

3rd PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE – OCTOBER 8, 2004
OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

WEAK KERRY SUPPORTERS (ON BUSH)

he did not answer questions as they were asked.

HE DIDN'T HAVE VERY GOOD ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED.

He look lost

Lets his own personal feeling get in the way.

He presented no new plan or specifics how current domestic issues namely, health care, job loss and economy could be resolved. His style was better than before.

In answering questions about jobs health care the economy he never really would reply just go on about how we needed to teach our kids better, and always tried to come back on the negative.

WISHING WASHING, WILL NOT ADMIT TO A SINGLE MISTAKE....

He avoided directly answering many questions and went off on tangents not relative to the questions asked.

he practiced how to look on split screen when he wasn't speaking

He was very personal and talking to us.

same old story nothing new

not knowledgable, few facts, vague, did not answer direct questions, lied about education, out of touch with middle class

Bush seemed to be a bit more aggressive tonight. He also seemed to be more reachable - more easier to vibe with.

the same thing he said the last debate

He was very sincere. had a deep personal faith, & prayed a lot, & also responded well during the debate!

He faltered and wavered on many of the issues. Was unable to stick to the questions and often went back to the same answer to different questions. I believe that he also has some of the same characteristics but was just not able to convey the ideas and principals let alone clear cut plans for many of the domestic problems that exist in todays society.

I believe that the President showed how stupid he is. He suggested that people who have lost their jobs to out sourcing go to a community college for more training. That is nonsense for a person with a college degree to go to a community college for training.

VERY CHARISMATIC. FEELS HIS FAITH DEEPLY. IS COMMITED TO SEEING THE WAR IN IRAQ THROUGH. NOT AS COMMITED TO RECTIFYING BUDGET DEFICIT. DON'T THINK HE HAS SOLID PLAN TO MAKE HEALTH CARE AFFORDABLE AND ENSURING MEDICARE BENEFITS, DRUG COSTS AND SOCIAL SECURITY REMAIN FINANCIALLY SOUND FOR THE ELDERLY AND THOSE OF US WHO WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THESE BENEFITS IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE

He seemed a tad less mechanical, definitely more real. In past debates he appeared to be overly nervous and reticent to speak -- this was probably a direct result of too-much-coaching.

He was again repetitive & did not answer the questions directly. He talked a lot about education regardless whether or not the questions had anything to do with education.

be conservative and keep the country on track

That he avoided direct answers to some of the tough questions.

He lied over and over and made a fool of himself. Bush needs to get back in the main stream of life-- He also refused to answer any of the controversial questions

Fighting to hold his own.

Resolute, determined, clear on policy

Same as Kerry, religious yet different views on how to do things. Both candidates are on target, just different ways to achieve the ideas.

stronger, more forceful, more sincere

Still avoided some issues but showed a warmer side.

same old rhetoric about casting votes in congress

George W. is a very respectable man with plenty of values however his views for health coverage for all and freedom of choice could hurt him in this election.

Defensive

He appears easily irritated. I don't see how he could establish political support with other nations when he makes faces at comments he doesn't like.

All he kept bring up was, no child left behind. Nothing about the people who are educated and jobless.

I felt that he looked snarky at times. He joked too much in ways reminiscent of his portrayal on Saturday Night Live, joking about the press, smirkily stating that Sen. Kerry was exaggerating, etc. I also didn't think it was wise of him to comment that he'd never stated that Osama Bin Ladin was no longer a central concern of his, because I recall him making this quote.

He seemed more passionate tonight. I liked his education policy/vision and how he tied it into keeping American competitive.

Seemed to be lost.

Seemed to be more solid tonight though I disagree about his taking the country to war, his stance on gun control and am not pleased about his record on the economy. Talked a lot about Kerry's voting record which I am not so sure is an accurate measure of the man running for president as he should vote to represent his constituency, not the nation as a whole in his role as senator.

HE did not impress me at all. HE talked about more education for better jobs but there wont be better jobs if they keep going over seas.

He still has no clue as to what the average person needs and want.

WEAK KERRY SUPPORTERS (ON KERRY)

he tried to let people know what was happing.

HE ALWAYS HAD READY ANSWERS FOR THE QUESTION. ALSO FOR THE REBUTTLE QUESTIONS

He look some what mad when he look at you

Promises some pie in the sky.

Kerry Looked confident and little more specific about his plan on similar domestic issues.

