more strongly.

MODERATOR – BUT HOW ABOUT YOU? IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT WHERE THE CANDIDATE IS STANDING?

You can never forget your roots. I am an immigrant. So is it going to affect me? I'm a citizen, so I don't think I'm going to be sent back. But yes, it would interest me to know who's doing what.

MODERATOR – NOW LET'S TALK IN GREATER DETAIL ABOUT THE TWO PARTIES, THE REPUBLICANS AND THE DEMOCRATS. FIRST, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS. WHEN THINKING POSITIVELY ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS?

I don't vote for Democrat or Republican. I think if you're a good person and you're for issues that are good for me, I'm going to back you up. But everybody likes to point fingers. It's more open. Republicans are more conservative. Democrats are more liberal. Everybody has issues that I don't like.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE DO YOU LIKE ABOUT DEMOCRATS?

They're interested in people.

They're more for blue collar.

More social services.

I'm a hard-core Republican, so I don't like the Democrats.

They usually work more with the underdog.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS? WHAT DO THE DEMOCRATS GET WRONG?

I don't like especially that the liberal mentality.

No, I don't either. Or their morals.

MODERATOR – WHAT EXACTLY ABOUT THEIR MORALS?

The gay marriage.

Abortion.

I take issue with some of the stuff that they try to do for young girls in high school, excluding parents out of what a young teenager would do with a pregnancy. I'd be crushed as a parent if my daughter's school had more say over her.

The Democrats are more for us. And they're politicians.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE? WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS ON SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES?

That (inaudible) the Clinton administration and then all the problems passed on to the new President. I think I feel more secure now than before.

MODERATOR -- WHEN THINKING POSITIVELY ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS?

There's a lot of o things that I like about the Republicans. I like the conservative mindset. They oppose the gay marriages. Oppose illegal abortion.

They're always looking after the economy.

They want to build the country and a strong economy.

I agree.

They care a lot about the country's finances. The economy.

How they have not tried to forget God. Other people believe in separation of church and state. I think that history will show that hanging onto that is not a bad thing.

This country was founded on morals and In God We Trust. It says that on the dollar bill and in the Pledge of Allegiance. All of that. And now they want to take it out.

MODERATOR – WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT COMING FROM DEMOCRATS?

Yeah.

Yes.

(Many speaking at once).

I kind of think it's going to [divide people] because most politicians will do that and then (inaudible).

MODERATOR -- WHAT DO YOU THINK THE REPUBLICANS GET WRONG? WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK FROM SUPPORTING THE REPUBLICANS?

Big corporation.

MODERATOR – WHAT EXACTLY ABOUT THAT?

It always has to do with money. All their money, campaign contributions are from big people. So things get passed. I think that they get passed with money. It's money. Campaign contributions.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE?

I don't think that enough Republican voters show up for the big causes that are supposed to be things that we fight for.

MODERATOR – LIKE WHAT?

Moral causes. You don't see as many people go out in droves as you would on the Democratic party when they want to legalize gay marriage. You know what I mean? The Democratic party has a big representation when it comes to these big moral issues on their side. We see it more like with pastors in churches but not just regular Republicans.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE?

If the Republican party would speak for the little people like ourselves, like what the Democratic party does, I think that would be an ideal party. If they did everything, the conservative mindset and spoke for the people, I think that would be ideal.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHER THOUGHTS? AMALIA?

I'm just very confused. Like she said, it would be ideal to bring out the best in them. I just got an E-mail yesterday about all the changes that have happened in this country. Like wanting to remove God from so many schools, you're not able to speak freely about God.

I don't think it has anything to do with Republicans or Democrats. It's just like abortion. Abortion was really passed by the Republicans, but people don't see it that way.

People put an emphasis in church. I'm a Catholic and I'm a Democrat. But the Church doesn't tell you to vote for a Democrat. They tell you vote for a Republican because they believe Democrats believe in abortion. That's not true. That's a choice that I made. If I want to have an abortion, that will be a choice I made and I live with that. But people put it all that way.

MODERATOR -- I KNOW IT'S A LONG WAY OFF, BUT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. WHEN YOU EVALUATE THE CANDIDATES IN YOUR DISTRICT AND DECIDE HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE, FOR YOU PERSONALLY, WHAT IS THIS ELECTION ABOUT?

I don't know yet.

If it's in November, there sure is not a lot of issues being discussed.

Yeah, they're quiet about it.

Yeah, no campaigns.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT'S GOING TO DETERMINE YOUR VOTE? DO YOU KNOW ALREADY OR ARE YOU WAITING TO HEAR MORE?

I want to receive some information first.

I need information.

Yeah, I don't know any of the issues.

(Many speaking at once).

I don't really know of any big issues coming up.

MODERATOR – WHAT'S GOING TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THIS ELECTION?

