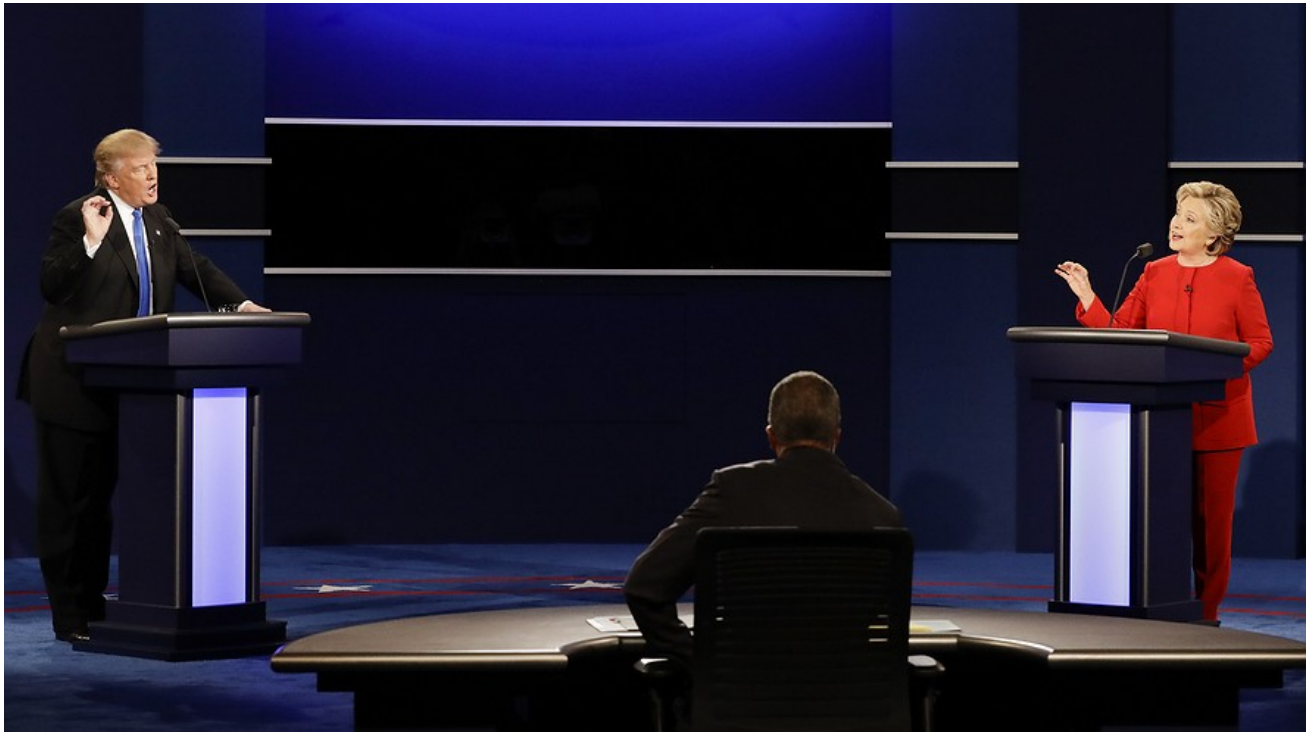


Clinton and Trump battle in their first presidential debate

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.27.16

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Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump (left) and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton spar during the presidential debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, Sept. 26, 2016. Photo: AP Photo/David Goldman

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Monday night was the first presidential debate in the race to become the 45th president of the United States. The two candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, took the stage. They argued over their very different ideas for the country's future.

Clinton criticized businessman Donald Trump for keeping his personal and business financial documents a secret from voters. Traditionally, presidential candidates turn over these documents. Candidates' financial documents can show whether or not they are corrupt. Voters like to see them so they can make a good decision about who to vote for.

Meanwhile, Trump repeatedly tried to label Clinton as a "typical politician."

A Heated Debate

To help the country thrive in business, Clinton called for lowering taxes for the middle class. Meanwhile, Trump focused more on changing past trade deals with other countries. He says some trade deals have caused companies to move jobs out of the United States.

The debate was heated from the start. Trump frequently tried to interrupt Clinton. He spoke over her answers. Clinton was calmer and more reserved, but she also teased Trump about his business record and wealth.

Clinton Sorry For Email Scandal

"There's something he's hiding," Clinton declared. She laughed at his repeated excuse that he will not release his tax returns because he is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. Tax experts say he could still release his information.

Trump tried to turn the questions around on Clinton. He wanted to point out that she was hiding something, too. Throughout her campaign, she has struggled to overcome voters' concerns about her honesty and trustworthiness. Not long ago, she faced a scandal involving using her personal email server for her government work.

Clinton was remorseful in addressing her controversial email use. She said simply that it was a "mistake."

Who Should Pay More Taxes?

The debate was the most anticipated moment in the election so far. This year's campaign has been both historic and unpredictable.

The candidates debated trade, taxes and how to bring good-paying jobs back to the United States.

Clinton said Trump's tax cuts would only help the rich, not the middle class. She called for increasing the national minimum wage. She argued that the government should spend more on government projects, such as roads or parks. She also said the country needed to pay women the same as men.

Trump attacked policies that he said have led to American jobs being moved overseas. He said the jobs were moved, in part, because of trade deals with other countries. He says Clinton supported these deals.

Trump On Immigration

A large part of Trump's campaign has been a push for stricter immigration rules. Trump has called for the building of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He also asked for a temporary ban on foreign Muslims entering the U.S. Still, he has been less detailed about other ideas. He has yet to reveal his plan for defeating the Islamic State. The violent group is trying to take over parts of the Middle East and has encouraged violence against the United States.

Clinton has worked as a lawmaker for many years. She is hoping voters see her as reliable and steady. She has promised to fight the Islamic State group without putting American soldiers on the ground in Syria.

Who's Voting For Whom?

For Clinton, winning the election depends on getting the same young and diverse group that elected Obama to vote for her. This group, though, does not seem to like her.

Many of Trump's supporters are white, working-class voters. Some of them feel left behind in a country that is changing quickly and becoming more diverse. Trump does not have the experience Americans have traditionally wanted in a president. However, he is using the frustration and fear of many Americans to push him toward victory.