

Focus Group Guidelines
September 20, 2006
Stamford, CT
CT-04
6 Bush – 4 Kerry

I. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Confidentiality
- Mirrors, audio and videotapes
- Respondent introductions

Amy: married, 2 children, Stamford, not working, enjoy watching son play baseball

Beth: working, senior in

Carol: live in Stamford, college

Debbie: Bridgeport, work in hedge fund, volunteer

Ellen; teach 5th grade, 3 children,

Fay: real estate agent, live in Norwalk, 2 children – 12, 9

Gail; married, daughter grown lives in LA, little dog to replace her, ind. Meeting planner

Henrietta: married, triplets, two boys girl in college, antique dealer

Isabella: family business, 2 only children one just went to college, 1 ten

Julie: Norwalk, worked for consulting for Stamford, now unemployed, from OK

II. Direction of the Country (20 minutes)

1. Thinking generally about the country, are things moving in the right direction or wrong direction? [**VERY EXTENSIVE – PROBE AND LISTEN**]

- What things are going right?
- What things are going in the wrong direction?

- **Probe national direction vs. local direction**

Wrong.

WHAT THINGS IN PARTICULAR:

Too much emphasis on helping other countries, lot of problems here to take care of first

Can't trust any of our representatives in politics b/c so much miscommunication,

misappropriation of funds. I know it happens in every aspect of life, but they're supposed to be running our country. Every time I turn around someone else is in jail. I don't trust the government anymore.

I think we're being lied to. I think it started with why we went to Iraq and I think there's been a lot of spin going on since then and I don't think we're getting the true story.

I don't care much for communication with the media; I feel they're totally slanted in one direction. There's no truthful reporting.

IS IT ALWAYS SLANTED IN ONE DIRECTION?

Yes, its always totally against Bush, totally against republicans. Not that I think Bush is always right, but I don't think they give us a fair picture.

That goes across the board with everything. There's so much opinion that comes through, its not presented in a fair and even manner. There are so many blatant headlines to catch your eye.

What disturbs me too is how the other countries are seeing us now, I don't like being the laughing stock; I know friends who travel abroad and say now they don't look at America like when we were growing up. WE don't get the respect and even the recognition of the help we give to other countries. We look so foolish instead of the great country we are.

We're also looked at, its not that we're a laughing stock, the view of the Europeans is that we're imposing our values on the rest of the world, constantly; we are an imperialistic nation and we don't know when to butt out of everyone else's business.

But yet on that same token they expect us to do so much. I was in Paris last summer and they had the AIDS conference and they were very outspoken on the US not doing enough for them. I think other countries want us here but not other places.

2. How about the economy? What's going on with the economy here in Connecticut?

- **[PROBE]** Rising prices (especially gas and health care), employment, any inflation fears
- How did things get to this point?
- What direction do you think the economy will go from here – will it continue to get worse, will it start to get better, or will it continue at the current level?

I don't think there's any real class any more. I don't know how it happened.

IS THIS RECENTLY?

No, over time, I don't know how it happened b/c I don't understand economy very well but I think there's the very wealthy the rich and then there are those that work.

We have to have our managers here to manage people in other countries and they make big bucks but you can get somebody in India and you can pay them \$45 a year, but here you have to pay them more

Its very east coast –west coast;

Your income is going to be less out in the Midwest also. A lot of minimum wage there too.

When you go into the country where the wage is lower you can get a lot more for your money than you do here.

It's a very wasteful society we've become; very obsessed with money.

The salaries and the CEOs, how do you justify the companies with the CEOs making megabucks but they can't give their employees a raise. How can you justify giving themselves all this money and not giving their employees the basic things they need to live comfortably.

I'm concerned with health care in this country and where its going; where its already at but also where its going.

3. Let's talk specifically about the war in Iraq...
 - **[PROBE]** What are your feelings about our continued involvement over there?
 - **[EXPLORE]** Loss of American lives, cost, no plan or exit strategy, weaker at home; war on terrorism
4. **[OLDER VOTERS AND SENIORS]** How about the new prescription drug program through Medicare? What are your impressions of that?