The war.

Immigration.

Economics.

Healthcare.

The elderly.

Special healthcare.

What's going to happen, that's another issue. Social Security.

MODERATOR – IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE THING, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHICH ONE IT IS.

My future.

Yeah. I agree.

Economic future.

Healthcare.

Economics to see what it's going to be like (inaudible).

We should really think about Social Security because it's what is really going to affect us the most, but we don't really think that way. We don't think about tomorrow. The Spanish people, we think about today. We don't think about tomorrow. That's why we're all poor.

[Laughter.]

I want to have children, so education for me would be an issue.

MODERATOR – WHAT SPECIFICALLY ARE YOU VOTING FOR?

Education.

Security.

Security.

Future security.

Security, financially mostly. Not like national security.

Well, national security also. Who's to say that there's not going to be another 9-11 tomorrow?

Yeah.

That's important, too.

I heard that they were going to lower the number of students in the schools. But they haven't done it.

They don't pay the teachers enough so students who are in college now don't want to go for education if they know that the max that they're going to earn is \$30,000 for many, many years.

MODERATOR – NOW I'D LIKE TO TALK IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY THAT WILL BE TALKED ABOUT IN THIS ELECTION. FLIP TO HANDOUT #4. WE'LL READ A BRIEF STATEMENT FROM TWO CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES, ONE DEMOCRAT AND ONE REPUBLICAN, ON EACH ISSUE. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU PLAN TO VOTE, PLEASE TELL ME WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR OPINION.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, WE NEED TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL BY DRILLING FOR OIL IN OUR OWN COUNTRY WHILE INVESTING IN NEW ENERGY SOURCES LIKE ETHANOL AND HYDROGEN FUEL CELLS. I SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH'S GOAL OF REPLACING MORE THAN 75% OF OUR OIL IMPORTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST BY 2025. THE SOONER WE CAN ACHIEVE TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS, THE BETTER OFF OUR COUNTRY WILL BE.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, WITH RISING GAS PRICES AND OIL COMPANIES POSTING OBSCENE PROFITS, WE NEED A NEW ENERGY POLICY THAT MOVES AWAY FROM PRESIDENT BUSH'S FAILED POLICIES AND RHETORIC. INSTEAD OF GIVEAWAYS TO BIG OIL, WE ESTABLISH A WINDFALL PROFITS TAX ON OIL COMPANIES AND USE THE MONEY TO INVEST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES LIKE WIND AND SOLAR POWER.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? THREE. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? SIX. LET'S START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE?

I like the alternative energy sources. But it's a very vague statement. It's an energy policy but there's no timeline to that.

When? When is this going to kick in? When are we going to start working on it?

I like the statement because I believe it. It's obscene profits. The oil companies and the big people are sitting fat on a cushion and it's obscene how much money these people make.

Just a change from how Bush is doing. We need a change for something else. See if something else works better.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC ONE? OKAY. WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE FIRST ONE?

That there's a timeline. And that we do want to get away from outside sources and they're actually working towards that goal now but it might take 20 years. I liked the other one but they're vague and no timeline and do they have a plan or are they just thinking of starting a plan?

Also it's talking about what are the energy sources which is (inaudible). If they're going to spend money on the energy and they don't know what.

Who's going to do it?

It doesn't give you, how you say, the most secure \$1 gas. It's going to cost so much to drill. Maybe they (inaudible).

MODERATOR -- LET'S GO TO HANDOUT #5.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, AMERICA'S CORE VALUES ARE BEING UNDERMINED BY A LIBERAL MEDIA AND A PERMISSIVE CULTURE THAT REJECTS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY AND THE ROLE OF THE ROLE OF FAITH IN OUR HISTORY AND OUR PUBLIC LIFE. WE MUST DEFEND THE MORAL FOUNDATIONS THAT MAKE OUR NATION STRONG, PROMOTE A CULTURE OF LIFE, AND PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF THE FAMILY.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, FROM TERRI SCHIAVO TO CREATIONISM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT HAS GONE TOO FAR IN LEGISLATING MORALITY. MY FAITH TEACHES ME THAT FAMILIES AND CHURCHES SHOULD TEACH VALUES AND RELIGION WHILE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOCUS ON DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY AND REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL, LOWERING HEALTH CARE COSTS, AND CREATING GOOD JOBS HERE AT HOME.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? THREE. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? SIX. LET'S START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE?

I think that you should take care of yourself and not have the government teach my children about God. I tell me kids God goes first, you go second and the world goes third. It's our own responsibility. And the government should not teach you how to do it.

i agree with her. And also with reduce dependence on Middle East oil.

Healthcare costs.

Growing healthcare costs. That's such a big deal for me.

Creating good jobs at home here.

Yes, I agree with them.

