



GREENBERG MILLENNIAL PROJECT

FOCUS GROUP #7
WHITE, SUBURBAN, NO KIDS, MIXED GENDER
DENVER, CO
DECEMBER 5, 2007

MODERATOR: INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

My name is Ali and I am in nursing school right now. I'll graduate in May. I'm married. I have two dogs and I live in [Whistle].

I'm Molly. I am a graphic designer. I live in Aurora and work in Golden so I spend a lot of my time either at work or commuting. Married, that's it.

I'm Jared from North Glen, just recently bought my second home. I snowboard a lot in the wintertime.

My name is Justin. I live out in Lakewood, engaged and I am a firefighter here in Denver.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I got hunting a lot, went today, been out all day.

I am Jamie. I am a research coordinator at the University of Colorado. I will start nursing school in January and I live in Littleton and I like to snowboard, hike and camp.

I am Emily and I live in Denver and I am a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing at a middle school and I like to travel and be outdoors.

Ryan. I'm a finance major at the University of Colorado. I live in Boulder and I like to snowboard for fun.

My name is Jacob. I'm currently heading to my final semester at the University of Colorado in Denver with a degree in international studies. I live in North Denver and I'm bilingual.

MODERATOR – WHAT OTHER LANGUAGE?

Chinese.

My name is Destin. I live in the [Tech Center]. I work for a real estate firm doing marketing and leasing and I just bought my first house in March.

My name is Jeremy, going back to UCD next semester to finish a journalism degree and favorite past time play golf.

MODERATOR – AS I SAID WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THINGS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE AS YOUNG AMERICANS, AS FOLKS UNDER 30. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY A LOT OF TIMES WE TALK ABOUT IN TERMS OF GENERATIONS, YOU KNOW THE BABY BOOMERS OR GENERATION X, THE IDEA BEING THAT PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN AGE HAVE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES, SIMILAR ATTITUDES THAT KIND OF SET THEM APART FROM OTHER GENERATIONS. DO YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT YOUR GENERATION? DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE UNIQUE AND THAT YOU HAVE CERTAIN EXPERIENCES, ATTITUDES, BELIEFS THAT SET YOU APART FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS?

I do. I think a lot when it comes to race and things like that we definitely have different views.

MODERATOR – HOW SO?

I think younger generations like us are a lot more open to inter-racial relationships, workplace so different races taking different positions in the workplace, less prejudice.

MODERATOR – WHO ELSE?

I think we also have a lot more instant gratification within our generation. I mean we get things quickly. If you want something you order it on the internet and it is there the next day if you want it, so receiving things quickly and not having to wait around.

Growing up in the computer revolution is pretty big. I mean I am only 26 and when I was a kid I was playing on Dos and know how to use it better than most adults so that has a major affect. The technology that happened when you are growing has a big affect on how your generation sees the world differently from the previous generation.

MODERATOR – I SEE A LOT OF HEADS NODDING.

I definitely have to say technology. You know I read a lot. I bought an MP3 and things like that to my dad and he is completely lost. He is like you lost me when you stopped talking about records. Definitely technology.

I would say we are waiting until later too. I know at least for myself I'm not married yet. I know you guys are but a lot of younger kids are getting their careers started, going to college and then doing the family thing quite a bit later in life than early so that has changed.

MODERATOR – NOBODY AROUND THIS TABLE HAS KIDS RIGHT?

No.

I don't know exactly the difference is but you know a generation that grew up with war as a big part of, I mean the baby boomers with their parents in World War II and all of that. I mean it is so difference for us. The wars are different now. I mean you don't have the same maybe value system as the generation did that was in war and I kind of don't even know what the difference would be but you know there is a difference with the older generation and their view of war and defense and our place in the world maybe compared to our view of relations with other countries.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

To add to what she said, we live in the post Vietnam era so our views of are controversial and multifaceted. For our grandparents who were alive in World War II not only was the definition of that conflict a lot more unified but our participation in the war is so much more distant than it was in World War II (many agreeing) where everybody felt involved and they were part of it and had a commitment to it but (inaudible) country completely divided on it. (Interrupted).

Right and then it brought jobs to the woman and the younger people and the older people so everybody was kind of unified like he said.

One of my friends actually made a statement that basically relates to that. You want to stop war get the college kids involved. College kids aren't involved in what is going on in the Middle East like they were in the 60's in Vietnam. I mean it just doesn't happen. It hasn't happened.

MODERATOR – IN OTHER WORDS IF YOU HAD A DRAFT, IF YOU HAD SOMETHING (INTERRUPTED)

Yeah, initiate the draft. That is exactly what my buddy said, you want to stop war initiate the draft and guarantee you will have an uprising. You know the public will standup.

Because it will directly affect you.

Absolutely. It will affect millions of people.

So like you were saying with the instant gratification and kind of what you're saying about war maybe there is a difference in our generation that we tend to lean to being more apathetic about some of those things.

And the technology is so much these days that I mean you can even see it in how we fight wars. Not to beat the whole war situation to death but it is very apparent.

At least the next big computer matters a lot more than the next big jet.

Absolutely, absolutely.

They spend billions on these war toys but they don't matter nearly as much as computer technology now.

MODERATOR – WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION OF ALL THIS TECHNOLOGY FOR YOU GUYS AND HOW YOU KIND OF INTERACT WITH THE WORLD?

Well it allows you, I mean come on, it allows you to talk to someone on the other side of the world instantly.

It makes the world.

Absolutely. It puts the world in your hands by definition.

It also has a tendency to take away personal relationships because it is [static].

It gives me the ability to make me more successful in my job and others with the abilities of research that you can do on the internet. I can find answers to my medical questions a lot easier, faster, more thoroughly perhaps because there are a lot more resources out there.

Sometimes I feel like that could make me more unhappy though, just knowing all the options I have for the things that I might not get to or I don't know, the exposure of wealthy people on TV and you know knowing that that is not my life right now, so.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR GENERATION?

I remember a (inaudible) quote that a friend told me long ago. We live in a generation so bombarded with choices that (inaudible) we should have not been because we don't know what to do.

We are being able to make many choices as opposed to where I feel that my grandparents chose a path and stayed with one career were in the career a long time. You know my grandma raised her family and that is what she did. It seems like everybody now tries this idea, go back to school, do this, work somewhere else.

With all those options i bet your grandma wouldn't have it any other way.

Right. With my grandma she wanted it the way it was so it is just depending what generation you are in and what you are exposed to.

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK ALL THAT INFORMATION AND THAT STUFF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO PROVIDES YOU WITH MORE OPPORTUNITY (INAUDIBLE)?

Sure.

Absolutely. I mean you can just compare, I mean if you want to compare countries and compare our economic standpoint verses other third world countries and not even third world countries, countries that are "power" but not like the United States they don't have the opportunities we have whether they are held down by their governments or economic standpoints or whatever.

MODERATOR – JUSTIN?

I think with the technology that we have nowadays and the opportunities that it affords us I think a lot of our generation are no longer living to work they are kind of working to live, appreciate life more, go out and do things. In the past I don't think that was as easy. You had to work your tail everyday just to provide.

Yeah I think we make a lot more money than older generations. I know, you just hear about stories, like my parents when they were my age they had lawn furniture in their house and it is like I had the opportunity to travel internationally and do a lot of things that my parents couldn't do when they were my age and the same with my friends and their families, their parents. They have a lot more money where they are in their 20's then their parents did when they were in their 20's.

MODERATOR – ONE OF THE WAYS THAT THEY ALWAYS TALK ABOUT THE AMERICAN DREAM IS THAT YOU WANT YOUR KIDS TO DO BETTER THAN YOU DID. DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU WILL DO BETTER THAN YOUR PARENTS? DO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO?

Maybe it is different. I don't know if it is better.

Yeah, maybe to a certain extent it is better but for my family and my family grew up very low middle class, you know. I grew up middle class and I expect my family to grow up at least high middle class if there is such a thing as a middle class by the time I have children but I think from a moneymaking standpoint I am personally do better than what my family was when they were in their mid to late 20's.

When you say do better do you monetarily?

MODERATOR - HOWEVER YOU DEFINE IT.

How old, because my mom already had three kids by the time she was my age so they had different responsibilities. Their money went to us completely so I think it also appears like we make more money because we're older and I've gone to college and my income is based a little bit on that and then I don't have kids and I have low responsibilities. Basically I have to go to work everyday and pay my bills.

MODERATOR - SO YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF NOT YOURSELF AND THREE KIDS.

Yeah, it is just me. I am only responsible for myself.

MODERATOR - RYAN WERE YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?

Yeah I was going to say that a lot of it has to do like with the way my parents were brought up and they had to work hard to where they got today and they kind of instilled that in me so I think with like the way they were brought up kind of instills that in me giving me an opportunity to have a better future for myself, like better than they had if you put it in a standpoint of money, happiness stuff like that. They are paying for my college. They are paying for my schooling, stuff like that, opening up those opportunities for me. They both had to work and go to school at the same time, stuff like that so in that standpoint I look at it as they've opened up more doors for me.

My mom was (inaudible) for a long time so my parents when they were first married at 25 would spin the globe and go like that and go there so they went all over so there is part of me that goes I don't know if I'll ever experience those places and they went to countries that are not kind of closed off to Americans so there are things that they had the opportunity to do I don't know if I will ever be in that place but I might create my own thing.

MODERATOR - ARE THERE EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE KIND OF SHAPED YOUR GENERATION AND DEFINED HOW YOU (INAUDIBLE)?

Of course. I mean you can just take what happened 7 years ago on 9/11. I mean that completely changed the world. It changed the world for a lot of people. Our generation you know (interrupted)

MODERATOR - HOW DID IT IMPACT YOUR GENERATION?

Security is a huge thing.

Yeah. I think it made people realize that you know, well especially for people like us, I was 21-years-old at the time and I only just kind of started getting my feet wet in global politics and stuff like that. I think it woke a lot of us up to what is truly going on around us and not just within what we call the United States because the United States is just such a small piece of the world. You know what I'm saying?

MODERATOR - WHAT DO OTHERS THINK?

