



Joint Crisis: 2016 Presidential Election

Chairs: Annie Lubin '19 and Abby Nicholson '19
Rapporteurs: Leighton Gray '19 and
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the CAMUN 2019 Joint Crisis Committee: 2016 Presidential Election. We are your chairs, Abby Nicholson and Annie Lubin, and we are so excited to join you in recreating and potentially reshaping the 2016 presidential election campaigns. We are both seniors participating in our fourth annual CAMUN conference, and to be honest, this is the spiciest one yet.

The 2016 presidential election was arguably the most divisive political event in recent history, and we have thought long and hard about how to host this committee with as much respect and civility as possible. Therefore, we remind you that while Model UN is an opportunity to play a part and step into new shoes, it is not a chance to disrespect, belittle or insult others under the guise of a character. We ask that you act according to your roles in committee and understand that others are doing so too. However, if you feel uncomfortable in any way, please feel free to communicate with the Dias as we want to make this committee as fun and engaging as possible.

Now that we have acknowledged this, we would like to introduce you to your committees and your background guide. The committees will be the campaign rooms of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. We open on a celebratory scene, immediately following the announcement of their respective party nominations and we will close on election night, following the announcement of America's 45th president. This guide will further set the scene for the two campaigns, introduce the main issues for the committees and outline your characters' roles and portfolio powers. Success in this committee will partially come from knowledge of the election; however, as we have limited time, we have taken a few liberties with the two campaigns' facts and events. Therefore, more important to your success will be adaptability, spontaneity, and a strong willingness and ability to work with others on your campaign. We also believe that writing a position paper will help you prepare for and succeed during the conference. This paper need not be long, but it should include a description of your character, their role on the campaign and any notable actions they took during the campaign. Please email them to your respective chairs by April 5th, the day before the conference:

Hillary Clinton's Campaign: anabelle.lubin@concordacademy.org

Donald Trump's Campaign: abby.nicholson@concordacademy.org

Should you have any questions, feel free to email us at these addresses. We cannot wait to meet you all on April 6th!

Best of luck,

Annie Lubin '19 and Abby Nicholson '19

History of the 2016 Primary

While this committee will begin directly following the announcement of each respective presidential nominee, it is important to understand the events that led up to the race. As Barack Obama was set to complete his second term, both party nominations were up for grabs. Despite winning the Republican nomination and eventually the presidency, businessman and former TV personality Donald Trump was certainly an underdog in a sea of more experienced Republican candidates. Competing against frontrunners like Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, and John Kasich, Trump distinguished himself with his unconventional campaign style. A political dark horse, Trump's seemingly unfiltered tweets and speeches captivated the American audience in an unprecedented way. From calling for a "Muslim ban" in 2015 to aggressively attacking his opponents on social media, many were appalled by his behavior and were confident that he would lose in the Primaries. Yet despite his inexperience and harsh critics, he was successful in securing the Republican nomination. On the Democrat side, the race for the nomination was primarily between Senator Bernie Sanders and former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Although Sanders established a dedicated following, his overtly socialist left-wing policies did not sit well with many more fiscally moderate Democrats. Clinton, on the other hand, came under fire from the media and her opponents for using her private email for official government business related to Benghazi. Nevertheless, Clinton's undeniable experience and moderate policy won over Democrats and she became the Democratic nominee. While the polls strongly suggested that she had the presidency in the bag, obviously this is not what happened. It will be up to your respective committees to either challenge the course of history, or ensure that it stays on track.

Key Issues of the 2016 Presidential Election

The following issues were some of the most important to voters during the race. As you prepare to discuss campaign strategy, it is important to consider where your candidate stood on each issue so that you can best support the campaign within your assigned role.

1. Economic Policy

From tax reform to job creation, economic policy was at the forefront of voters minds as they went to the ballot boxes.¹ In a classic division between those who believe the government should have more and those who believe it should have less, tax reform was ever present during this election cycle. Trump advocated for tax cuts for a large number of Americans, whereas Clinton advocated for a targeted approach, increasing taxes for those in higher income brackets. As for unemployment, the candidates had very different approaches: while Clinton opted for more specific policies on how

¹ <http://www.people-press.org/2016/07/07/4-top-voting-issues-in-2016-election/>

to bring individuals education, job training, and infrastructure, Trump decided that a protectionist policy would be more beneficial to the American people. Claiming that other countries and immigrants have taken American jobs, he advocated for a reduction of foreign imports and a clampdown on immigration.