Lots of ideas, kept Bush on the ropes about tax breaks for the rich and JOBS.

JONH KERRY SHOWED HE'S A MUCH BETTER PERSON FOR ALL THE NEEDS.....

He stayed on the subject of the questions asked and was more specific in his answers.

he seemed more serious

His social security answer to Bush. His plan for equal pay between man and women.

new idea's seems strong and committed

integrity, sincerity, honesty, knowledgeable, fact base, trustworthy, confident, likable, well spoken

lots of plans, but will he have a congress that will support him?

the same thing he said the last debate

He expressed himself very well, was sincere & gave a lot of thought to his answers!

He is a man with strong convictions, integrity, trustworthiness and fairness. But above all very compassionate. He has visions and hope and the plans to back them up. He is a good speaker who answered the questioned posed to him and the president and said a lot of the things I needed to hear to make my selection.

I feel that Mr. Kerry has similar ideology as I do in many ways. His belief that women have the right to make decisions about abortion and stem cell research. I think that he is more honest then the president. He also will help those who have been fighting the war too long should be able to go home by joining with other countries to haold the peace of the world.

MORE COMMITED TO DOMESTIC ISSUES THAN PRESIDENT BUSH. DOESN'T FEEL HIS FAITH AS STRONGLY. DON'T FEEL IS AS

COMMITTED TO NATIONAL SECURITY, FEEL US WOULD BE MORE VULNERABLE.

His words seemed sincere; however, I didn't think he came off as strong as he did in the first debate. He had a peculiar Alan for repeating certain phrases that have become somewhat monotonous: for example, 'Tax cuts for the richest' and 'He [Bush] outsourced the hunt for Osama to warlords.'

Kerry seemed to answer most of the questions more directly. Whether or not what he said was accurate, he at least stayed on target with his answers.

wanting to change the way the country is heading

He was more direct in his answers to the questions and although both distorted data he didn't seem to do it as much as Bush.

He is honest and answered each question asked instead of hem-ha-ing around like Bush did

He seems calm, cool and collected and very much in the race for president.

A man who did his homework. Sure and direct.

Knowledgeable, presidential, strong

I think he is religious, yet for the people. He has different ideas about big views, but pretty much seems serious about them.

less convincing

Made good points, was more on the attack tonight.

seems to have a better plan for the future

Kerry has great ideas and plans for America however his plans are never really discussed. His popularity among Americans can be an asset to him.

Reasonable

He appeared well composed and not easily thrown by insulting comments from Pres. Bush.

He seems to have a good plan for America if he can get a good backing.

I liked the way that he focused on his personal beliefs, religious beliefs, and homelife more than in previous debates. I did not care for his answer to the immigration question, particularly how he used up the majority of the time allotted to readdress the tax cut issue. He seemed knowledgeable, articulate, and poised.

I like Kerry's knowledge of factual statistics. It tell me he is deeper in touch with the issues. I like his answers regarding Row Vs Wade and his reply to Bush's claim there was no need to push the weapons bill.

Had better ideas.

Liked to lay blame to the bush administration for everything he could every chance he could. Apparently has a lot of plans to fix things but I don't know what the plans are any better than I did before the debate. Also, don't know how he plans to pay for any of it. Also thought that when he was asked about the women in his life being directed to his wife and daughters, he chose to sidestep and talk about his mother instead.

He is going to help keep jobs here and raise minimum wages and health care for people like me who cant afford to get sick. He is going to make it tougher on employers who hire illegals who come here to work and pay no taxes.

I feel he has many good ideas of how the country should be run but I'm not sure where all the money to achieve them.

WEAK BUSH SUPPORTERS (ON BUSH)

Pres. Bush would not make a good lawyer, he cannot talk fast enough, he also repeater what we've heard before.

better leader

He seems very quiet on so many topic's and that nothing gets done in DC, but he always had the answer's. I think he does more then people realize.

I think he truly is a strong leader insofar as his steadfast belief in his actions as president... I also believe that he really favors the wealthy because of his tax relief proposals and past actions... I am not so sure that he can manage the budget and that he has some disregard for the long term impact of some of his actions... I watched his facial expressions and wondered 'what kind of message would a foreign ruler get during important policy discussions when he would see these expressions'???

He seemed very unlike himself....not comfortable at all...always on the defensive side. He's not a very good public speaker.

he seems to be for the rich and not for average person

good man stay the course.

confidence knowledge of facts warm and caring sure of the path the country is on

I think he truly does stand very firm in what he believes and has high hopes for us in America

honest

I feel that I will be safer if he is president and my taxes won't go up.