I don't know. I think it affected the nation a lot but I have always had sort of a global mind so I was thinking of it and it didn't impact me personally as much as I think it did a lot of other people because I was already paying attention, even in 5th grade to what was going on in parts of the world and maybe I am more cynical but I've always been worried about the kinds of practices and policies that (inaudible) do and trying to connect that to our own future and trying to see how prospects for our own future go hand in hand with those other people. America has this back and forth between isolationism and intervention and that is a question that has been

going on for our entire history. I don't know what the answer to that question is but it is very significant. Whatever the consequences 9/11 has been we had to do what is good and what is right rather than make only the best for our particular nation because we are part of a world system now (interrupted)

MODERATOR - OTHER EXPERIENCES SINCE 9/11?

I feel like Columbine changed the way I looked at a lot of things and now especially as a teacher I don't know if it is just in Colorado, (inaudible) any of you grew up in Colorado but I don't feel safe in the places that I use to feel safe sometimes. You know you always have that little question in the back of your head and today, I don't if you guys saw on the news there was a shooting in the mall in Omaha and 8 or 9 people died and I don't know I mean for me Columbine was the first real just senseless, horrible tragedy that I've ever experienced and it kind of seems like it has happened more often, just people, I don't know, it is kind of the normal thing that happens every few months now.

MODERATOR - OTHER EXPERIENCES? (NO RESPONSE). HOW IS IRAQ? IT IS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THAT YOU GUYS HAVE AT THIS POINT GROWN UP WITH TO SOME EXTENT. HOW HAS THAT SHAPED YOUR GENERATION, SHAPED YOUR VIEWS OF THINKING?

I don't know. For myself I am torn between having sympathy for those people who are stuck in that situation and also you know being selfish.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BEING SELFISH?

Just that being selfish in the fact that our presidents chose to go into Iraq two different times for what I view as one different reason and being selfish in the fact that well they just need to go in and get what they are going to get done and get out you know other than the fact that on the other side of that fence there are innocent people dying on a daily basis.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

It has made me somewhat pessimistic. Iraq and Vietnam are not the same but Washington is still Washington. They haven't learn a lesson about going into conflict without a real vision of what the outcome will be like, what is peace going to look like. They didn't solve it in Vietnam and they don't seem to ever considered it even in Iraq. You know we have our own goals going in there saying oh this is going to be great. We're going to win. You know this American spirit, we're probably going to win but we didn't win in Vietnam. A lot of people died for almost no reason it seemed to me. It is hard for a nation to look itself in the eye and say we messed up and that is really where we are. Getting out is a lot harder than getting in.

Even that generation that just has to carry that burden for however long. You know I mean it's like, even President Bush said you know his ridiculous comment or quote, he said you know it

started on our watch it is going to end on yours and it is the truth and it will totally affect, it might even affect our future generation you know.

I think compared to other generations we're so desensitized by war now and like it is twofold because right when the war broke out, right when we really went in, you know (inaudible) region, the TV and the media were just on it constantly. We were just inundated by visions of what was happening there. We as a generation have seen war differently than when other wars were going on and I think we've become really desensitized to it. We turn on the news it is something bad or something that you don't, you know it is kind of like easy now to just put it away and go on with your daily life.

And I can see why you get pessimistic because this is our war on terror which isn't a place, it isn't one people group. Terror is everywhere and so we're, you know there used to be borderlines between the countries that we were fighting. Now there are no borders. The people we are fighting they live in America, they live in Canada, they live in Iraq but they also live in Brazil.

They live in this country too trying to get people scared to vote a certain way.

I think we've become a lot more desensitized in addition to war with things like what Emily was talking about with any sort of tragic event. It happens so consistently and with so much media coverage over everything, not just newspaper. It is internet and TV and everywhere that we have become a lot more desensitized than the older generations.

It is the [dichotomy] of the internet age, you know the technology age that we live in.

MODERATOR – LET ME ASK YOU THIS. WHAT ARE THE MOTIVATIONS, WHAT ARE THE VALUES THAT DRIVE YOUR GENERATION?

I think money does drive our generation a lot.

MODERATOR – HOW SO?

We just, I think going back to our parents wanting more of us and they instill into your brain, make money so that you can have the things that you can enjoy that we didn't. I don't think everybody is money driven but I think as a generation we are a lot more money driven.

Toy driven too.

Personally I am driven to find that balance where I am not working very much but I am making just enough to have a life and working for my life and not, I can't picture any job that I would want to do 40 hours a week. I really can't think of any but you know I don't want that to be my life. I want that to support my life so it is more with time with family, with friends, with experiences, with places and new people, having that work there so that I can do those things but not working enough that I can't do those things, like finding that balance where I am not working too much but just.

Do you think we have a less work ethic?

Totally, I agree.

And personally I agree.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

To belong to something, a group of friends, of family but I feel that is on every generation everybody is kind of driven to have a sense of belonging to something.

I think that kind of ties in with the money thing too to belong, like feel like you have to have those material things in order to feel like you belong to that certain group that you're looking for.

MODERATOR – CAN YOU GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE?

Say you want to be looked at as upper class or high middle class or whatever so that is going to drive to try and get those material because that will put you at that status and into that certain group.

I think that is another thing that media does to us though and I was just talking to my boyfriend last night and we watched maybe four commercials and two were [Helsberg] diamond rings and like (inaudible) the Bentley for Christmas. It is just so much, they are just trying to give you ideas of who you have to be and what you have to do. You know they just don't show the average good hardworking people. They really give you impressions about how you should be.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS PERSONALLY WHAT IS IT THAT MOTIVATES YOU GUYS IN YOUR PERSONAL LIVES? WHAT ARE THE VALUES THAT KIND OF DRIVE YOU?

Being independent for me personally. Being like what she was just talking about finding a balance between how you support yourself financially because everybody has to do it you know and then everything else ties into that you know. Working to live and not you know.

MODERATOR – BUT WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE DOING WHEN YOU'RE LIVING. WHAT ARE THOSE PRIORITIES?

You know for me the wintertime, I'm on the mountain 40 to 50 days and I still work a full time job. You know that is priority for me in the wintertime and then I switch gears in the summertime. You know I do everything that I can to stay outside, to stay free, stay clear, stuff like that.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I try to keep a sense of adventure whether it be small adventures or big adventures but I hate feeling like my life has become monotonous and that I am working you know back again to that where I am doing the same thing everyday, waking up at 6:00 and going home at 5:00. I have to have things to change it up a little bit and spice things up I guess. I have to have that sense of adventure.

Along the same lines, travel really drives me to make enough money to save to take 1 or 2 big trips a year.

MODERATOR – AND WHY, WHAT IS IT ABOUT TRAVELING? WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU?

Just the different experiences I mean. You get to somewhere else other than the United States and there are so many more beautiful places out here and cultures and things to learn about other people's cultures. It is incredible.

And it is worth forgoing fixing the car (interrupted)

Right.

...and driving a less expensive car to save up for those experiences.

I think back to what makes our generation different as well as that we have been exposed to more cultures whether it be through our own personal travel or just the making of our country now having so many ethnicity's here, I think that our generation is really one of the first to be very accepting of all cultures and empathy.

Certain region.

Right. I know there are still a lot of problems but.

MODERATOR – YOUNG ADULTS IN THE 80'S AND THE 90'S WERE REFERRED TO AS THE ME GENERATION. YOU KNOW THE NOTION THAT THEY WERE CONSUMED WITH THEMSELVES AND SELF-CENTERED, (INAUDIBLE), BLAH, BLAH. WHAT WOULD YOU LABEL YOUR GENERATION. DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SIMILARLY A ME GENERATION OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THAT BETTER DESCRIBES WHAT YOU GUYS ARE ABOUT?

Usually it is another generation that decides.

Generations don't get to define themselves.

Right. Somebody looks in and goes they're self, they're the me or they're whatever. I don't know what people see us as.

MODERATOR – I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I would say we're spawns of that though. I think people our age are very self centered whether it be the go do experiences and do things for other people but they also gain something from that.

The Nintendo generation. I don't think any of us grew up without having entertainment having all varieties at our fingertips. Interactive entertainment has become much more important than passive. We want to be a part of an experience. As we were saying that is why we travel. That is why people want to play games now instead of just watching movies, being a participant and having a role in the motivating factor because we do live in a time where things are somewhat discouraging and troubling. I know what I'm study is that I hope to make a difference for the future of humanity and I know I personally may not be able to make a huge difference but I can change people and challenge people's views, try to be more giving of myself.

I think we are a very independent generation. The underlying one because everything that we've been saying here, being independent and breaking out of your own roles and accepting people of different races or trying new countries, you know doing all different things that you know.

MODERATOR – SO WHAT ARE YOU INDEPENDENT FROM?

I just think we are independent from (interrupted)

Traditional roles.

...yeah, traditional roles and maybe we can still hold onto the morals and values that our parents instilled in us but we get to be independent in our political views and there are a lot of things going on with just who we want to be and I think that we have an independence from maybe what people thought we were going to be.

I think in a sense fluidity too as labels aren't as important a they use to be. You know and you could imagine a conservative country where children would never think to change their identity or their religion but here labels of religion and identity are much less important to us. I mean if somebody called me a Caucasian or white what does that matter to me it is just what I was born but who I define as myself is a lot more important than what other people say what I am.

MODERATOR – JACOB MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT MADE HIM TO MAJOR IN WHAT HE DID IS THE DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE. DOES THAT SENSE OF GREATER GOOD OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE OUTSIDE OF YOURSELF APPLY BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT MAKING MONEY; YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ALL THESE GREAT EXPERIENCES THAT THEY REALLY SEEM TO BE VERY SELF-CENTERED. I'M NOT SAYING THAT IS NECESSARILY A BAD THING BUT IS THERE ALSO A DESIRE THERE TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE GREATER GOOD AND TO MAKE THAT IMPACT?

I feel discouraged from doing something like for the greater good, like take my field, I'm going to be in healthcare and you just talk about how our healthcare system is so terrible and however many people don't have the healthcare and people are going to get treated and they can't get the treatment that they need to survive and it just feels like this huge thing, what am I going to do as one person.

I'm really having a personal struggle with this as a teacher because I went into that thinking that I couldn't bring myself to do a business job for 40 hours a week and I love what I do and I feel that I am helping kids and making a difference but I am not making enough money. I mean it is a decent salary but I can't afford to take the trips I want to take and so I don't know what that balance is.