Yeah, those things were for me.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE FIRST STATEMENT, THE REPUBLICAN ONE?

The statement focuses about family and what your life is about. It's basically family. The other statement goes from faith to Middle East oil which has nothing to do with what is the first statement. We are focusing on one thing.

The same thing. I just felt like the Democrat's statement there was the sanctity of life (inaudible) not our main concern. We need to worry about this. I think we need to worry about two things. I think you can do both. Healthcare and all that stuff is important. I feel like our nation is strong because of what they had over the course of this nation. Life is hard as it is. If you have the backing of a school and a nation to help you instill the faith that you have in God in your children, then I accept that. People who work hard and are working two jobs maybe don't have the time to help their child have these values and morals set before them and they can see it somewhere else.

MODERATOR – MORAL VALUES MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. FOR YOU PERSONALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN I USE THE WORDS, MORAL VALUES?

Faith.

MODERATOR – RELIGIOUS FAITH?

Yes.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE?

The unity of the family.

Families first.

The Ten Commandments.

If you don't have a family, there's no nation.

Religion comes to mind. Things like for children not to go out into crime or anything. So that's around family.

MODERATOR – WHO DO YOU THINK DOES A BETTER JOB ON VALUES? DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS?

Republicans.

It's an individual issue.

Yeah.

It depends on the person.

I think Republicans a little bit more. Democrats may do it as well in their homes and their families, but I think Republicans speak of it more and bring it to the forefront more than the Democratic party.

The Republicans are more vocal, but I think it's individual, too. It's what you do in your family.

MODERATOR – I'M GOING TO MOVE TO THE NEXT ONE. HANDOUT #6.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, RATHER THAN MORE GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE, WE SHOULD PUT CONSUMERS IN CHARGE OF THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE. I SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH'S PLAN FOR TAX-FREE HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, WHICH LOWER COSTS AND INCREASE COMPETITION BY ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DOCTORS AND THE TYPE OF CARE THEY WANT.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN, AND WE NEED TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES. WE CAN LOWER COSTS AND PROVIDE BETTER COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS WITHIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM, WITHOUT GOVERNMENT TAKING OVER THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. REAL REFORM MEANS AFFORDABLE COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS, MAINTAINING A CHOICE OF DOCTORS AND PLANS, LOWERING COSTS, AND EXPANDING PREVENTIVE CARE.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? FOUR. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? FIVE.

There's always going to be insurance. There's always going to be (Inaudible) all that costs taxes to everybody.

I chose the first one because I like the fact that they're putting it in our hands. I like that fact that I can manage it as I see fit.

That's what was confusing to me. Isn't the first one saying government is controlling and the second one is saying not without government?

The second one is saying that they can lower it without government completely taking over. They're both saying that. Except the reason that I voted for the first one is that there is a more specific plan instead of a vague plan. I work in the medical field and after 12 years, I can see that I can see it going down, including right now, we just got effective May 1, our insurance claims changed. We got reduced even lower. This is the plan that you can go wherever you want, but not everybody is on that plan. I think us being able to pick the tax free health account and deposit money and be able to go to doctors is ultimately going to be the best choice. And here there's nothing specific.

We have the flexible spending and we put \$50-\$100 a paycheck. But this is saying that you're going strictly to this? It would be totally that?

MODERATOR – SO THOSE WHO LIKED THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT, WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THAT ONE?

The fact that we need to make fundamental changes. We all agree that right now there is a problem with it.

We can't get stuff for free. That's why we have to work and pay for whatever. But real reform means affordable coverage for all Americans, maintaining a choice of doctors and plans, lowering costs, and expanding preventive care. that we should have preventive care, because if you have it, a lot of the diseases that we have, that we face, cancer, the number one killer in the world. If you could prevent it, like get colonoscopies, if it was affordable to you, then you would be able to prevent it.

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN IS ACHIEVABLE?

It should be if you pay into it.

Everybody's going to contribute.

The reason why prices on healthcare is going up is because United Healthcare decided that too many people were going to their doctors last year. There was an increase in people using their healthcare, so it went up by 40%.