Confused

Someone who cares about America

He was up more on the figures and percentages than before.

i think Mr.Bush did very well tonight ,he was ready to answer and reply very informatively back to Kerry

He was confident and in command of his facts.

that he did a vary good job of defending his actions

He seemed to be more on the defensive tonight. He just repeated old statements he had made before, not making anything more clear. I don't believe he can relate to the average middle class family or the budget they need to live on.

Optimistic Knows what he's talking about Has vision for America and wants to lead it there

he is ready to keep doing what he is doing

he has a plan.

Nothing

he did a good job in answering the questions.

An earnestness to get his message across.

he still stumbles & bumbles, but trustworthy to a point.

Someone who does not live in the real world

Retreated from answering questions directly and went to his favorite topics. Responded in generalities when Kerry used specific figures and data (altho I don't know how correct the figures were, it was impressive to me to hear specifics).

Seems very confident, lots of ideas whether or not we agree or not. Definitely not timid.

He needs to continue to polish his presentation skills and avoid a look of confrontation.

HE WAS FIRM ON HIS ISSUES CONSISTANT ARTICULATED HIS POLICIES PLAIN ON ANTI ABORTION

Consistent; steady the course.

I'm afraid that Bush thinks that things have been going well since he has been in office and that just ISN'T the case

smart, determined prepared honest

he is also a politician and saying what the American public wants to hear

He was strong, straight forward & seemed very sure of his direction & leadership. He caused me to feel more strongly about him as a leader for four more years.

He seemed more comfortable than the previous debates and mentioned things he should have before.

Bush was much more confident than in the other debates.

he was coached

man of strong principles, strong leader

He needs to stick to responses without the 'one liners'.

HE WAS MORE PERSONABLE TONIGHT. SEEMED MORE AT EASE. WAS VERY SINCERE IN HIS DIRECTION THAT HE IS LEDING THE US

I see a man that knows how to lead the country. I also see a man that knew what to do in 911.

Strong, passionate and determined

That he has the countries best interests in mind and that he cares about the people.

GEORGE BUSH WANTS AMERICA TO BECOME A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYBODY.

representing u.s. as the president

genuine good person

Strong leadership

Less eloquent, but more 'heartfelt' in his answers. Less able to keep on the subject, and lets his emotions take him into side issues. Has stronger convictions.

sincere, focused on the war on terror, perhaps not concerned enough with the details of domestic issues

A strong president who knows more about the terrorists than John Kerry. A man with honest intentions regarding his policies in America.

Bush has confidence, principles, and is secure in his beliefs. Even if I disagree, Bush has a viable answer for problems.

he has direct goals for America, he had to spend a lot of time though reacting to Kerrys critisizing and blame, but i think his visions for America are a lot more hopeful.

WEAK BUSH SUPPORTERS ON KERRY)

He's a better speaker than the pres.,but i heard nothing new from him.

same old thing

He say's he'll fix all of Bush's mess's. Is very positive in his answer's as though they were rehearsed. He always talk's of his Catholic upbringing, yet his family was Jewish. I could care less what anyone is, but that is never talked about, because then he'd never be elected.

I was impressed that he presented himself so strongly... I felt that he would truly work for the 'middle class' and the poor of our country... I thought that he would present himself very well with foreign leaders and may be more effective as such... I liked his take on 'no child left behind' issue and the social security issue... all in all I thought that he was very 'presidential' in this debate...

Very much in control, strong minded + exactly aware of all of his agenda. An excellent speaker, very well prepared.

that he wanted to help average person and make America a more respected country

lets change things, we can do it.

John Kerry seem to be more sure of him self and what he is going to be doing.

arrogant self-centered wants to spend even more money pandering to women and blacks

I think too that he stands high in his convictions but I have a tendency to think that he may be more of a dreamer and maybe only because he doesn't have the reality of being president like Bush does

total lies

I just don't feel safe if e becomes president and my taxes will go up under his plans

a snake in the grass

Someone who cares about America

He was on the defense more tonight

i think Mr.Kerry has a lot of ideas but never explains how he plans to carry them out

He was much to eager to pin the blame on the President for everything that has happened, even things Bush had no control over.

that he didn't have complete answers for some of the questions also he can promise any thing but getting it passed in congress is another matter

He gave a more detailed view of his ideas. He was trying to talk to and relate with the average American family. He seemed very relaxed and sure of himself this evening. He seems more like a family man.