I am going to graduate from nursing school in May and I am so excited to be able to go to other places and actually have a skill. I have been to other countries on trips where you are building houses or cleaning up but I have never had an actual scope besides that to give to the people and I spent time in South Africa last year at an Aids Hospice and I spent time in Mexico just building houses for people who have zero money and for me I am really excited that that is part of my education. I also can go anywhere in the world and have something to offer and there are so many trips for healthcare people you know, Mercy Ships, Doctors Without Borders, Smiles, you know there are just a million things to do, which makes me feel at least I can give back. I have been very blessed. You know the least I can do is share that and that is going to be exciting for me that I will be able to have something to give.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I think for humans in general it is a very hard balance to find within yourself to give more and expect less. You know what I am saying? I struggle with it all the time. I think everybody has that within them to give back to the people whether you are just giving back to a sibling or something like that, you still have that gratification but you also fall back into that if you want to call it a rut where you think about yourself and you're selfish and like she just said, she loves what she does and she knows that she is giving back to the community who she teaches for but yet she is not being paid enough to live the life that she truly want to live.

MODERATOR – OTHER PEOPLE ON THIS QUESTION OF KIND OF REACHING OUT BEYOND YOURSELF TO THE GREATER GOOD?

I'd say right now my main motivator would be money. I don't know if it is because I am so young and I can't see like the bigger picture yet. I think as I mature more and I grow as a person I kind of like see that more but right now I would have to say, I want to make sure like I am successful first and then I can say you like yeah I'd go back and give back to the community but you can't guarantee that and I think that is part of, it seems like a lot of your guys have like realized that and it seems like I'm not quite as far as you, kind of still in that torn stage but as you kind of mature and kind of getting towards that wanting to give back.

MODERATOR – JUSTIN?

I think with the career that I chose I get to see it everyday. I mean people don't call us when they are having a bad day so whenever they call us I get to go there and solve whatever problem they're having so I get to see it on a daily basis. Seeing somebody having a bad situation and fixing it somehow so I feel great doing that and whatever problem it might be so.

MODERATOR – WHAT THAT PART OF WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO CHOOSE THAT PROFESSION OR WHAT?

Yeah, sure. I like the excitement of the career and all that and the money is all right. I am never going to be a millionaire. It is not great but I have a lot of time off. I get paid decently, so.

MODERATOR – SO BACK TO KIND OF YOUR VALUES. WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT VALUES IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT THEY OFTEN TALK ABOUT THEM ON A LINE. YOU GOT LIBERAL ON ONE END AND CONSERVATIVE ON THE OTHER AND SOMEONE IS SUPPOSE TO BE SOMEWHERE ON THAT CONTINUUM. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR VALUES DO YOU SEE THEM SOMEWHERE ON A LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE CONTINUUM OR DO YOU THINK OF THEM AS NOT FITTING ON THAT TWO DIMENSIONAL LINE OF BEING SOMEWHERE ELSE?

I think it is about a line. I just don't, for me personally isn't so right or left wing. I mean you see perspectives of both sides on a lot of issues and some issues I feel really strongly on one side but a lot of them are kind of, it just depends on the issue.

It is like taking every issue and making a line. It is somewhere different for each one. Some are super conservative, some are super liberal. Some are in the middle and not convinced at all.

MODERATOR – WELL I AM TALKING ABOUT NOT NECESSARILY ABOUT SPECIFIC ISSUES BUT AGAIN YOU'RE PERSONAL VALUES, YOUR PERSONAL WORLD VIEW HOW WOULD YOU LABEL THAT? DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A CONSERVATIVE PERSON? DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A LIBERAL PERSON OR IS THERE ANOTHER TERM THAT BETTER DESCRIBES YOU?

I don't even think the terms liberal or conservative mean what they really mean. I mean we have these terms that we've identified within our national context what they mean but the textbook definition of what being a conservative means is quite different. I mean to conserve a thing. You could conserve a lot of different things and not necessarily be a conservative. Being careful with your money, I mean it seems like (interrupted)

MODERATOR – BUT IN TODAY'S WORLD WHAT DOES CONSERVATIVE MEAN TO YOU?

Conservative, I don't know what it means because like I said it is so confused. When I think of conservative ideally it is being careful, being modest and not spending billions of dollars for no

really good reason but the issues and the values that have been chosen by the two sides have changed overtime.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELVES AS?

I would say that more of the conservative side at issues and feel like I fit more towards that side.

MODERATOR – WOULD YOU CALL YOURSELF A CONSERVATIVE THOUGH?

Yeah.

MODERATOR – AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU WHEN YOU DO?

That means I can identify with a certain party and in most part what that party believes in I believe in so I can vote down the party line knowing that when I vote that way these people are representing me and what I believe in.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

It is funny at Boulder High School I was considered a really big conservative and then I went to school in Texas and they thought I was a flaming liberal. You know it just depends on where you are.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

I don't know. I can't vote down the party line. I vote different all over the place depending on what position it is. I am somewhere in the middle.

MODERATOR – RYAN?

That is how I am. My dad was always conservative. He still is. He considers himself conservative you now like he would always kind of preach that on me but I'm like just torn between some of these things. I couldn't put a certain label on myself.

MODERATOR – WHEN YOU GUYS THINK OF A CONSERVATIVE WHAT DO YOU THINK OF? WHAT COMES TO MIND? WHAT IS CONSERVATIVE?

I think some of the most conservative people are also radical.

So republicans now who consider them conservatives think less taxation, usually as far as abortion, family values they kind of mean anti-abortion, all those things I think are conservative. Less money for social programs in community.

MODERATOR – OKAY, SO YOU THINK IN TERMS OF PARTISAN?

Yeah, I do, yeah.

MODERATOR – OKAY, HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I agree with Ali.

Yeah.

MODERATOR – YOU THINK ABOUT IT THE SAME WAY? YOU THINK ABOUT IT IN PARTISAN TERMS?

Yes.

MODERATOR – ANOTHER TERM THAT WE HEAR ABOUT A LOT IS PROGRESSIVE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU IF SOMEONE CALLS THEMSELVES A PROGRESSIVE WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

It means that they are out to change. It means that they are making moves. They are following those people that are making those moves and they are making change.

There is a big movement in healthcare right now to move toward evidence based practice, which means looking at the evidence and then having a practice that satisfies that instead of how it has always been and so when I think of progressive I think of people who could see beyond just how it has always been done and see actually what would be appropriate in this specific situation, this specific one [look] at the avenues and move from there, not just what they been told.

MODERATOR – OTHER PEOPLE ON PROGRESSIVE?

I think progressive is people who maybe think that they are conservative just based on making societal standard and then they kind of (inaudible) about specific issues and maybe think that they feel differently so that they are not so convinced that they one way and so they are kind progressing to a different stage.

MODERATOR – DO ANY OF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A PROGRESSIVE? WOULD YOU DEFINE YOURSELF THAT WAY?

I never had.

Compared to what?

MODERATOR – THAT IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND. ARE THERE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU?

I use my earlier [apprehension] example about labels. I don't want to be labeled because a single word doesn't necessarily appropriate to define the complexity of my views on a lot of subjects.

MODERATOR – SO YOU GUYS SAID EARLIER THAT INDEPENDENT WAS A GOOD WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR GENERATION. IS THAT IT LIKE KIND OF A REJECTION OF?

I think in a lot of places independents, so called independents outnumber republicans and democrats. You might register in a different way. My brother registered republican only to vote for a certain person in the primary election even though his personal values are so completely different from that party.

MODERATOR – SHIFT GEARS A LITTLE BIT NOW. LOOKING AT OUR COUNTRY AND LOOKING AT THE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY. NOT JUST PRESIDENT BUSH BUT POLITICAL LEADERS ACROSS THE BOARD, CORPORATE LEADERS, YOU KNOW LARGE CORPORATIONS, ALL THE DIFFERENT LEADERSHIP ACROSS OUR COUNTRY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY IS SERVING US WELL? I SEE SOME HEADS SHAKING. MOLLY YOUR HEAD IS SHAKING THERE.

Yeah, no I don't.

MODERATOR – WHY NOT?

Um, oh for a lot of reason. I just don't know, well I feel now a lot of times we have to pick between the lesser of two evils anyway but I feel that the country is so divided in so many ways that not everyone you now complete represented by just who is in office. There are still so many other generations that are still voting so the younger generations that our up and coming aren't fully represented in what our beliefs are and what we would do for the country.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? HOW WOULD YOU RATE OUR CURRENT LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY?

It is going from bad to worst. People are increasingly less qualified for (inaudible) positions and increasingly less credible and reliable. I think one reason that Bush was elected in the first place was because people were fed-up with Clinton and being so incredible with scandals and whatnot and we end up in with a guy in the office who is even worst.

MODERATOR – OKAY, WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK OF THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP? AGAIN NOT JUST POLITICAL LEADERSHIP BUT CORPORATE, ALL (INTERRUPTED)

Enron, (many people talking).

You know I have a problem with the way that big corporations represent themselves within the United States but yet I work for a very large corporation that makes billions and billions of dollars and we just went through one of those types of scandals and I am very torn how these people, these very, very top high level people who make these decision and make a lot of money making these decisions let themselves be viewed in that sort of manner in our country. You know we are supposed to be free capitalist you know. I think it is a, especially a corporate leadership is very disappointing these days especially within the last decade or more.

Yeah.

I agree with that statement and I also think too because now as young people we are all getting educated on that that it will give us an opportunity in the future to change that too by [looking] at the Enron stuff and all the stuff that has been, like last year, I don't remember exactly what it was, it had to do with a health company and they were like backdating their stock options and stuff like that. It kind of shows that you're not going to get away with it and also I think with the corporate leadership thing they are thinking about themselves and only themselves. They are not thinking about what they are going to do with all those people who are working underneath them and actually seeing that myself it is kind of is like this is [what happened] when I enter the business world, it can't be about yourself. You have to look at what your decisions are going to do that are going to affect other people also and I don't think that is happening right not with most corporate leadership.

I think the idea of trying to change that though is suffocating. It is almost like you were saying one person trying to make a change on a really big overall thing. It seems like we can't even touch it.

Well it totally has to be a nationwide, global wide, whatever you want to call it, it has to be an all around the board practice. I mean you just take a look at what is going on with the housing market right now. It was a widely used practice to use creative [findings] and now look what it is doing to our economy. It is buckling people at the knees you know so I mean yeah to change it it has to be a widely used practice.