There are some medicines, the prescriptions, will soon be generic but they aren't now. The thought with walmart is they'll get the customers in the store to buy so much more so they can afford to get more. Go to walmart and spend \$4, its worth it

Part of the challenge is people are so unhealthy and expect health care companies to make them better medicines instead of exercise, diet; no one wants to take any responsibility for their own health, it's a vicious circle.

You want to keep your employees and you want to give them health care, do you hire more employees and give them worse health care or fire employees and give the rest better health care Companies are getting more involved with that; jogging program, gym membership, day care That works for them too b/c if the employees are healthy they'll take less sick days But its really getting off health care topic; you can't force people to eat healthy, have healthy life style but for those that want to there has to be more preventive things available also – not covered unless you already have symptoms, I have to pay for test out of my own pocket People get all these tests done they don't really need, that's why these are so expensive, using equipment that so exp.

Somewhat overdiagnosis also, too extremes; poor have no health care can't get basic testing; rich have health care and doctors will order all these tests and we view ourselves as sicker than we may be; we keep on diagnosing, we're overdiagnosed, it's a cultural thing

WHAT ELSE ABOUT HEALTH CARE

My company went to this plan, coming out of NYC where I spent most of my life, there are companies who can afford to do better, paying health care in full. But the small companies can't pay as much, its cost us a lot of money

And the copays are higher. Some physicians I've had for years have stopped practicing b/c of the insurance and they can only spend 15 minutes with patients, they're rushing through patients, now because doctors are making so much less. Ultimately it's the patients who suffer, it's you and I going to the physicians, not only are we paying more, but we're getting less.

Those of us who can afford it can get some health care. I have to agree, small family owned business we're constantly dealing with that every year, we have to change and the coverage we get degradates b/c we can't afford to get the coverage we had prior but at least we have coverage. The people who make min wage can't afford health care and that's hurting our society.

Our congresspeople have a whole separate social security, all, medical than we do and they vote themselves whatever they want. A friend of mine says medicare has been cut back so much for

the old people, they don't want to go to hospitals because they cost too much so they go home and cant afford to get an IV

III. Associations (20 minutes)

1. Jodi Rell

Love her.

Honest, fair

Down to earth

Popular

Hard worker

I think she's willing to do the thing that no one wants to hear – she may be popular, but she's not a quick fixer; willing to let people get mad at her

Very well liked

I don't understand because CT is primarily Dem. And she's republican, so she has to be outstanding

Survivor, and not just her health, surviving the role she's in, republican in democrat state

2. Chris Dodd

Old man

Been there a long time

Politician

Steady, nothing exciting

3. Joe Lieberman

Sad

Trustworthy

Very hard working

Very personable

Local, he grew up in Stamford

He means well, I really think he's trying to do what his constituents want, I just don't think he has the charisma, the marketability that he needs, but I don't think he's a corrupt person, I think he's trying

I admire him for going out on a limb and supporting the war when it wasn't popular

I think he says what he feels and of course that's why he got so, you know, with the democratic party thing, b/c he lost the last election b/c he stood up for what he believed in and wasn't afraid to say so even though he probably knew what the ramifications would be.

He's charismatic though, b/c I just met him, he was very friendly, he just seemed like he belonged

Religious extremist

Does that affect what he does though?

It does with his stance on the war, support of Israel

4. Ned Lamont

I don't know

Newcomer

He answered the questions I was looking for answers for and L did not

New fresh entry

Backed by his wealthy wife

His trophy wife

What does he know about politics? He's a businessman, a rich businessman. I can't believe he won. It just says money can buy you anything

It comes down to the lesser of two evils very often, you're caught b/w a rock and a hard place, pick the one who will do the least damage – maybe someone with the least experience won't get sucked into the political vortex the others will

5. Chris Shays [**Extensive**]

Guy that went overboard, tried to help that family in Greenwich. George Smith. I heard of Shays for years, but his name came up so much with this incident, his name is now familiar b/c of that, before it wasn't familiar

Experience, he's been around a long time

He's a very moderate person, his background, he was in the peace corps, very humble, he comes from a very humble beginning, very moderate.