Defensive Shallow Bunch of catch phrases but no substance behind them

all he does is bash his opponent

lots of accusations that the president could verify weren't true.

Personable

he seemed defensive and avoided to answer some questions. He low blowed the vice presidents daughter.

Wanting to be liked, accepted as a viable choice for President.

that he is weak, wishy washy & won't do what he promises. Actually I like what he said about drug companies, but doubt that he could do anything about it.....if I thought he could, I'd vote for him!

A very concerned person

Loaded with specifics about problems facing America and what the present administration has done or what has happened in the present administration's tenure. Less specific about how some of his 'plans' would cure the ills from the present administration.

Saying things that sound good but seem fiscally not possible. Healthcare being #1.

He shows his skills as a lawyer. They are trained to convince people of the 'point of the moment'. He is far better at debates than Pres. Bush.

TOO MANY PROGRAMS WITH NO FUNDING BIG PROMISES THAT DONT MAKE SENSE FISCALLY

Means well.

I have a very hard time believing that Kerry would do the things he says he would

Prepared, poised, smart, honest

he is a politician

He seemed hesitant & defensive at times. He also stooped to a new low by bringing up VP Cheney's daughter.

He seemed more intelligent than I believed he was.

Attacked Pres. Bush repeatedly on almost every issue. However, did commend him on his handling of 9/11. He didn't seem as sure of himself as he did in the other debates.

He was stiff

big promises that seem to good for him to keep

He is a good speaker.

We don't know what his plans are. He keeps telling us he has plans how will they work. We need that info to make an informed decision

He kept saying and bringing up Sen. McCain's name even tho McCain is in favor of Bush. He brings up his service in Vietnam constantly and there were thousands of us that served in that war.

He seemed to try to come across with more personality than before, but still talked a different game than his voting history as a senator.

He changes his answers and flip flops on issues depending on who he is addressing.

HE TELLS YOU HE HAS PLAN FOR THE COUNTRY

Integrity

intelligent, honest

Manipulator of facts, exaggerator of what is really happening to the people.

Good debater. Good delivery and eloquence in speaking. However, always seems to give the best 'politically correct' answer.

sincere, but too concerned with the details of all issues to be able to come to clear decisions on important matters

A man with a lot of dreams and hopes for America, but no really good plan that can be accomplished.

corporate plugs

Kerry makes a lot of promises with no way to back them or realise way to pay for them.

he has vague promises to America. he spent a lot of time critisizing bush and pointing fingers and didn't answer questions directly, he left things in the air, and his ideas for social security are not very promising either.

UNDECIDED (ON BUSH)

Same as Kerry, religious yet different views on how to do things. Both candidates are on target, just different ways to achieve the ideas.

Seemed to be more solid tonight though I disagree about his taking the country to war, his stance on gun control and am not pleased about his record on the economy. Talked a lot about Kerry's voting record which I am not so sure is an accurate measure of the man running for president as he should vote to represent his constituency, not the nation as a whole in his role as senator.

Same as before. A liar and not too bright.

George too is sincere but, I think he hedged a bit on the minimum wage issue. He diverted the question to no child left behind which is a good program but, the minimum wage upgrade is needed right now for the young people trying to work their way through college or the parents of the no child left behind. People need decent wages and decent benefits right now.

his coloring changed when he listened to John Kerry too defensive at times repeated himself too much in his answers

Confident

he comes up with reasons why thing are the way they are how they can get fixed.

I think he easily feels hur feelings, I think he really thinks he knows what is best for the Country.

seemed more in control

I felt that on questions of economics/job growth/the war in Iraq/etc, President Bush was on the defensive tonight. I think that he realizes that he has failed the American worker and this country in the above areas. On several questions addressed to Kerry, the President seemed insecure in

his response, and then appeared to turn defensive. On questions regarding morality, ethics, and faith issues, President Bush was by far the winner. His responses came across as genuine and real, whereas Kerry seemed to falter when faced with questions of ethics/morality. President Bush's response to the final question regarding the women in his life was flawless. His response to the question regarding the role of faith in his life in which he professed to much prayer was also very well presented and came across as genuine. It created a feeling of trust in him...that this is a man of very high caliber, who has very high standards and ethics.

his facial expressions reminded me of howdie doodie did not sound like a commander and chief

President Bush has a casual style. He is not a lawyer. But, he is a political expert.