If we're switching to any word we are going to go with independent, (inaudible) like Molly was saying so many different people are out that maybe they are not getting represented but so many people have so many different ideas how would those people be satisfied that they are being represented the way they want to be represented? You know I think that suffocating part.

We I was going to say we need leadership in technology. I mean we take our technology for granted and it can't solve all of our problem but there is so much potential for new technologies to solve some of our own problems. Our dependency on foreign oil, which is leading to a massive amount of money is flying out of the country to the Middle East and if we could get ourselves energy independent or at least start making steps towards that it could be a technological evolution and green technology can actually lead business becoming more progressive and more, have a major impact to increase the economy.

I totally agree with you but that requires a handful of people, (interrupted) leadership, you know what I am saying.

We need a leadership that will, that we can get around and make that happen. Trusts were [busted] in the past under the administration of Teddy Roosevelt and it not impossible to do that today either.

MODERATOR - ARE THERE ANY INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS OUT THERE THAT YOU WOULD POINT TO AS SUCCESSFUL MODELS OF LEADERSHIP, THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE MORE OF IN THIS COUNTRY?

I read an article on the two guys who started Ebay, it was either Ebay or Google and the way that they modeled their business and the way that their employees were compensated and they had a really open book way of doing, like if you wanted to take a break I trust that I've hired the right person who will make up those hours, that you will put in your time and you are not held to like an 8-5 and you not getting kind of like a smack on the wrist every time. It was a very interesting way the way they gave their employees stock and they really made their employees feel like they were part of the corporation instead of. Like the company I work for it all goes up to (inaudible).

Yeah I agree. I was going to say specifically Google. I don't know if it is the same thing that (inaudible – interrupted) think of but I think their focus is, I think is, I know they have the room to grow and make a ton of money but it seems like their focus is on the employees and what are we going to do for the employees to keep them here as opposed to how many cuts do we have to make to make this much more money next year so I think they represent a good way to make money. I know they are in a technology industry, which we say is booming but you know we can still make money by and treat our employees well, which keeps them there, which in the end is going to benefit everybody.

MODERATOR - OTHER EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP THAT YOU CAN POINT TO?

I know that so many companies are moving to build green and to make sure that they are making less of a footprint with what they are doing and that is really to me, especially when we are trying to move away from being dependent on oil for all of our energy but I don't have any specific names.

MODERATOR - NO, THAT'S FINE. THAT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE. ANYTHING ELSE?

I just heard Allstate gives a plan that you can sign up for that gives money back to the companies that create a lot of pollution or some sort of concept like that, which is a really good [segway] that they're demonstrating that you can offer something to the people that will compensate for the amount of pollution that they are putting in the air per year, which I'm hoping since someone took that step that they are setting a good example for the other companies to follow so I think that is a really good example to follow.

MODERATOR - LOOKING AT THE POLITICAL ISSUE, LOOKING AT THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY ARE THEY FOCUSING ON THE ISSUES THAT THEY SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON? ARE THEY FOCUSED ON THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY?

Depends on who you talk to. I believe that there are a lot of things that go on within our borders that we put by the waist side to concentrate on those things that go on outside of our borders like importing oil, importing goods from overseas and stuff like that to keep our economy strong yet we still have a very, very huge poverty level here in this country.

It is disproportioned among all the other countries and our life expectancy is actually lower in proportion to our prosperity.

Which doesn't surprise me.

Have you guys seen the documentary SICKO?

Yeah.

I'm going to see it eventually.

MODERATOR - OTHER PEOPLE WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE IN OUR COUNTRY IS IT OF LEADERS FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES THEY SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON? MOLLY YOU SAY NO.

I don't think so and I think there is also a lack of protecting us and we are concerned about going to war and other things you know we don't have anymore protecting us like the whole Enron thing or United being able to claim bankruptcy and take 80% of a lot of people's pensions that worked there for their entire lives, planned on having that and that sort of thing. I mean there is concern but no one is doing anything about it and they're not doing anything about it.

I am of the opinion that neither party really represents the people because controversial topics and the kind of things that make or should be part of a solution aren't talked about. I mean a gas tax is so unpopular because the word tax is avoided like the plague but when times are hard sometimes you need to make those choices, even talk about them at least and I don't hear anybody talking about a gas tax, which probably would be good because it would keep some of the money here. I mean we pay more for milk than we do for gas still. (Interrupted).

Isn't that crazy.

Yeah.

...yeah, and we are so focused and so dependent on our cars and yet if we don't find solutions that dependency is like an addiction.

So true.

I don't think they are honest with, I think there is a ton of stuff going on that we don't know about, I mean like a ton and ton of stuff and I know there is a lot of like really, really, like we are very on the extreme side of either way but I just think that we are in the dark about a bigger idea of what government and the good old boys that continue to be up there have an idea and a plan and they know and we just kind of have to be like, what is a reality to us is our everyday lives and what is important to is (interrupted) above us. Yeah we don't even know.

MODERATOR - THAT RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION BECAUSE IN THE BEGINNING YOU GUYS TALKED ABOUT HOW TECHNOLOGY HAS GIVEN YOU ACCESS TO SO MUCH INFORMATION AND SO MUCH GOING ON YET YOU ARE SAYING AT THE SAME TIME (INTERRUPTED)

Well I can find it. I mean is (inaudible) and the North American Union and how there is a highway that goes from Canada to Mexico but then you can also find (interrupted)

The technology that we have access to they have access to more.

...And how do you know if it is true or not. That is the problem with the internet, you can Google something about how to make a cake and it could be totally wrong. I mean you have not idea that it is the correct information.

MODERATOR - HOW DO YOU GUYS DO THAT? HOW DO YOU DECIPHER? HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT INFORMATION IS RELIABLE AND WHAT INFORMATION IS NOT IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO SO MUCH?

I go by recommendations because so much of it is crap.

MODERATOR - SO IT STILL BOILS DOWN TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW OR ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU TRUST AND WHOSE YOU DON'T.

Gut feelings.

Yeah gut feelings. I just read the book Kevin Trudeau and he is very, Natural Cures the government doesn't let you know about. It is crazy but it is easy, very, very like. He talks about how the FDA just like if you go and buy a prescription drug like Johnson and Johnson all these companies that provide Band-Aids and stuff like that they are basically allowing you to only have one thing and you have to pay a lot of money for that even though there are 10 other options that they won't give you the access to. (Interrupted)

Because of the relationship that they have with the governments, with the pharmaceutical companies, those people that retire from politics go work for pharmaceutical companies and make that FDA policy.

That is with anything you know.

Yeah so that is like the bigger. We hear so much stuff we don't know and if you go to a trusted website you think, I don't know there are the medical ones you may not be getting the information that you should trust at trusted sites.

MODERATOR - SO WHERE DOES ALL THIS LEAVE US CORPORATE LEADERS WHO ARE LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES AND NOT WORRYING ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES. YOU HAVE POLITICAL LEADERS WHO DEAL WITH THE SPECIAL INTEREST AND NOT TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE. YOU'VE OUTLINED ALL THESE PROBLEMS. WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

And people are so skeptical because we do have access to more information but also we have the chance to travel and we go to other places and we see, wait a minute what I can witness in this other country is very different from the rhetoric that I read in the news and while we have all these new organizations most of us can only read in English so we are still narrowed in a way. We have access to different opinions but (interrupted)

You can go to other countries and they have riots in the street about genetically modified food and they have new policies about what they will allow in their cosmetics and things that I don't know if you heard on the radio this new book called Exposed but what is in our toys about all this stuff coming out about lead that is in toys that kids chew on, lead in the lipstick all this stuff and this was research done by American scientists and they presented it to the U.S. and they didn't want to do anything about it because the bottom line is (many people talking) and European policy makers bought it and changed all their laws and so now they had a recall of toys from their shelves and they were sent to third world countries and the U.S. because we don't care.

Front page news they are almost like blaming China for our problem but it never ever talks about the companies or at least doesn't point the finger at the companies who are using the cheap labor of China to manufacture goods to bring here. They are as much of a responsibility at oversight, they have just as much responsibility to make sure that the products that they are marketing to us are safe as any poor manufacturer is trying to make a quick buck at China's doing so there is an opportunity for the two sides to (inaudible) at each other help each other but they just try to make as much money and much profit as possible.

MODERATOR - SOMEBODY MENTIONED EARLIER THAT WE HAVE THESE LEADERS WHO ARE DOING THESE THINGS BUT THEN THE REST OF US ARE KIND OF SHEEP. I MEAN DO WE HAVE ANY POWER TO CHANGE THIS? DO WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?

What it comes down to, I mean you have lobbyists who go around stuffing \$100.00 bills in people's pockets to get them, to sway them to be on their side to vote a certain way, to say certain things, to make certain speeches, to make certain decisions. I mean without that type of, I hate to say it but without that type of power and money what is the average American going to do.

I think that is where some of our selfish nature has come from that it is hard to help other people and it is hard to make a difference so I personally feel that I don't get into politics very much because I don't know what I could possibly do to make a difference and it kind of roles back to you know like an independent generation that I have my beliefs and you have yours and yours and yours and we just coexist and we make the best of it but.

I don't try and change anything.

I feel like sometimes, I feel that the only power I have is my consumer power so I can choose what I buy, who I buy from, where I buy from, the stores I buy from and who I definitely won't buy from and I am just one person, sorry I don't go into WalMart.

Well economist talk about this, large companies are actually few, they are not that many people but they are highly organized and they are able to organize because there is not that many of them. Consumers are so spread out and so disorganized and so far and wide that it is hard to be organized as a consumer. I mean unions at one point play that role but they're not really anymore and labor unions wouldn't really fill the role of solving this kind of problem today.

MODERATOR - DO YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO ORGANIZE INDIVIDUALS TO DO THAT? I MEAN WE TALK ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY AND ALL THESE YOU KNOW I MEAN (INTERRUPTED)

You have the potential but I think you have 20, 30-year-old people who are less motivated and more selfish and less involved and so who knows what is going to happen.