Honest.

He was a rep. and he was totally against impeaching Clinton on all counts.

He's been to Iraq about 17 times in the past two years.

He doesn't vote his party line.

6. Diane Farrell [**Extensive**]

I think she's very bright.

She's been trying for a long time to move into different positions, she sends a lot of mail

I don't know what kind of supporters or promoters market her; I knew her personally prior to her going into politics and she was an extraordinary mother, very caring very involved with school PTO not working and at that time she always wanted to be involved in trying to make a change for the better for her children for the school for the community. When she got into politics I kind of question sometimes her tactics – phone calls, ads, having to blame her b/c she is the one in charge

I don't really know what her issues are or how she stands on certain things, I need to learn more about her but I think she's very hard working b/c I see her photo in the paper a lot so I know she's very active in the community but before I vote I need to know her position

7. Congress

Stuffy

They get longer vacations

Good old boys club

Weren't they supposed to be like local congressmen, they're supposed to be working the voice of the people and they kind of got away from that, they should be out in the community a lot and do

research on what people want, I think they got away from that. I'd like to see it go back to that.
More community involvement on day to day

Lot of paper pushing, takes too long to get a bill to pass. Always stopping something, takes too long

Argumentative

Debating is good, but to a point, filibustering, it seems like they tack on bills, put something in, take something out, they don't get to the point

Writers – what happened in CT with the estate tax that went through about 6 months ago

- Is the current Congress worse than in times past or is this just politics as usual?

[Written Exercise – Handouts #1 and #2]

8. Now I'd like to talk specifically about George W. Bush.

- What good things come to mind when you think of Bush? **[Discuss]**

He'll be gone in 2008

He's charismatic with other people, when he has meetings, other heads of state

He was good with jokes and fun to be with, family values; as far as intellect...

Laura

I would have said education of no child left behind, but that's done a lot of harm.

Don't talk about that – that's horrible

It seems like he sticks to what he wants or believes

Stays the course

Hard working, even though I'm not a bush fan at all, and any president is, but he's up at the crack of dawn, he's hard working, he's everywhere

But he also takes a lot more vacations than the average American.

He doesn't go overboard with the social programs, and I'm a democrat and for helping people in need but not giving out free passes; our taxes keep going up and so many people in need, but I think he's more rigid on that, the whole welfare thing

- What doubts do you have? What worries you about him? **[Extensive]**

I always question his motives, I think there are things going on in the background. He seems so like the gold old boy oil man to me.

People he surrounds himself with scare me. Cheney.

I agree with Marians, he's a good old boy and surrounds himself with people who tell him what he wants to hear and that's frightening because he's not an intellectual and he doesn't look at all sides and that combination

He's easily manipulated

Is he manipulated or are they?

I don't think he really knows what's going on, people below him

I think he's not totally honest and he works hard to cover up whenever anyone affiliated with him, anything in the media, all that oil stuff, his honesty is really questionable.

I voted for him b/c I lived through Vietnam and I didn't like Kerry, but what I don't understand is that he's not upholding our constitution with the illegal immigrant thing – he's not doing anything to help illegal immigrants, nothing has been passed to help them and we have a lot of illegal people

That's hurting the country

What's in the news now, his stance on torture is appalling that he wants to extend his powers to do something

He wants to change what has already been mandated by the Geneva convention

It's human rights, it's not about terrorists, this is basic human rights and torture; and to stand up and say give me permission to torture that's...

I have mixed opinions on that b/c of all the beheadings and what they are doing to our people and photographers, civilians over there, they don't get any person so I have a different position on that; the whole sexual harassment, the pictures, I don't think soldiers should get persecuted for that, they're over in a war the conditions are horrendous and maybe they'll go a little crazy but compared to what is done to our people there is no comparison

But the government is taking these young boys and girls who have no experience who are looking for the army and navy as a way to support them and now those are the ones who are being court-martialed and all the generals are like well these things happen and it's horrible that these human rights violations are going on but also that these young people are victims themselves, and yet our government doesn't support them, they have to go to jail for the rest of their lives but not the generals

IV. Election 2006 (20 minutes)

In less than two months, we will have elections for Congress, so let's talk about the upcoming elections now.