2. Immigration

Immigration has always been an enigma for policymakers. With a large legal and illegal immigrant population working to help America's economy, American lawmakers differ in opinion over how to proceed. Following in the wake of the paranoia that he created, Trump proposed his largest and most ambitious plan to date: a border wall between Mexico and the United States. His goal was to bar illegal immigrant crossings to protect American jobs – he frequently tweeted about it with the hashtag #buildthewall, and while it has not yet come to fruition, his wall proposal continues to perpetuate a divided citizenry. Clinton vehemently opposed the wall, and the topic was one often addressed during presidential debates; she was instead a strong supporter of immigrant rights as well as DACA DREAMers and their families.

During his campaign, Trump also controversially proposed a ban on individuals attempting to immigrate to the United States from regions that are a major source of terrorism.

Foreign Policy

One surprise to come out of the 2016 election was the unorthodox views of the two candidates on foreign policy. Although it was difficult to pinpoint Trump's alliances, he was aggressive towards countries like China, who he viewed as the main perpetrators of the threat to American jobs. On the other hand, he seemed to look highly upon Russian president Vladimir Putin. Trump's well-known slogans such as "America First" and "Make America Great Again" became calls for American Nationalists, alienating potential foreign allies. Clinton, while more predictable, was conservative in her views of foreign leaders. Having served under Obama as Secretary of State, Clinton had a track record of foreign policy missteps that Trump often pounced upon in live debates and in his twitter feed. Clinton's foreign policy strategy during her campaign was largely overshadowed by her opponent's apparent lack of knowledge and many debates were spent pointing out factual flaws rather than on actual policy.

Health Care

The biggest point of tension related to this issue centered around whether or not to repeal the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," President Barack Obama's comprehensive legislation ensuring public health care coverage. Clinton and Trump stood completely divided on the issue, with the former supporting the Affordable Care Act and the latter promising to repeal it immediately. Some of the key topics within the wider issue were reproductive health, affordability of

prescription drugs, mental health, and Medicaid. While both candidates agreed for the most part on prescription drugs and mental health, the issues of reproductive health and Medicaid were more divisive as they tend to be discussed more frequently in a partisan context.²

Minority Rights

Issues related to minorities were at the forefront of the election, particularly because of Trump's outspokenness regarding these issues. While same-sex marriage had finally just been legalized, many were concerned about Vice President Nominee Mike Pence, who had repeatedly expressed anti-LGBT views during his time as governor of Indiana.³ Additionally, with movements like Black Lives Matter in full force, many activists wondered whether either candidate would take steps toward cracking down on racial profiling within law enforcement. Another key issue was Trump's statements on immigrants, particularly from the Middle East and South America. Many believed his campaign to be racist and bigoted because of his unprecedentedly strict ideas about immigration reform.

Hillary Clinton's Campaign Team and Portfolio Powers

1. **John Podesta** - Campaign Chairman; Oversees all the finances of the campaign as well as has the ability to fire any member of the campaign staff if agreed upon by the Campaign Manager.
2. **Robby Mook** - Campaign Manager; In charge of the campaign staff on a daily level and has the ability to fire any member of the campaign staff if agreed upon by the Campaign Chairman.
3. **Jake Sullivan** - Foreign Policy Advisor; Makes decisions on statements and strategy regarding foreign policy.
4. **Joel Benenson** - Lead Pollster and Strategist; Receives reports on current polls, synthesizes and reports information to Campaign Manager. Coordinates general strategy with other members of campaign.
5. **John Anzalone** - Pollster and Strategist; Receives reports on current polls, synthesizes and reports information to Lead Pollster. Coordinates general strategy with other members of campaign.
6. **David Binder** - Pollster and Strategist; Receives reports on current polls, synthesizes and reports information to Lead Pollster. Coordinates general strategy with other members of campaign.
7. **Jennifer Palmieri** - Communications Director; Manager of public relations. Responsible for writing and editing press releases. Can veto posts and tweets from the Media Director.