They are also comfortable enough that it hasn't made enough of a difference in our lives that we would be compelled to take (interrupted)

MODERATOR - SO THAT IS IT YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE WATER COMING OUT OF YOUR TAP IS BLACK OR YOU KIDS ARE SUCKING ON LEAD?

When it is too late, that late that is why I brought up before my interest in trying to make a difference. I'm in school but when I finish I would like to do something that is, even though I can travel if the world was messed up and polluted beyond recognition I can't go to those places and enjoy it with my family. We have set aside land and we have had the blessing to be able to set aside land for prosperity and national parks but most of the places aren't able to do that and by recognizing it and knowing it we want to have these experiences and we want to share them with other people and the world is just **(SIDE B)** ...and that is kind of a motivation isn't it. You have to take the steps before it is too late.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

MODERATOR - WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE TO GET PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WHATEVER IT IS?

We're starting to see some affects of that right now especially with the oil importing and the whole energy crisis that we're going through but it just depends. It depends on how dramatically it changes and how quickly it changes. (Interrupted)

Yeah it is going to have to get really bad.

...Like very quick, like within a 12 month span. You know something serious and whether it be the energy crisis, gas or war in our land or something like that. (Interrupted)

Or a pandemic.

...Yeah, its got to happen quick. These horrible changes that we face on a daily basis that just kind of lull, they just kind of lull and hang around and hang around they give us the opportunity to accept it. You know what I'm saying?

MODERATOR - SO SOMEBODY JUST NEEDS TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF YOU GUYS?

I don't fear works.

With that lull it goes back to being like desensitize and then we just kind of adjust to it and then like tomorrow gas is two more cents and (inaudible – interrupted)

Right, it is like what's two cents.

Yeah.

It gives us the opportunity.

I think the example of 9/11 shows that we shouldn't react with fear towards a desperate situation because you will end up worst off then you were before. I mean we had a chance to use our [soft] power and we basically let it slip away almost completely to the point where (interrupted)

Act violently, yeah.

And waste billions of dollars and we could have used to actually make ourselves safer than we are.

And I'll tell my friends after I read some of the book do you realize that we are just being controlled by this and that. We need to do this and our bodies are this and we are and they're like so.

How long does that affect you Ali? I mean does a certain amount of time go by before you (interrupted)

That I'm less passionate about it? Yeah but I try to make small changes and like I said it is who I buy from, what I am putting into my body like here we are like the greatest nation and 1 in 3 people have cancer.

I know.

MODERATOR - ...EVERYBODY PUT YOUR FIRST NAME UP IN THE RIGHT HAND CORNER. WHAT YOU GOT HERE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES, NOT NECESSARILY A COMPREHENSIVE LIST BUT SOME OF THE REALLY BIG CHALLENGES FACING OUR COUNTRY TODAY AND WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS READ THROUGH THE LIST, THERE ARE TEN IN ALL AND RANK ORDER THEM. TELL ME #1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND THE MOST URGENT ISSUE FOR OUR COUNTRY TO ADDRESS AND #2 IS THE NEXT ONE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO 10. GIVE ME THE LETTERS FOR 1, 2, AND 3 SO I CAN GET A SENSE OF WHERE YOU GUYS ARE.

My are G, A, and C.

A, I, and B.

MODERATOR - RYAN?

J, H and E.

MODERATOR - EMILY?

G, A and B.

A, C, and G.

B, G and F.

A, J, C.

I, B and D.

A, C and G.

A, B, H.

MODERATOR - SO AT LEAST ONE OF THESE PICK ANY OF THESE IN YOUR TOP THREE BUT HALF OF YOU MADE “A” YOU’RE #1. SEVEN OF YOU PUT IT IN YOUR TOP 2. WHAT IS ABOUT THAT ONE THAT RISES ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS?

It is running out.

We have already peaked oil production a few years ago. The amount of it that is going to be discovered is not going to be increase anymore.

Everyday there are more and more drivers on the road so we are just going to continue to try and use more and more of it. (Interrupted)

It is not just a national thing.

...Yeah.

I mean it is globally. The dependence is like an addiction like he said earlier and something has to change or we just flat don’t drive anymore. We don’t have you know (interrupted)

(Inaudible).

...Exactly.

Who we have to rely on and keeping those relationships well.

MODERATOR - WHAT ELSE DOES (INAUDIBLE) “A”?

Well everyday that we don’t try to solve this problem is another day that we haven’t improved the future of our leadership in technology whether it is (inaudible) or solar power or hybrid or (inaudible). A lot of people are now excited about hybrids. They are kind of cool but how many people can afford to buy new cars? I sure can’t and I actually don’t even drive very much so. I try to cut that out of my life as much as possible so I can save my money for better things than wasting it on gas.

I think it is an (tape interference) pollution issue.

MODERATOR - SO IT IS JUST NOT THE DEPENDENCE ON THE OIL IT IS ALSO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

It is what it is doing to the environment because I think if we don’t depend on oil we are going to be finding some other resource like the corn or water or whatever the case may be to be more green.

MODERATOR - G, FEAR OF TERRORISM. HALF OF YOU PICKED THAT ONE AS ONE OF YOUR TOP 3, WHY?

Because it is a direct threat to us and our family and how well our economy does.

And just the thought of not being safe, not being able to predict or know what is going to happen so it is kind of scary.

I didn't include it in my top 3 partially because it was so undefined. I didn't know what kind of terrorism. Is it physical terrorism? Is it psychological terrorism? Is it really extremists in the east or the west? There is all kinds of terrorism and so I would have put it in my top 3 if it was more defined what is terrorism. We don't actually know and that is why it is so scary because we don't really know what terrorism is. It is not just people who throwing bombs at us.

I think it is in the top 3 because at this point we know that it is not just a certain religion with guns but we are so susceptible in so many ways when they tell you even on the radio oh yeah all of our water resources they are just lakes that can be polluted at anytime with any, I think just because I feel so vulnerable in our system.

MODERATOR - C, THE RISE IN COST OF HEALTHCARE AND THE GROWING NUMBER OF THE UNINSURED. WHY IS HEALTHCARE SUCH A BIG ISSUE?

Well to be a productive society you have to have healthcare. You get sick you got to get better and I guess the whole thing falls into a lot of different areas but medication is expensive and the way our society is now the cure is not in the treatment, not the cure is not in the treatment, the money is not in the treatment. It is like you have to go and get Amoxicillin for you get a cold and stuff like that. I mean especially for those that don't actually have the insurance.

MODERATOR - WAS IS IT THAT WE NEED TO DO HERE? I MEAN ON ONE HAND YOU GOT THE RISING COST, YOU GOT THE GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNINSURED. WHAT IS IT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

That is a good question. I don't know. I thought about what the answer should be. I have no idea how they would balance that.

Rent SICKO.

There is no other issue on this list that has more impact on inequality in this country and the social stratification so you have to find some solution or we are going to (inaudible).

MODERATOR - DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT? I MEAN DO YOU THINK THAT HEALTHCARE IS SOMETHING THAT KIND OF REENFORCES ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES?

Yes. I mean it is a multibillion dollar industry and even the people who have insurance usually don't get covered like they might need.

MODERATOR - ANYONE ELSE ON HEALTHCARE?

I think it should be socialist.

People are not (inaudible) reenforcing economic differences. I mean if you go to a waiting room at Denver General or (inaudible) Health, I mean it is just, it is kind of a shot to your ego to have to sit there with your child with a waiting room full of people all day. I mean I have kids that go there. A lot of my kids are uninsured and they take off a day of school to go sit in the emergency room or sit at a doctor's office to get what they need and it kind of just, I mean when you are in that situation I don't know who I want to say this but it just reenforces that you are not important enough to get in to see a doctor sort of and you are sitting there with a bunch of sick people and I think, especially for children that is not right.

I agree with that.

My nephew has his own policy and his parents don't make enough money to pay for the stuff that he has to have done so they are suffering for having a child with a disability and it is kind of like what you're saying, like those people should be getting help, they should be getting everything that they need. Instead they are being pushed away or people turn their backs on them and that is really unfortunate.

MODERATOR - B, THE DECLINING QUALITY AND THE RISING INEQUALITY, WE ARE BACK TO THIS INEQUALITY AGAIN IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM. HALF OF YOU PICKED THAT AS ONE OF YOUR TOP 3, WHY?

Well this is linked to some pretty important issues. If our education can't produce enough qualified people, our education system is so basically blind and the other side is meritocracy that we have to import labor from other countries just in order to meet the demands that we need to grow the economy. We need a better education system so that we don't actually have to rely so much on other labor. I mean America has always been an immigration country and probably always will but if we have an education system that is inadequate how are you going to not only give our children a future but [demands] on the economy.

Or have successful leaders.

Yeah, or have successful leaders, exactly.

MODERATOR - HOW ELSE ON EDUCATION?

I personally think that the public school system is declining you know the work coming out of there and this is hard for me. I mean my fiancée is a public school teacher but I still believe it is

not where it should be and I personally am of the belief that we should go to a voucher system for various reasons but that is where I stand on it.

MODERATOR - THIS ISSUE OF INEQUALITY AGAIN, DO YOU SEE OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM AS UNEQUAL, YOU KNOW AREAS THAT PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING IS LOCALIZED TO A LARGE EXTENT SO AREAS THAT HAVE A LARGE TAX BASE WHERE PEOPLE MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, THE SCHOOLS HAVE MORE MONEY. AREAS, YOU KNOW OF A SMALLER TAX BASE WHERE PEOPLE DON'T MAKE AS MUCH HAVE LESS MONEY TO SPEND. DO YOU SEE THE SYSTEM AS BEING STRUCTURALLY UNEQUAL IN KIND OF REENFORCING THAT.

Absolutely.

Yes.

Not everyone can afford to go to a private school.

Not even a private school. I mean public schools that have recent edition textbooks and some schools that don't even have textbooks for everybody.