1. For you personally, what is this upcoming election about? What is the most important factor that will determine how you vote for Congress?

■ **Probe on personal traits, but push through to issues as well**

That I can find out their voting records, how they voted and if they voted, if they're going to work

Health care that's a huge issue for me, putting a cap on malpractice, I'm concerned about that, I'm concerned with where our country is going with health care issues

Choice is an issue for me; gay rights, oil prices, gas prices

Education

Security things – national security, homeland security

OTHER ISSUES? WHAT ROLE WILL IRAQ PLAY?

Big role, we're spending so much money over there when we need it over here, seems like they're going to go into a civil war and our boys and girls shouldn't be over there.

He's talking about a draft now too

We're losing too many lives

We also don't have the national guard here when we need it, b/c they're otherwise employed in Iraq and then the people who signed up for the national guard are being dragged back out, so we're constantly draining that pool of people

OTHER THINGS WILL BE A FACTOR?

I'd like to see a clean campaign, I would really like to learn a lot of facts about each campaign and you can do that through good campaigning and I'm so tired of the bashing, bringing up things 20 years ago, things they did in college is not who they are today; I'd like to learn a lot about the candidates and how they stand on the issues, and honestly how they stand not a bunch of promises, some substance behind the promise

Do you remember how Margaret Thatcher felt about her country; I'd love for someone to think that about our country, who loves it and doesn't get dragged into the politics

2. So what are you hearing so far in this election? Have you heard anything from the candidates here in Connecticut, the candidates that you will be choosing from?

■ **Stay focused on House race**

GOOD CHOICES HERE

Lamont:

No one knows anything about him

I read yesterday, nothing I could find about him

He's not that experienced

Backing republican party

It was either going to go to democratic nominee or Lieberman, either way they weren't going to spend money on a race they had no hope of Lieberman, going to go elsewhere where they could retain seats

LAMONT VS. LIEBERMAN

Lamont wants everyone out and Lieberman supports the war

Lamont = if someone asks questions and he has an answer; Lieberman's website had no information, very vague, wasn't the feeling I had about Joe Lieberman, I was surprised. Lamont laid out what he thinks, what he wants to do, how he wants to do it, very structured. I know he doesn't have experience but it might work. He's very against the war, the draft the whole thing

WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSE RACE

Very tough, very neck in neck; she almost beat him last time

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES

I don't know - have to go back to the website; I don't have time to read the mail

Part of that race is also about Iraq

WHERE ARE SHAYS AND FARRELL ON IRAQ?

Shay supports and she doesn't

She's very vehement about that, our children are being killed she says that over and over

If there was no issue other than the war, I'd vote on the war; it would be my guess that the people who are more involved with the war would vote on the war

IS THE WAR THE BIG ISSUE, ARE THERE OTHER THINGS?

I don't know, I haven't really looked

I think the war is the biggest issue, but also health care is big, funding for education; I think there's many more issues that the war overshadows

Immigration

YOU DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT CONGRESS, POLITICIANS, WHATS GOING ON IN WASHINGTON - SHAYS BEEN THERE FOR AWHILE, DOES THAT PLAY INTO DECISION

They say things and then they get into office and, they say one thing and do another I don't know who to vote for anymore

I believe in voting, I have to vote for somebody, if you go in with the intention that's the best you can do, we have no control once they get there

They have obstacles, there are other people that vote on the same issues, you can't always blame the person, they can't do it alone, it's how hard they work on a particular issue

That's why I like Jody Reel, that's why things have gotten worse, over the past several years. They keep saying they'll fix it, no one can get it fixed in 4 years, Reel says it's a long project we'll have to eat if for awhile b/c we've been very spoiled for awhile

BACK TO SHAYS AND FARRELL, DOES SHAYS REPRESENT WHAT'S WRONG IN WASHINGTON

He doesn't represent what's wrong, but he may not be powerful enough, not assertive enough, but he tries, I see him as different, fund raising for cancer, good will, he does diabetes walks, he does tremendous things, he's involved locally, he's in the school reading

I vote on the war

He said one time, he's very anti war, he always has been, the reason he did it is b/c there's so much more there we don't know.