Pensive + exasperated

UNDECIDED (ON KERRY)

I think he is religious, yet for the people. He has different ideas about big views, but pretty much seems serious about them.

Liked to lay blame to the bush administration for everything he could every chance he could. Apparently has a lot of plans to fix things but I don't know what the plans are any better than I did before the debate. Also, don't know how he plans to pay for any of it. Also thought that when he was asked about the women in his life being directed to his wife and daughters, he chose to sidestep and talk about his mother instead.

He's a better liar than Bush.

I think he's honest and sincere. I think he truly wants what he thinks is best for everyone.

too statistical has plans but doesn't tell us specifics on some issues did not come across as being personable

That his plan was not feasible

he stands by what's he says. very strong about the cost of health care and jobs

I think he has good intentions, I think he feels strongly about what he wants to do if elected, I don't think they are just empty words.

less on point

John Kerry came across as a candidate with a definite concern for the well being of the American citizen/American worker, and the well being of

this country. I feel that on questions of economic issues John Kerry was the winner of the debate.

to much of the quotes from others to much talking to us like e are mindless

Senator Kerry is a lawyer. His manner reflects that in his answers.

articulate+ aggressive

BUSH VOTER SWITCH TO KERRY (ON BUSH)

I think he truly is a strong leader insofar as his steadfast belief in his actions as president... I also believe that he really favors the wealthy because of his tax relief proposals and past actions... I am not so sure that he can manage the budget and that he has some disregard for the long term impact of some of his actions... I watched his facial expressions and wondered 'what kind of message would a foreign ruler get during important policy discussions when he would see these expressions'???

he seems to be for the rich and not for average person

good man stay the course.

Nothing

Someone who does not live in the real world

Retreated from answering questions directly and went to his favorite topics. Responded in generalities when Kerry used specific figures and data (altho I don't know how correct the figures were, it was impressive to me to hear specifics).

Sincere, knowledgeable, trustworthy

He continued to refer to the 'No Child Left Behind' act as a resolution to economic problems.

BUSH VOTER SWITCH TO KERRY (ON KERRY)

I was impressed that he presented himself so strongly... I felt that he would truly work for the 'middle class' and the poor of our country... I thought that he would present himself very well with foreign leaders and may be more effective as such... I liked his take on 'no child left behind' issue and the social security issue... all in all I thought that he was very 'presidential' in this debate...

that he wanted to help average person and make America a more respected country

lets change things, we can do it.

personable

A very concerned person

Loaded with specifics about problems facing America and what the present administration has done or what has happened in the present administration's tenure. Less specific about how some of his 'plans' would cure the ills from the present administration.

A man who would say what you want to hear to get your vote.

He is appealing to the middle class & women to improve the economy in terms of tax cuts, wages & abortion rights. Also promised an increase in minimum wages.

UNDECIDED SWITCH TO KERRY (ON BUSH)

laid back, defense at times and continually went back to education on almost every question that was asked. Not everyone is college material

He was mouthing words and statistics without having a clear sense of what he was talking about. He didn't answer many of the questions. His demeanor sometimes seemed to be confused and unsure. I was disappointed about his answer to the question of the strong women in his life, that didn't mention his mother.

He held together better than he has but he was not always truthful or forthcoming on some of his answers.

he want; to continue the same foreign policies in Iraq, and the same tax structure in this country. although he is for tort reform.

He seemed not clear on some issues

Presented himself as a hot head, and a bumbling idiot. Bush did not present much in the way of change.

He has done a better job of speaking than I have seen before, but he really had little substance to what he said. He does a good job of dodging questions.

a person who isn't sure of what direction he is headed in.

He did not endorse new ideas to much of a degree. He seemed to want more of the same.

he came across as a strong leader

lost !!!

He believes that he is right in all that he has done. He only sees one side of things.

he was more definitive in his responses and more at ease, however the smirks were definitely there He was more at ease

I feel he avoided the questions, laughed things off too much. George Bush did not come across to me as serious as John Kerry.

He's a slick talker.

The thing that stood out was how Bush laughed at most of Kerry's remarks.

He wants things to keep going the way they are.

He followed suit BUT I feel he has already got many votes from what he SAID he stands for. Also we don't want to feel like we went to war in vain. As OUR soldiers followed orders.