I work in DPS and I think one of the biggest differences that I see is parent involvement with the students but that is because parents are working 2 and 3 jobs and they are the immigrant families that are keeping things going in this country and it is kind of a vicious circle because the kids don't get the support they need at home and they come to school and they can't put in everything they need to put in at school but it is not always just the funding that causes that.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? (NO RESPONSE). DO YOU THINK IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS WAS EQUAL? I MEAN SOME PEOPLE HAVE ADVOCATED THAT WHERE YOU KNOW YOU BALANCE THE FUNDING ACROSS DISTRICTS SO BASICALLY PEOPLE IN WEALTHIER AREAS ARE SUBSIDIZING THE SCHOOLS IN LOWER AREAS, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DO? I MEAN NONE OF YOU HAVE KIDS NOW BUT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO LIVE IN A NICER AREA AND TO KNOW THAT ALL OF YOUR MONEY ISN'T GOING TO THE SCHOOLS THAT YOUR KIDS ARE GOING TO, IT IS GOING TO OTHER SCHOOLS INSTEAD.

Well I mean that is how you unify.

Right.

Well we are such a mobile society too. I mean you never know where you are going to move to. If I end up taking a good job in another state and I have a family how can I be sure that my kids are going to get the education that they deserve or that they will even have access to it. That is a question that I'm sure it has been talked about but the fact that we are so mobile and we feel like

we have a right to good education makes it a much more important issue than just saying fair is fair.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

But like Emily was saying it is just part of the story. Even if the money is equal there is still the multifaceted issue of home life and.

Yeah I think funding is a very small issue and education, I really do. I mean you can have as many expensive computers as you want but if they're not (inaudible – interrupted)...right, if the kids are not eating at home and they're not (interrupted).

They're too tired to even use the computer.

I think that you know you always maybe act differently when you're in the situation but personally I would be willing to unify so if I knew that some of my money that I am paying with my tax dollars is going to a poorer school district to support resources for them I would definitely be willing to do that personally.

I think another issue with the funding, like I agree with the computers and stuff don't affect like how a student is going to do but my mom is an elementary school teacher and she teachers at a lower income school and some of their funding got cut and because of that class size increased and I think that is a big thing to do with it because they had to take out some of the, I don't know what you call them, helpers that would come in, like teachers' assistants and stuff like that for the specialized reading groups that they had or whatever, like that and the funding for them got cut out, increasing the class sizes I think that affected it a lot so in that aspect of the funding I think it is, again like what you guys were saying with computers and stuff like that.

At the very least you need to attract good teachers. I mean DPS is I hear a harder district to work in and in order to get good teachers in a district you have to attract them and say well this is worth your while so that is where the money is important but also you need to look at the oversights that the money is spent in logical and consistent ways and it doesn't get wasted. This nation isn't completely corrupt. Some places in the world are but just because the money is there isn't going to solve all the problems either, so.

Another argument for funding, which is important. I don't mean to imply that it isn't important but the first thing that gets cut also are field trips and I personally feel that showing kids the world and showing them opportunities is huge and you don't read about those things in a book, you go see them and do them and that is what helps them [move] out of that poverty to know what else is out there.

Their hopes and dreams that they might go into science and physics and not just work at McDonald's.

Right.

MODERATOR - OKAY ONE MORE AND BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT “I”, THE INFLUENCE OF LOBBYISTS AND SPECIAL INTEREST IN OUR GOVERNMENT. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT LEADERSHIP YOU GUYS KEPT GOING BACK TO THAT THEME OVER AND OVER AGAIN. HOW BIG OF A PRIORITY IS THIS FOR YOU?

Well it is huge. I mean you got to have people that are legit, I mean people representing those people that are legit, you know what I’m saying. You know it seems like everybody in that type of situation or that position has an assistant or they have somebody that they go to for advice. You want those people giving that person who is leading whatever it is our country or a major corporation the right type of advice. You don’t want them giving them advice because it helps this other person that is in their back pocket.

MODERATOR - WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I think politicians can be bought and there is enough money in the lobbyist industry that they are just buying votes for their, you know whoever they are lobbying for and it takes the vote away from the people and the people aren’t being represented, the company with the most money is being represented.

MODERATOR - (INAUDIBLE) BECAUSE ALL OF YOU CAN VOTE, ALL OF YOU DO HAVE VOTES AND IF YOU VOTE AGAINST THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THIS (INTERRUPTED)

You don’t vote for lobbyists.

You get in a situation with candidates where both sides are already behold to the lobbyists’ interest and where is that candidate that we can actually choose that has credibility. I mean the reason this is so important that I voted #2 is that because aren’t even going to vote and our democracy is going to fly away if we don’t have candidates that we can trust and so.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE ABILITY THOUGH TO SAY LOOK THIS IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ME. I AM NOT GOING TO VOTE FOR SOMEBODY WHO TAKES LOBBYIST MONEY. I AM NOT GOING TO VOTE FOR SOMEBODY TAKE MONEY FROM THE HEALTHCARE TAX OR WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE.

Then you are stuck in a situation where if you don’t vote you didn’t have a voice in the first place and all the voting rate drops and continues to drop and I think maybe that started in the first place and that is where lobbyists got their foot in the door was people paying less attention.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

See I think you can solve the problem that way. A candidate can run on a platform that they are not going to fall to the prey of lobbyists and if it was such a problem like people might think it is

then you know, there [would] be a candidate that would come up and run on it and we'd vote for that person but the fact that there isn't and that were not voting for that person I think it proves right there that it is not that huge of a problem.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK IS IT NOT AS BIG A PROBLEM OR IS IT JUST A MATTER OF APATHY AND PEOPLE NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

Well I had just (inaudible) about this problem a while back although I can't remember it now but it is a fairly recent occurrence and it's got exponentially worse within the last 10, 15 years or so. I mean remember the situation when there were very few lobbyists to now hundreds and hundreds of them.

MODERATOR - LOOK AT THIS LIST. DO YOU SEE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES? THIS IS A PRETTY LONG LIST, A LOT OF BIG CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY. DO YOU SEE US MAKING POSITIVE PROGRESS ON ANY OF THESE?

Sure. I mean maybe at a very slow rate but yeah. Absolutely. I mean you just take "A" for example, we are now thanks to our eyes being open we are now driving hybrid cars. Major corporations are now basically making the companies that they buy products from be more green in their manufacturing and stuff like that. I mean yeah it is progress, it is slow but it is progress.

Addressing it as a problem I think is a small step in the right direction.

MODERATOR - ADMITTING YOU HAVE A PROBLEM IS THE FIRST STEP.

I agree. There is a lot of [recognition] that these are problems. I don't really, aside from "A" I don't really see a whole lot of movement. I mean illegal immigration, there is movement. I don't know if I think it is positive or negative yet but there is movement. I haven't heard anything about trade imbalances.

MODERATOR - ANYONE ELSE POINT TO PROGRESS HERE?

Well I am fairly optimistic about the first one only because there is a lot of great technology out there. It already exist. The problem is I think is we are not putting enough funding behind those great ideas and making commitments to them that can actually cause the change. Technology (inaudible) already exists. There are already pump stations that you can install it, give you hydrogen fuel for free. I mean it already has gotten to a point now where they could create that infrastructure but a lot of these ideas that are being out there by those pioneers aren't given the amount of attention and money. I think that I where the problem seems to go is that these great ideas that already exists and are out there need to be given a chance.

MODERATOR - OTHER PEOPLE, SEE PROGRESS OR LACK OF PROGRESS HERE?

For those of you with ties to the education system I really don't know what No Child Left Behind is but is that progress as far as?

Yeah it is and it isn't. I mean it causes a lot of hassle with a lot of teachers and they do lose good teachers as a result but I think it is a step in the right direction. I mean it basically says that teachers have to be educated to the highest level in their specific [content] area where as before you could graduate from college with a sociology degree and you could teach math and that is not legal anymore.

I think we are going in the wrong direction in one aspect of public education that we are not moving towards progress in that these CSAT tests, I have a lot of teacher friends who feel that they spend more of their time teaching their kids how to take a test than educating them to have the necessary knowledge to perform well on the test so I think that has been a way that George Bush has said he is going to improve the educational system and I think that it has done the opposite.

MODERATOR - HOW DO YOU CREATE PROGRESS? HOW DO YOU TURN THE CORNER ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES AND START MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? WHERE IS THE LEADERSHIP COME FROM? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

Media. I feel like last election MTV spent months and months and months talking about voting and that made a huge impact on people under the age of 25 going out to vote.

But actually there was no increase in voters in that age group.

Oh really, I thought I heard statistics that it was.

No.

MODERATOR - DOES ANYBODY KNOW IF YOUNGER PEOPLE VOTED MORE IN THE LAST ELECTION?

(Many people talking).

Well I just remember hearing later that even a lot of people who wore the shirts and were on TV weren't even registered and that it wasn't, like they expected a huge increase and it was minuscule.

MODERATOR - THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN 2004, NOT A LOT BUT THERE WAS AN INCREASE OVER 2000.

I wouldn't give credit to MTV for that though because that was really the only media [strain] that they are at least trying to bring up ideas and problems to the younger generation and give them a more broad point of view or a way to really express themselves rather than CNN or ABC.

I think the internet had a much bigger affect than MTV because people put more hours on the internet than MTV.

Oh absolutely, but.

MODERATOR - HOW ARE PEOPLE MOTIVATED BY THE INTERNET THOUGH? HOW DOES THE INTERNET GET PEOPLE MOVING AND ACTIVE?

Because with MTV they relate to the culture of it or like they can feel like they are a part of a bigger group. I don't know about the internet.

I saw a thing a TV the other day that said there was going to be some live broadcast or whatever it is on My Space like a debate of something.

It actually just happened a couple of nights ago. It was John McCain.

It was on MTV but then they broadcasted on My Space too.

Which is probably a good idea seeing as how (interrupted)

You could end up with higher ratings on Utube than on the actual channel that it runs on, which is pretty interesting.

Because you can focus on what it is exactly that you want to see. You don't have to watch a whole hour or two hours or whatever.

You can filter it more.

Yeah, you can zero in on exactly what you want. Instant gratification.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR GENERATION AGAIN, THAT THE YOUNGER PEOPLE CAN PLAY A ROLE IN REVERSING THIS AND GETTING THINGS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION? (INTERRUPTED)

I think they can.

I don't know.

Anything is possible but I still feel like something drastic truly needs to happen to kind of shake the people out of that mold, out of that whole independence, desensitized feeling that it seems like a lot of people feel.

MODERATOR - OTHER PEOPLE? (NO RESPONSE). WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE TO SHAKE PEOPLE OUT OF THAT?

I think honestly, I hate to say it but I think a war that would happen here somewhere in the United States would definitely wake us up. Not that it could happen. I think our military is probably one of the strongest in the world. Maybe not the strongest but one of the strongest.