3. Let's talk about the Republicans and the elections for Congress in November.
 - When thinking about your vote, what reasons are there to vote for the Republicans?
 - And what holds you back from voting for the Republicans?
 - What are the consequences if Republicans remain in power?
 - **Probe on Iraq, Social Security, gas prices, health care, any other concerns that have been raised**

4. Now, let's talk about the Democrats and the elections for Congress in November.
 - When thinking about your vote, what reasons are there to vote for the Democrats?
 - And what holds you back from voting for the Democrats?
 - If Democrats take back control of the House and/or the Senate, how will things be different in this country? What, if anything, will change in Washington?

V. Ad Testing (40 minutes)

[Written Exercise – Handouts #3-#10]

As many of you have probably seen already, everyone’s favorite part of the campaign season – the television ads – have already begun here in Florida. I’d like to show you some of these ads, and for each one, I’d like you to do two things:

First, rate how this ad makes you feel about your choice in this election on this scale (explain scale, shown below).

<i>More</i>											<i>More</i>
<i>Likely</i>											<i>Likely</i>
<i>Farrell</i>						<i>No</i>					<i>Shays</i>
5	4	3	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	

Then below that, in just a few words or phrases, tell me **in your own words** what this ad says to you – that is, if you were watching television at home and saw this ad, what would you take away from it?

Chris Shays – Energy

Shays on energy	
Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	
Farrell 2	
Farrell 1	
0	
Shays 1	11
Shays 2	11
Shays 3	11
Shays 4	
Shays 5	111

Aware of concern with fuel, alternatives

View that we have to become less dependent on foreign oil, I totally agree
Seemed like he was genuinely concerned, soft-spoken voice, talking right to you, really concerned for you.

The statement that he’s working with conservation groups, he’s not just talking about it, he’s actively working with these groups, he’s really involved

WHAT DO YOU TAKE AWAY, WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT SHAYS

He’s aware there’s a major issue
He cares

Diane Farrell – Iraq/Home

Farrell on Iraq/Home	
Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	11
Farrell 2	1
Farrell 1	111
0	1
Shays 1	
Shays 2	
Shays 3	11
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

Liked the message, too negative
 Gave some facts about the war
 More specific things

Concern for people here at home, though a bit negative toward Shays
 I liked the message, I didn't like the tone and if I'm into the message and the tone throws me off,
 I thought it was a terrible ad; great facts and things but not emotionally
 She didn't tell me what she's doing, she told me what's wrong and I already know that; I like
 her I just think there's no information not one speck of information on what she what do; a new
 direction doesn't mean a right direction

DID SOME PEOPLE DISAGREE WITH THE MESSAGE?

I thought message was good

IS IT NOT FAIR FOR HER TO SAY SHAYS SUPPORTED THE WAR?

Everyone knows that
 Saying "He wrote a blank check" that's not fair
 Her tone of voice, strident, not like Shays – more soft-spoken
 Very negative
 She's almost making it sound like if Shays didn't back up Bush our boys would be home; no one
 person could do it alone; what would she do; Shays said what he's been doing, he's actively
 working toward a goal, she just says we need a change.

Chris Shays – Betsi

Betsi Shays on Shays	
Farrell 5	

Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	
Farrell 2	
Farrell 1	
0	11111
Shays 1	
Shays 2	1
Shays 3	1
Shays 4	1
Shays 5	1

WHY DID YOU GO TOWARD SHAYS

It spoke toward his integrity, the person that he is instead of the issues
 He's committed for a change, he's out in the public you see him in different venues, and he shows he's committed to various issues, not one

AND THOSE WHO SAID NO DIFFERENCE

It was his wife, that's a conflict of interest
 If she doesn't say anything nice who's going to say it
 She was just a narrator
 It was a typical politician kissing babies, it didn't do anything for me