²<https://www.pbs.org/weta/washingtonweek/blog-post/trump-vs-clinton-health-care>

³<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/11/us/politics/trump-victory-alarms-gay-and-transgender-groups.html?module=inline>

8. **Dan Schwerin** - Head Speechwriter; In charge of constructing speeches for debates and other public appearances by Ms. Clinton.
9. **Nick Merrill** - Assistant Communications Director/Speechwriter; Assists Head Speechwriter and Communications Director.
10. **Karen Finney** - National Campaign Spokesperson: The face of the campaign when speaking with the press. Speaks with various media outlets about the campaign and candidate.
11. **Marlon Marshall** - Field Director; Decides which areas of the country are of particular interest for the campaign. Must consult Campaign Chairman for funding.
12. **Amanda Renteria** - Political Director; Decides which groups of people are of particular interest for the campaign. Works with Field Director to target specific demographics.
13. **Jim Margolis** - Media Advisor; Responsible for managing all social media accounts related to the campaign. In charge of monitoring all public statements by the candidate. Can send tweets that will be reported to the other committee.
14. **Marc Elias** - General Counsel; Responsible for navigating any lawsuits or other legal concerns. Can veto any actions proposed by the committee if they are illegal.
15. **CNN Liaison** - Responsible for taking the discussions of the campaign team and polishing them for the public. Has periodic contact with the Fox Liaison in order to obtain information from the other committee.

Donald Trump's Campaign Team and Portfolio Powers

1. **Steve Bannon** - Campaign Chairman; Oversees all the finances of the campaign and has the ability to fire any member of the campaign staff if agreed upon by the Campaign Manager.
2. **Kellyanne Conway** - Campaign Manager; In charge of the campaign staff on a daily level and has the ability to fire any member of the campaign staff if agreed upon by the Campaign Chairman.
3. **Barry Bennett** - Strategist; Receives reports on current polls, synthesizes and reports information to the Campaign Manager. Coordinates general strategy with other members of campaign.
4. **Doug Davenport** - Strategist; Receives reports on current polls, synthesizes and reports information to the Campaign Manager. Coordinates general strategy with other members of campaign.
5. **Katrina Pierson** - National Campaign Spokesperson; The face of the campaign when speaking with the press. Speaks with various media outlets about the campaign and candidate. Can veto speeches by the speechwriters.
6. **Daniel Scavino** - Director of Social Media; Responsible for managing all social media accounts related to the campaign. In charge of monitoring all public statements by the candidate. Can send tweets that will be read by the other committee room.

7. **Jason Miller** - Senior Communications Advisor; Manager of public relations. Responsible for writing and editing press releases. Can veto any posts or tweets by the Director of Social Media.
8. **Sarah Huckabee Sanders** - Senior advisor; Can influence decisions regarding a variety of concerns, and reports directly to the Campaign Manager. Occasionally makes public appearances.
9. **Jim Murphy** - Political Director; Decides which groups of people are of particular interest for the campaign. Works with Field Director to target specific demographics.
10. **Bill Stepien** - Field Director; Decides which areas of the country are of particular interest for the campaign. Works with Political Director to target specific demographics. Must consult Campaign Chairman for funding.
11. **Walid Phares** - Foreign Policy Advisor; Can make decisions on statements and strategy regarding foreign policy.
12. **Stephen Miller** - Speechwriter and Advisor; In charge of constructing speeches for debates and public appearances by Mr. Trump.
13. **Don McGahn** - Legal Advisor; Responsible for navigating any lawsuits or other legal concerns. Can veto any actions proposed by the committee if they are illegal.
14. **Brad Parscale** - Digital Director; Responsible for designing and deploying digital media strategies, including the hiring and managing of Cambridge Analytica.
15. **Fox News Liaison** - Responsible for taking the discussions and actions of the campaign team and releasing them publicly. Has periodic contact with the CNN Liaison in order to obtain information from the other committee.