It is absolutely the strongest military by far, oh yeah. There is no contest (interrupted).

MODERATOR - IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT IS GOING TO SHAKE PEOPLE UP THAT IS GOING TO TAKE THEM TO TAKE ACTION TO DO SOMETHING?

I am actually somewhat optimistic that the fiascos that have happened over the last few years are slowly turning, waking people up. Wait a minute we have walking in the wrong direction for the last 7 years. We need to turn right around and get back to the things that make America great. Not give into fear and worry about the kind of things that we can't stop and stand up for what we value. I mean our constitution values a lot more than stopping some guy in some shadowy place and all this rhetoric about stopping them. (Inaudible).

I think accurate information and truth gets me in a place where I want to act.

MODERATOR – BUT THEN WHAT DO YOU DO? YOU GET THAT INFORMATION, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, HOW TO TRANSLATE KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION?

I see our generation doing a lot with the green movement. I mean that people our age are really starting to be conscious of what we use and it is kind of a popular cause.

MODERATOR – I'VE HEARD THAT. I MEAN IS IT BECAUSE IT IS TRENDY? IS IT BECAUSE BRAD PITT AND LEONARDO DECAPRIO SAY IT IS COOL? IS THAT WHY PEOPLE DO IT?

(Many people talking).

(Inaudible) when it became trendy. When I was in elementary school we have just simple things that kids could do to save the earth.

Yeah, I was just going to say when I was in elementary school every Earth Day you know, I mean just because it was a day but you know I was still in elementary school, I was a kid. We went out there and we separated stuff out of the trash can.

I did, I dug through the trash as a kid to get the white paper out.

MODERATOR – SO THERE WAS EDUCATION BACK THEN AND IT IS TRANSLATING INTO ACTION NOW.

And instead of it being like crazy hippy now it has just become how it needs to be.

This is what needs to be done, Mother Earth so to speak.

MODERATOR – IT IS JUST THE THING TO DO, THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

It should be the right thing to do.

MODERATOR – LET'S TALK ABOUT A COUPLE SPECIFIC ISSUES. FLIP TO HANDOUT 2 AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU GUYS HIGHLIGHTED ACTUALLY WHEN WE TALKED EARLIER, WHAT I'VE GOT HERE IS JUST A STATEMENT ABOUT SOME HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES JUST FACING THE COUNTRY AND WHERE WE SHOULD GO FROM HERE. I'LL READ IT OUT LOUD AND YOU JUST READ ALONG WITH ME AND UNDERLINE OR MARK ANYTHING THAT JUMPS OUT AT YOU AND THEN WE WILL TALK ABOUT IT.

EACH NEW GENERATION IS SUFFERING AN EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC PREVENTABLE DISEASES DUE TO A POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT, A LACK OF BASIC HEALTHCARE AND THE POISONS WE FEED THEM EVERYDAY. EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS OR INCOME SHOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND PROPER NUTRITION. PARENTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE IMPACT OF PREVENTIVE CARE AND PROPER NOURISHMENT WILL HAVE ON A CHILD. IF WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE MONEY ON HEALTHCARE WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE ROOT COURSES OF THIS CRISIS WE WILL ONLY WEAKEN OUR ECONOMY AND CONDEMN MILLIONS MORE CHILD TO SUFFERING AND DISEASE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT STATEMENT?

I think the media and a lot of people try to kind of sensationalize pollution in the environment and things like that and some of these words, the polluted environments, poisons we feed them everyday. I think it is very sensational and it grabs peoples' attention and I think people are attracted to those words and they just go along with believing them and I think a lot of people believe that us humans have much more of an impact on the earth than we actually do. Yeah, I might believe in global warming and stuff but are humans causing it and can we do anything about it? I don't think so. I think it is probably just a trend.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? DO YOU BELIEVE THE SETUP OF THIS THING? DO YOU BELIEVE WE ARE SUFFERING AN EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC PREVENTABLE DISEASES?

100%

Me too.

Are you kidding. Just in New York.

I'm sorry, I'm trying not to get in a debate here but I hate to think that me as a human driving my freaking Jeep around everywhere I go does not affect the atmosphere and does not affect everything that lives around me, I mean everything, not just humans but everything.

MODERATOR – IF YOU LOOK AT THE HEALTHCARE STATISTICS THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT COSTS ARE RISING, THAT EMPLOYERS ARE OFFERING LESS COVERAGE, THAT THERE IS MORE PEOPLE UNINSURED BUT THEN THIS THING IS SAYING THAT THE PROBLEM GOES DEEPER. IT IS ABOUT OBESITY, IT IS ABOUT ASTHMA (INTERRUPTED)

Yeah, child obesity. Kids with diabetes. There are like 500,000 in New York alone. It is really scary. Why are we letting our kids have Coca-Cola everyday. I think like a lot of things you have to address the root of the problem if you want it to stop. I think Kaiser does a really good job of expressing that exact thought, preventative care and it starts with you making the choices, not needing however many hundred dollar health plan but getting your exercise and eating right and doing things and then you can avoid all the further health cost down the road and I think they are the first organization to really focus on that concept and I think that is truly really important.

Absolutely. I mean it is within everybody's nature to have some sort of physical activity and to have the right nourishment in your body to keep you immunity up and to keep your body functioning the way it is suppose to be.

I circled preventable in both these places because obesity, there are a couple states right now that their population over 30% is considered and everything that it leads to that is [zapping] Medicare and Medicaid and what you are talking about in New York they are saying that Medicaid is going to run out in like 4 years or something completely because of Type II Diabetes, which is later onset diabetes because of poor healthcare so if I feel like all these diseases that we have from poor nutrition, from the ingredients in all these foods that are touted as safe and fine we really don't know that they are making us sick and then we have to pay a lot of money to get better or we're kept sick.

Quality of life just goes downhill once you're a diabetic and obese. It is sad and it's unfortunate for people who get stuck in that situation.

MODERATOR – SO BACK TO THE ISSUE OF, IF YOU ACCEPT THE PREMISES LAID OUT HERE AND WE DO NEED TO GET TO THE ROOT CAUSE RATHER THAN SPENDING MORE AND MORE ON THE SYMPTOMS IT SAYS BASICALLY TWO THINGS, EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND PROPER NUTRITION AND THE PARENTS HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT THIS, THAT IT STARTS WITH KIDS. YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM THE COVERAGE SO THEY CAN GET THE PREVENTED CARE AND THEN WE GOT TO GET THE PARENTS TO GET THEM IN THERE GETTING THE CHECKUPS, GETTING THE SHOTS, GIVING THEM THE RIGHT KIND OF FOOD, NOT LETTING THEM SIT IN FRONT OF THE TV OF 8 HOURS, ALL THAT STUFF. DO YOU AGREE THAT IS HOW YOU ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS AND IT IS A BEGINNING OF TURNING THE CORNER.

It makes you a happier person let alone a healthier person. I mean there is no question.

And I think it just starts with education on a lot of different levels so whether it is the media or within the school system coming from teachers to students, you know that think it just can't be one avenue of education but communication has to be key.

But parents want (interrupted)

Do the best for their kids. I mean if they knew, I mean there are some basic things that I think every parent should know but.

Well I think when it comes to children it starts in the home. It has to. Now whether or not the parents are properly educated that is another question but parents have to do that for their children.

I object very strongly for fast food companies being able to put their food in the public schools. I think that is bad that is really bad.

Well at least they are, not that by any means I am defending fast food restaurants but at least they are making the choices to offer grapes instead of french fries or (interrupted)

MODERATOR – CARROT STICKS.

...right.

MODERATOR – AGAIN IS THERE A ROLE FOR YOUR GENERATION TO PLAY HERE. YOU KNOW IS THERE A WAY THAT YOU CAN HELP TO ADVANCE THIS GOAL. IS THIS A WORTHY GOAL?

Definitely for those of us who could be considering having families in the very near future. I mean right then and there we all seem to be pretty much the same mind. It starts there.

And I think a lot of our generation has, a lot of do have the education that is necessary to put this concept in place. I mean a lot of people don't but I think a lot more people do in our generation than in older generations, so I think once we start having kids they will be healthier because they will have the preventative and then it ties into the fact that we possibly will have more money, which we may be able to afford the healthcare.

MODERATOR – FOR THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE EDUCATION HOW DO YOU AS PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT TRANSLATE IT? HOW DO YOU TURN IT INTO ACTION? HOW DO YOU MOVE BEYOND YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD AND YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL ACTION TO SOMETHING LARGER?

Then again it goes back into that whole, you know, not being so selfish, being selfless, stepping up to the plate type of thing for a lot of us people in our 20's, you know. I mean going out and if you have the education you go out and make a speech (interrupted)

Catching those people when you can.

...Right catching those people when you can.

You have the kids in the school and the parents maybe in the yard or at the doctor's office for maybe just a little bit and using teachable moments I guess, modeling it with your own kids lives and how you're, you know if it is neighbors, take the initiative.

Do you guys think it is a cultural thing as well? I don't mean to stereotype but there is like the J-Lo bootie and in Latino cultures it is more acceptable to be more overweight and, I don't know.

Well acceptance or not there are health risks that come along with all of that (interrupted)

Right.

...whether it is accepted or not.

You have health risks in both directions.

Right, right, absolutely.

Bulimia, anorexia.

I think what Emily saying is that they see is what they want. They are not thinking about whether it is healthy or not. She wants a bootie or whatever.

Well that culture's issue.

Culturally their diets are different. They aren't healthy. You can't tell somebody stop eating what your family has been eating for generations. They're not going to follow it.

MODERATOR – FLIP TO HANDOUT 3. THIS SHOULD BE ANOTHER ONE THAT YOU GUYS IDENTIFY WITH. THE BIGGEST ONE FOR YOU ENERGY AND TIEING IT INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OILS AND FOSSIL FUELS IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE. THAT IS WHY WE MUST LAUNCH A MASSIVE CONCERTED NATIONAL EFFORT SIMILAR TO THE APOLLO PROGRAM TO PUT A MAN ON THE MOON WITH THE GOAL OF MOVING AMERICA BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS AND INVENTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY BASED ON NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS HYDROGEN OR FUSION. THIS

PLAN WOULD REQUIRE A HUGE NATIONAL INVESTMENT, PRODUCE MILLIONS OF NEW JOBS, DRAMATICALLY REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND FREE US FROM OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL THAT SUBSIDIZES REGIMES AND SUPPORT THE TERRORISTS WHO ARE TARGETING US.