Still avoids giving direct answers

SOS different day

confident and ready to take on another 4 years

UNDECIDED SWITCH TO KERRY (ON KERRY)

confident, proposed doable programs

Honesty, practical, left me with the sense that being President wouldn't just be his job, rather it would be his job to lead the country to turn things around by being a strong leader.

He does maintain a good grasp of the debate process. He was quite clear on his answer to the homosexual question which the President danced around but didn't really answer. On most questions he presented a strong confidence in his answers.

he want; to level the field for everyone, try to help out people with no jobs to get jobs. and quit wasting money and manpower on the war in Iraq.

He seemed more self confident

He had some innovative ideas about health care, recognized the huge need for expanding insurance coverage, and really articulated himself well

He is thoughtful, well informed, and passionate about the problems our country faces.

a man who knows where he is headed and the plans to follow through.

He seemed to come across as a strong and competent leader capable of being president.

he came across as a very honest person

better ideas.

He is committed to helping the nation with his various plans.

Excellent debater. Positive and resolute

John Kerry will look me in the eye. He looked into the camera, at the audience. My impression is that I can trust him.

Also a slick talker, hovers around his plan, doesn't explain in detail.

Kerry seemed like he had more of a plan this time.

He wants to help the average person.

He talked on faith, God, issues that effect ALL people and of issues of ALL cultures in the United States. This is the melting pot of the world. Not the home of the rich.

I still am not sure of his plan

confidence confidence confidence

Confident but also a little unsure

KERRY VOTER SWITCH TO BUSH (ON BUSH)

He was very sincere, had a deep personal faith, & prayed a lot, & also responded well during the debate!

be conservative and keep the country on track

KERRY VOTER SWITCH TO BUSH (ON KERRY)

He expressed himself very well, was sincere & gave a lot of thought to his answers!

wanting to change the way the country is heading

UNDECIDED TO BUSH (ON BUSH)

the same as before

He looks at the big picture many years down the road as far as foreign relations and boarder issues and how all his changes in the policies will spread Democracy to many more people on this earth; Steadfastness, passionate, calmness

He was strong, on message, and determined. Also very HUMOROUS.

I think the next four years will be difficult for whoever is president, but George Bush is a leader and I trust him to do a good job

He keeps on saying the same things about what he is doing and what he will continue to do for our country.

UNDECIDED TO BUSH (ON KERRY)

that he's a bigger idiot then I originally thought

Short sightedness as far as the spread of global Democracy; but calm and to the or his point; well on the domestic points he seemed honest but unsure

What a low, despicable comment on Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter! She has NOTHING to do with this election but was an innocent pawn in Kerry's VICIOUS game. It showed a defensive, ungentlemanly politician at his worst! I could never vote for such a man!

He promises health care, medical care for children, keeping America safe, etc. but is depending on tax dollars from the rich to pay for his programs. There is not enough money from that source to cover all that he promises, which to me says the tax payer will make up the difference

He still seems to be wishy-washy about some things. He also is still competing with Busch about having his say heard first instead of answering the questions.

BUSH WARM TO COOL (ON BUSH)

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that didn't mention his mother.

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kind, strong, steadfast.

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He seemed to come across as a strong and competent leader capable of being president.

He gave a more detailed view of his ideas. He was trying to talk to and relate with the average American family. He seemed very relaxed and sure of himself this evening. He seems more like a family man.

personable, intelligent.

KERRY WARM TO COOL (ON BUSH)

He looks at the big picture many years down the road as far as foreign relations and boarder issues and how all his changes in the policies will spread Democracy to many more people on this earth; Steadfastness, passionate, calmness

HE WAS MORE PERSONABLE TONIGHT. SEEMED MORE AT EASE. WAS VERY SINCERE IN HIS DIRECTION THAT HE IS LEDING THE US

do not like him

He is a man that has deep beliefs and deep convictions. He is certainly more capable of connecting with the majority of the population due to his folksy style and use of humor. He has made a good argument for his social positions and even though I don't agree with all his stands, I do believe that he is basing his opinions on his convictions rather than political expediency.

KERRY WARM TO COOL (ON KERRY)

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We don't know what his plans are. He keeps telling us he has plans how will they work. We need that info to make an informed decision

he will win

A very polished speaker that has based his 'solutions' on theory rather than on experience, as the President has done. There is no doubt that he is an intelligent man and has thoroughly studied the issues but his responses seemed too analytical and much too technical for the average person to understand.