MODERATOR – OKAY, THIS IS THE NEXT ONE I HAVE TO READ TO YOU. HANDOUT #7.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, WE HAVE REMOVED SADDAM HUSSEIN FROM POWER, TAKEN THE FIGHT TO THE TERRORISTS, AND PLANTED THE SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR RESOLVE IN DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO COMPLETE THE MISSION, DEFEAT OUR ENEMIES, AND SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS. AS IRAQI SOLDIERS ARE TRAINED AND STAND UP, WE WILL STAND DOWN AND BRING MORE TROOPS HOME, BUT WE WILL NOT SET ARBITRARY TIMELINES THAT SIGNAL AN UNWILLINGNESS TO FULFILL OUR MISSION.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, WE ARE SPENDING HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS AND LOSING MORE AMERICAN LIVES EVERY WEEK IN IRAQ, YET PRESIDENT BUSH STILL HAS NOT OFFERED A PLAN FOR SUCCESS. NEARLY FOUR MONTHS AFTER THEIR ELECTIONS, IRAQI LEADERS HAVE STILL NOT FORMED A GOVERNMENT. WE CAN'T CONTINUE ON THIS COURSE. BY SETTING TIMELINES FOR THE IRAQIS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN SECURITY, WE CAN ACHIEVE AN ENDURING VICTORY, BRING OUR TROOPS HOME, AND PUT THE FOCUS BACK ON THE CHALLENGES FACING US HERE AT HOME.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? ZERO. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? NINE. SO WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC STATEMENT?

Let's go home.

Yeah.

Yeah, they have a timeline there.

There's a timeline.

It's a deadline.

We've been there too much. We have enough problems here.

You can't baby-sit a country forever. They need to get on their own feet and rule their own country.

That's it, timeline. Set a deadline and let's get out. The first statement made me think that they would be there too long.

MODERATOR -- NOW, WE ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. WE ARE GOING TO LISTEN TO SOME RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PLAYING RECENTLY. WE'LL LISTEN TO EACH AD, THEN I'D LIKE YOU TO RATE IT ON A SCALE OF 0 TO 5, WHERE 5 MEANS YOU FOUND THE AD TO BE VERY CONVINCING AND 0 MEANS YOU FOUND THE AD NOT AT ALL CONVINCING. AFTER YOU GIVE YOUR RATING, WE WILL DISCUSS IT.

[PLAYS RADIO AD].

FOR THIS AD, WHO CIRCLED:

0 – 1

1 – 0

2 – 2

3 – 1

4 – 3

5 – 2

MODERATOR – MANY OF YOU GAVE IT A RATE OF 3 OR 4. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT? WHAT DO YOU FIND CONVINCING ABOUT IT?

It was very convincing. Me, in real life, I wouldn't have believed it. But he's very convincing. He cares about us, he's protecting our future, our life. But I don't believe it. I believe everybody should come to this country. It would have been a lot better if he put it that way.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS AD?

He's talking about things that are happening now.

MODERATOR – WHAT ABOUT THE MESSAGE?

Yes, protecting our family.

MODERATOR – WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THAT?

The security.

You feel secure.

MODERATOR – I'M GOING TO PLAY A SECOND ONE NOW.

[PLAYS RADIO AD].

FOR THIS AD, WHO CIRCLED:

0 – 1

1 – 1

2 – 1

3 – 3

4 – 3

5 – 0

MODERATOR – SO MOST OF YOU GAVE IT A 3 OR 4. WHAT STANDS OUT ABOUT THIS AD? WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

He sounded passionate about it. You almost saw a hat and a guitar in his hand.

I believed that who are they kidding. That's how I feel about it. Everybody always put the bad stuff towards the Democrats. The Republicans [pass a lot of laws] but than at the end, they put it towards the Democrats. That's why there's always. . .

The blame game.

. . .yeah, it's always blaming the Democrats. But it's really the Republicans that pass a lot of laws and a lot of people are not aware of that. So that's why I really liked that.

MODERATOR – OTHER THOUGHTS?

Just the blame game.

It's how they see it.

I thought it was cute. A good story. Everybody loves to hear a story, I don't care how old.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR STORY? DID YOU FIND IT CONVINCING?

Yes.

Everybody knows about (inaudible). It sounds genuine. It's from the heart.

The voice and all that to me, it made me lose interest right away. It was kind of like, blah, blah, blah,. I actually stopped listening.

The thing is real cute. I think that for the Mexicans, specifically for a lot of Mexican people that are in this country, they can identify with this ad.

MODERATOR – WHY CAN THEY IDENTIFY WITH IT?

Well, the tone of the voice. The music. Like she said, you can almost see the guitar and the hat. So from an advertising point-of-view, I think it was good.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE AD, THE MESSAGE? WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

No. What is the purpose of it? What is it trying to say? Bad things about Republicans?

MODERATOR – DOES IT SAY SOMETHING TO ANY OF YOU?

Yeah. Like you can stand together.

It's what they say.

Yeah, you'll be strong if you stand together.

You hear the voices as one.

You hear the voices.

MODERATOR – LET'S TURN TO OUR LAST EXERCISE. HANDOUT #10. THIS IS A SECRET BALLOT. WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT. THE ELECTION IS FOR CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER. WOULD YOU VOTE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS, AND PUT DOWN WHY RIGHT BELOW IT. OKAY. ALL DONE? JUST LEAVE YOUR PAPERS ON THE TABLE. THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THESE GROUPS. GOOD NIGHT.

(END OF DISCUSSION)