NRCC (PA 07) – Tax Attack

NRCC on Tax Attack	
Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	1
Farrell 2	
Farrell 1	11
0	11
Shays 1	
Shays 2	1
Shays 3	11
Shays 4	1
Shays 5	

THE THREE WHO WENT TOWARD SHAYS:

I normally don't like the bashing, but I so don't want tax hikes, I really think taxes should stay the way they are, too high already
 I cant' imagine taxes going any higher
 Initially I agree with the ad, with the taxes

AND THE REST WHY NOT IMPRESSED

Just drove me in the other direction; the fact that the other party, its their ad, so what can you believe

There's no resolution, this is what's wrong, but what's the other side, what will you do to fix it; how do we know you won't do tax hikes also

Very one sided, one issue and nothing else; I'm frustrated b/c there are so many other dimensions

GIVEN WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT DIANE FARRELL, IS IT BELIEVABLE IF THEY SAY SHE'LL RAISE TAXES BECAUSE SHE HASN'T BEEN IN OFFICE

She did something for Westport.

I got something in the mail saying she was going to raise taxes for Westport.

Yes it is credible.

Chris Murphy (CT 05) – Tax Response

Murphy: Tax Response	
Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	1
Farrell 3	11
Farrell 2	1
Farrell 1	11
0	111
Shays 1	
Shays 2	
Shays 3	
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

WHY TOWARD FARRELL

Specific what he did, that he cut taxes, tried to balance the budget, at least you know there's an outcome, quick blurb shows you there's negative ads but didn't dwell on that, also a softer side, change in the right direction

Then he said if you want to change congress b/c I'm disgusted with congress at this point – this is a good argument, good point

AND HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I don't think the message was that clear

I got confused

I got that he voted for taxes, the only thing I got loud and clear

More toward Farrell, because of tax cuts and success rate, less bashing, made a statement

Kind of same, he said things he did and wasn't bashing

Nancy Johnson (CT 05) – National Security Attack

Johnson: National Security Attack	
Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	
Farrell 2	
Farrell 1	1
0	1111
Shays 1	
Shays 2	111
Shays 3	11
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

HALF TOWARD SHAYS, WHY?

Going to protect us.

I'm hung up on homeland security, I'm not as nonchalant about it as I used to be, and the fact that they pulled off 9/11 blows me away, I am concerned about homeland security, and that's

what that ad was all about, action will be taken, we won't go through red tape

Even though a bit of negativity, didn't turn me off b/c of homeland security

If a call is being intercepted that will save 3000 people that's ok

The ad, I just thought it was funny, I don't find it to be real at all; I saw it at 3am and I thought it was an ad for a new show

I thought it was manipulative

WHAT ABOUT THE SCENE AT THE END WITH THE VETERANS?

It looks foolish, her just standing there.

Harold Ford – 5 Years

Ford: 5 years	
Farrell 5	11
Farrell 4	1
Farrell 3	1111
Farrell 2	11
Farrell 1	
0	1
Shays 1	
Shays 2	
Shays 3	
Shays 4	

Shays 5	
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WHAT DID YOU LIKE?

Action being taken

Realistic

I didn't like that they're using fear

It wasn't as blatant as the other one

It sounds like they're going to be taking action toward airport security and that's a huge issue, airport security now is a huge joke

They also mentioned border security

Port security also

Something about 41, issue 41...

There were 41 recommendations

I don't know those recommendations so that confused me, I don't know what those are

It's a proven fact that statistics are good, they give you that number, it makes you tune into it

ITS TYPICALLY REPUBLICANS TALKING ABOUT SECURITY, IS IT CREDIBLE HAVING DEMOCRATS TALK ABOUT SECURITY?

Absolutely.

Gabrielle Giffords (AZ 08) – Energy

Giffords on Energy	
Farrell 5	11
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	1
Farrell 2	111
Farrell 1	
0	1111
Shays 1	
Shays 2	
Shays 3	
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

THOSE WHO WENT TOWARD FARRELL, WHY?