BUSH COOL TO WARM (ON BUSH)

Optimistic Knows what he's talking about Has vision for America and wants to lead it there

Less eloquent, but more 'heartfelt' in his answers. Less able to keep on the subject, and lets his emotions take him into side issues. Has stronger convictions.

He faltered and wavered on many of the issues. Was unable to stick to the questions and often went back to the same answer to different questions. I believe that he also has some of the same characteristics but was just not able to convey the ideas and principals let alone clear cut plans for many of the domestic problems that exist in today's society.

He seemed a tad less mechanical, definitely more real. In past debates he appeared to be overly nervous and reticent to speak -- this was probably a direct result of too-much-coaching.

Resolute;determined;clear on policy

I felt that his attacks on Kerry were more of a personal nature. I also felt that he placed too much emphasis on education being the solution to almost all of the country's problems. Finally I thought his body language while Kerry was speaking bordered on being dismissive of the concepts expressed to the point of being insulting.

The president demonstrated that the office requires a person who can lead and he did not do that because he was always unsure how to respond to each question.

He too is a god fearing man but thinks more of money than people

He seems more presidential with each debate. I don't feel he won the debate although he wasn't far behind. He was strong and confident but avoided hard answers.

I think I like bush A little more now.

More self-control than last time, calmer. Very honest and dedicated to causes close to him. Respectable.

BUSH COOL TO WARM (ON KERRY)

Defensive Shallow Bunch of catch phrases but no substance behind them

Good debater. Good delivery and eloquence in speaking. However, always seems to give the best 'politically correct' answer.

He is a man with strong convictions, integrity, trustworthiness and fairness. But above all very compassionate. He has visions and hope and the plans to back them up. He is a good speaker who answered the questioned posed to him and the president and said a lot of the things I needed to hear to make my selection.

His words seemed sincere; however, I didn't think he came off as strong as he did in the first debate. He had a peculiar Ålan for repeating certain phrases that have become somewhat monotonous: for example, 'Tax cuts for the richest and 'He [Bush] outsourced the hunt for Osama to warlords.'

Knowledgeable, presidential, strong

I was impressed by his seriousness on each issue Especially with relation to the economy and foreign policy.

John Kerry demonstrated leadership by forcefully making points on each question.

That he too is a God fearing man & does love his neighbor as himself.

Friendly and smiling more showed a bit more humor than I'm used to with him, he seemed relaxed. most importantly he answered the hard questions; felt more trust in him.

I think Kerry carried the debate tonight.

Strong, confident, more focused than before, less condescending towards his opponent.

KERRY COOL TO WARM (ON BUSH)

Less eloquent, but more 'heartfelt' in his answers. Less able to keep on the subject, and lets his emotions take him into side issues. Has stronger convictions.

He was mouthing words and statistics without having a clear sense of what he was talking about. He didn't answer many of the questions. His demeanor sometimes seemed to be confused and unsure. I was disappointed about his answer to the question of the strong women in his life, that didn't mention his mother.

good man stay the course.

Someone who does not live in the real world

Retreated from answering questions directly and went to his favorite topics. Responded in generalities when Kerry used specific figures and data (altho I don't know how correct the figures were, it was impressive to me to hear specifics).

He continued to refer to the 'No Child Left Behind' act as a resolution to economic problems.

that he did a vary good job of defending his actions

I'm afraid that Bush thinks that things have been going well since he has been in office and that just ISN'T the case

he has direct goals for america, he had to spend a lot of time though reacting to kerrys critisizing and blame, but i think his visions for america are a lot more hopeful.

He was again repetitive & did not answer the questions directly. He talked a lot about education regardless whether or not the questions had anything to do with education.

honest, sincere

He has definite goals and largely unchanged opinions about where America should go in the near future!

was stuck on one subject- education, avoiding the questions asked.

He is devoted to solving problems that were in place long before he took office. He offers realistic answers without increasing taxes and allowing individuals to take responsibility for themselves through education. His stage presence has improved immensely since the first debate and he is pleasant to listen to.

I also saw a man deeply concerned with the American people and the issues that face this nation. He utilizes his faith to help lead his decision making.

He is sincere and trying to do what he believes is best for the country.

I felt that President Bush was more hesitant tonight and kept falling back on education as a cure for most problems in the work force. I do feel that many of our problems started with the Clinton administration allowing outsourcing to start in the first place.

He was quite cool and collected, and of course had his own examples of legislation, successes and failures of the past few years of his administration. He gave a firm answer of his faith, his ethical and family values and his belief in America and what we stand for in the world.

He seems to have a strong control being the president.

lies, half truths, deception, hoover, economic depression, wrong

he has a few ideas that he keeps repeating regardless of the question asked, but he was more relaxed tonight. However he's saying there will be more of the same for the next four years.

not sure does not share my interests

Bush still stood firm on his convictions.

A stronger leader and for a smaller federal government - more of a desire for people to have lower taxes to stimulate the economy - rich or poor

He has a strong sense of what he feels will help the country continue to advance economically and morally.

Good as a educator, but lacking on economics, his statement about the VA hospitals and health care was enough to make me mad as it is the worse care i have ever experienced in the El Paso VA, where I go for my treatments. as for border security I laugh because I live 23 miles from the mexico border and I personally see at least 10 Mexican nationals walking across my property . When I call the border patrol they don't answer there phones .Again the hype from Mr Bush but little doing.

looked as if he had a lot of coaching over the past couple of weeks

He relies a lot on his personal religious beliefs and will not change his philosophy from that point of view. He feels that giving tax money back to the people is a good thing. I'm not sure when he intends on paying back the deficit. Someone is going to have to pay for it. He doesn't actually address who.

dances around the question

He seemed more forceful and better prepared than he did in the first debate, but he still is skirting questions (more smoothly, but still skirting) and running the same old 'spin' (including misinformation) over and over.

KERRY COOL TO WARM (ON KERRY)

Good debater. Good delivery and eloquence in speaking. However, always seems to give the best 'politically correct' answer.

Honesty, practical, left me with the sense that being President wouldn't just be his job, rather it would be his job to lead the country to turn things around by being a strong leader.

lets change things, we can do it.

A very concerned person

Loaded with specifics about problems facing America and what the present administration has done or what has happened in the present

administration's tenure. Less specific about how some of his 'plans' would cure the ills from the present administration.

He is appealing to the middle class & women to improve the economy in terms of tax cuts, wages & abortion rights. Also promised an increase in minimum wages.

that he didn't have complete answers for some of the questions also he can promise any thing but getting it passed in congress is another matter

I have a very hard time believing that Kerry would do the things he says he would

he has vague promises to America. he spent a lot of time criticising Bush and pointing fingers and didn't answer questions directly, he left things in the air, and his ideas for social security are not very promising either.

Kerry seemed to answer most of the questions more directly. Whether or not what he said was accurate, he at least stayed on target with his answers.

honest, sincere

He came across as a better and wiser man than I have given him credit for in the past!

positive outlook on subjects

He seemed less aggressive then in previous debates so one could listen to his ideas instead of recoiling from his attacks. He has many plans that seem very expensive to implement and will increase our taxes.

I saw a man with deep convictions. Some of his ideas differ drastically from President Bush, but he firmly believes in his ideas.

He isn't strong or trustworthy.

I never really liked Senator Kerry but I thought tonight he made a favorable impression even though he did not always directly answer the questions posed to him. Of course the President did the same.

He had done a great deal of research, had more specific examples with names and numbers and examples than in the former debates. He seemed more assured and serious seeking to refute the views given by President Bush.

He seems to give me the impression that he could maybe some help as president.

competent, strong, sure, determined, thoughtful, diplomatic

Kerry came across as a more positive and compassionate leader and more steady in his plans as a president.

well informed has plans for change for the average guy

I thought he still was still not clear on his answers on some of the questions.

Intelligent and a loyal American, but he seemed to answer all questions by going back to the same issues over and over again

I think he believes that big government is the solution to the countries problems. I think he truly believes he can finance his proposals by cutting the tax cuts, but I don't.

I saw a man with conviction, honest and truthful. When he talked about his mom's three words I know he was talking from his heart .I will have to say that he also carried this integrity to the answers on social security .

slightly more believable than past debates,

He wants to restore some of the non-religious based philosophies back into our system, such as being pro-choice on abortion rights and stem-cell research. He wants to keep taxes where they are for folks making less than \$200K and get more of the tax money from those making more, by closing loopholes. He wants to get work on controlling healthcare costs and getting the US the respect it used to have in the rest of the world. seemed truthful and knew what he was talking about so a person could understand

It was good to hear more specifics of his plans for domestic issues; he continues to present himself as intelligent, well-informed, confident; he really seemed the 'bigger man,' as he continued to openly offer compliments and respect for the President, while disagreeing with some of his actions and decisions.