Conservation

Solutions

Investing in development, research

Seems like it's a positive when they say what the problem is and how to fix it instead of just telling us problems we already know

Importance of solar energy and conservation

NO DIFFERENCE, WHY?

I'm from out there and I don't know if she's really researched this; I admire her for thinking we need to do something, but I don't think this is the right solution
 Solar is not applicable to us here.
 Didn't really convince me.
 Wasn't powerful enough.
 It didn't make me feel that she would do anything more than Shays would do.

EARLIER AD FROM SHAYS, CONSERVATION; WAS ONE MORE POWERFUL
 His was, he said he was already working with conservation groups
 He gave several more choices
 Just because where we live, its not applicable to us.

ONE MORE ISSUE – WIRETAPPING. PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO PUSH THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. WE'RE GOING TO REWATCH ONE AD AGAIN – NANCY JOHNSON, NATIONAL SECURITY ATTACK:
 Its like if you can do that so well, why don't you do something else.

WE'VE SEEN REPUBLICAN ARGUMENT HERE – DANGEROUS THINGS ARE HAPPENING, WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES; DEMOCRATS WILL HOLD THINGS UP IN RED TAPE. LET'S LOOK AT DEMOCRAT RESPONSE.

Democrat response read:

Farrell on wiretapping	
Farrell 5	1
Farrell 4	1
Farrell 3	11
Farrell 2	11
Farrell 1	
0	11
Shays 1	11
Shays 2	
Shays 3	
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

Doesn't say anything because this ability already exists.
 So what was the point, at least she's addressing the claims that were made against her.
 But she says she's going to work toward something the government already has the power to do.
 I'm conflicted because it murks of big brother watching, who's to say that the government is really saying that that person is a terrorist; there are so many people hunted down because they're thought to be a terrorist; I can't trust this, I don't think this scenario is believable. I can't believe the government.

THIS SAYS THIS IS A NON ISSUE, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS AGREE. IS THAT A LEGITIMATE CLAIM OR DO YOU THINK DEMOCRATS AREN'T AS STRONG AS REPUBLICANS

I don't think you can say one party or another is better, they're all just bickering

I think they're going after that whole fear factor, but its such a personal thing, now you're going into our lives and tapping phones. How do they know what phone line to tap, just that people don't speak the language.

If they were better on immigration and border control they wouldn't have to tap phones but they've let it go and now are trying to fix a gaping hole with bandaids

I'm assuming they mean wiretapping will be done after some intelligence has been done, not profiling

You would hope that, but that doesn't mean that

I would assume there's significant intelligence as to why this person is being watched.

For all ads:

- **Show of hands, then discuss each one**
 - **Explore takeaways**
 - **Which of these ads addresses what is important in the election?**
- *Probe on takeaways: do Republican security attacks hold you back from the Democrat? Are you concerned about Democratic Congress?*

VI. Election Debate (5 minutes)

Now I'd like to talk in more detail about one of the issues raised in these ads.

[Written exercise – Handout #11]

1. You remember this spot that we watched earlier, about President Bush's wiretapping and surveillance program. **[Watch it again, no ratings]** Now let's read a Democratic response to that.

The Democratic candidate says, we must use every resource at our disposal to prevent terrorist attacks against the United States. I support new laws that help us monitor, hunt down, and get the terrorists before they get us. These false Republican

attacks do nothing but try to divide our country for political purposes on an issue where America is united. Instead of the same old political bickering that dominates today's Congress, I will work on a bi-partisan basis to ensure we can immediately tap terrorists' phone calls and submit it for judicial approval afterwards.

■ **Show of hands, then discuss**

Farrell 5	
Farrell 4	
Farrell 3	
Farrell 2	
Farrell 1	
0	
Shays 1	
Shays 2	
Shays 3	
Shays 4	
Shays 5	

VII. Final Ballot (5 minutes)

[Written exercise – Handout #14]

1. Finally, I want you to choose, if the election were held today, which one you would vote for – based on everything we've discussed tonight. Circle which candidate you would choose, then briefly write why in the space below. **[Written only]**