Okay, let's do it. (Laughter). I think everybody could be happy with this whether you don't believe in global warming, if we changed the way we run things we aren't dependent like it says here *the regimes that support terrorists*. (Many agreeing). You know I feel everybody wins if we kind of move in this direction.

It is more jobs and helps the environment.

But you have to prove somewhere along the line that in the end everyone is going to end up a winning, these companies, whoever they are or no one is going to be for it because if it is going to them a dollar then.

I mean not to play devil's advocate at all but it goes back to that statement I made earlier, it requires a handful of people to let go of their monetary value on the dollar, not even just a dollar but taking some of that profit and dumping into these new technologies. Not even new technologies but technologies that exist but are held down by those particular people you know.

MODERATOR – HOW DOES THIS COME ABOUT? OBVIOUSLY IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE APOLLO PROGRAM THAT REQUIRES GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT. YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO SET THIS GOAL AND FUND IT BUT WHO IS IT FUNDING? IS GOVERNMENT FUNDING GOVERNMENT? IS GOVERNMENT FUNDING THE CAR COMPANIES? YOU KNOW IS IT FUNDING SMALL BUSINESSES, THINGS LIKE GOOGLE THAT START UP NEW TECHNOLOGY AND BLAST OFF? WHAT IS IT THAT IS THE VEHICLE FOR DOING IT?

I mean I don't even see why it should be a problem for even the oil companies to produce some of that funding, you know what I'm saying but yeah small businesses, people like Google who are already in the technology field, I mean there are small businesses out there that are independently funded that are building the first 2, 3, man space crafts that have already had space flight, you know stuff like that, so people out there, the education, the technology is out there. It is just a matter of standing behind it.

And then the government putting on new requirements for gas mileage on cars that have to be (interrupted) computers, so they have to be the ones who are really looking into, I mean the car companies themselves have to be willing to initiate change to satisfy those new Googles.

Right.

Yeah.

I'd say it is quite a big difference than the Apollo program because even if the governments providing the funding it is not going to be primarily driven by the government. It has to be made in such a way that it can be self-sustaining and the business world will have a part to play in it because if you can't convince those few big wings to give up that part of that you could probably maybe try to force them but everybody would benefit more ways to convince them that it is in their own vested right to make a difference in that (inaudible – static).

MODERATOR – AND THIS MAKES THE CASE, IT SAYS *WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS*. THERE IS A LOT OF MOVEMENT NOW TOWARD ETHANOL, BIO-DIESELS, CLEAN COAL, A LOT OF FOSSIL FUELS. THIS IS SAYING THAT IS NOT GOING TO CUT IT. THAT IS JUST A BAND-AID. WE NEED TO GET TO THE NEXT LEVEL. WE NEED TO GET FUSION AND HYDROGEN. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? YOU KNOW SOME PEOPLE COULD SAY IT IS A PERCENT, IT IS A PROGRESSION. WE MOVE TO THE BIO-FUELS AND EVENTUALLY WE GET DOWN THE ROAD TO THAT. THIS IS SAYING NO, WE NEED TO MAKE THE END OF THE ROAD THE GOAL HERE AND NOT WASTE ALL THIS TIME IN GETTING THERE.

Yeah, there needs to be a focus.

For sure.

Or in 50 years they are going to be doing the same thing.

(Inaudible) aren't even a transition. They're a stop [gap] and they are really not going to prove a lot of help if they are driving up the prices of food at the same time.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I think if they think they can get to the end with maybe skipping the interim then fine do it but is that feasible? Can you miss the middle steps of going to the bio-fuels to get to the hydrogen fusion, I don't know, but if you can then maybe that is worth it.

(Inaudible) an article that I found like a year or two ago like this old man was trying to find a cure for cancer for his wife and he boiled saltwater and it created energy and the newscaster was like why has this not gotten out to everyone else because look how much of our earth is made up of salt water. It is just one of those things where they think maybe they are not letting or maybe somebody didn't listen to him. I mean he had a really good idea but he (interrupted)

Or someone paid him off to just (inaudible).

...yeah or he couldn't get to the right person but there are a ton of resources that maybe more people are trying to find a way to utilize them.

MODERATOR – I WANT TO GET BACK TO THIS QUESTION THAT I KEEP COMING BACK TO, WHICH IS ABOUT YOUR GENERATION. DO YOU GUYS HAVE TO WAIT

UNTIL YOU ARE IN TRADITIONAL POSITIONS OF POWER, MID 40'S, MID 50'S, WHERE PEOPLE TYPICALLY MOVE INTO GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR CORPORATE EXECUTIVE-SHIP OR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE NOW?

I think we can take steps in our own live to make small changes. As you were saying as a consumer you can make a change or as a teacher you can make a change.

I think making a major impact at the level that we are at now and the age that we are at now requires maybe more of a commitment than some of us are willing to put in at this point and time. I think it goes back to that selfishness versus selfless feeling. You know the independence. We are making steps in our lives to get to some sort of end point but to make an impact like that would interrupt that.

I read an article on how generation really doesn't rely on commercial advertising and we more rely on word of mouth and telling each other what is the latest product and we trust each other more than we would trust a commercial on TV so maybe the way to get a movement started is to just keep ourselves educated and start talking about it more often and telling each other, I don't know, I kind of agree with you though, I don't see it (interrupted)

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE THOUGH. DO YOU THINK BUILDING THAT KIND OF A SOCIAL NETWORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE? YOU KNOW IF ALI GOES AND TELLS HER FRIENDS NOT TO GO SHOP AT WALMART BECAUSE SHE'S NOT SHOPPING WATCHING AT WALMART DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

It could.

(Many people talking) maybe 1 out of 5 maybe.

If people see the good, the angle, the not the instant gratification right now where it is so much cheaper, you know using that as an example, go beyond how it helps me right now in here I think it will but there are some people where that is not really what, I mean they work paycheck to paycheck, you know survival mode, you're not thinking let's go affect the world.

I (inaudible) supply and demand. At what point are people demanding the things, interested in the kinds of things and then the company says we have the potential to market something new. We are a capitalist market economy so to the extent that we become informed, we become more demanding and have newer, better interest, so that is not going to solve itself but that situation where companies see that they have an opportunity and incentive to create new and better things.

By saying that once oil runs out, you know what I'm saying, literally once it comes down to the last drop if it ever gets to that point then yes there will be a demand, huge demand for something else.

We need a demand now not later.

Right, I know what you are saying but by saying that you are saying that you are waiting for, you are just waiting for that tragedy.

MODERATOR – SKIP HANDOUT 4 AND GO STRAIGHT TO 5. I WANT TO MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE PERSONAL FOR YOU GUYS. WHAT YOU GOT HERE IS A LIST OF ACTIONS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE TO TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THAT THEY WANT TO MAKE AND WHAT I JUST WANT YOU TO DO IS CATEGORIZE THEM INTO THREE. IN THE FIRST COLUMN CHECK ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE THAT YOU ARE DOING. IN THE SECOND COLUMN CHECK THE THINGS THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE DOING BUT YOU COULD SEE YOURSELF REALISTICALLY DOING THAT IN YOUR CURRENT LIFE OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND IN THE THIRD COLUMN JUST PUT THE THINGS THAT YOU AREN'T LIKELY TO DO, JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. OKAY SO WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING NOW?

Voting.

Voting.

Signing petitions.

Sent letters.

Blogs.

Personal purchasing.

Yes.

MODERATOR – HOW MANY PEOPLE HONESTLY SAY THEY DO BASE PERSONAL PURCHASING DECISIONS ON (INTERRUPTED)

Me.

MODERATOR – A FEW OF YOU. THE REST OF YOU IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DO AND YOU JUST DON'T KNOW ENOUGH OR NOT REALISTIC? JUSTIN?

Yeah, I would be likely to base my personal purchasing decisions on that.

MODERATOR – WHY DON'T YOU KNOW THOSE OF YOU THAT DON'T? IS IT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OR IS IT?

Yeah I guess just haven't really thought about it.

MODERATOR – JAMIE?

I have. I don't say that I spend my time finding out, paying attention to what products are represented by what parties or companies but you know if I heard through word of mouth or some nightly news special that there is something that this company is making or this is what they use and this is what they stand for then I will make the decision to do that but I don't seek it out.

MODERATOR – DO YOU GUYS EVER LOOK TO BRANDS LIKE PAUL NEWMAN'S OWN, LIKE PAUL NEWMAN GIVES HIS PROFITS TO CHARITY OR THE RED CAMPAIGN, ALL THESE DIFFERENT COMPANIES THAT MAKE RED PRODUCTS, THAT SOME OF THAT MONEY IS GOING TO AIDS IN AFRICA, DO YOU EVER LOOK FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF?

Definitely.

See that is, the Paul Newman thing so when I buy salad dressing I will buy a Paul Newman salad dressing but I didn't know about the red campaign and I don't seek it out.

MODERATOR – WHAT OTHER THINGS ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

That's it.

MODERATOR – WHAT THINGS ARE YOU LIKELY TO DO?

Attend public meetings.

I was just going to say, I'm down to protest.

Yeah.

I put no for protesting.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK DOES PROTESTING MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ARE THEY WORTH IT?

Depends.

I don't know.

They don't get reported much on in the news anymore. The press doesn't cover protest like they use to. There could be a big protest during a current event then you might not see it at all.

Or if you do it is because they burned a bunch of couches and it wasn't about what they
(interrupted)

It was a riot not a protest.

Yeah.

I think it is your last incentive I think to participate, like I was telling you the news media is not going to pay attention to it and you're going to get ignored most likely.

I put likely. I don't feel like the opportunity has been presented to me of come join us, we are protesting this thing that I am really passionate about tomorrow but I.

MODERATOR – OTHER THINGS THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO DO?

Write an article.

Volunteer.

MODERATOR – OKAY SO MOLLY SAYS SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. DO MOST OF YOU THINK THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO GETTING INVOLVED IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN? I SEE A LOT OF HEADS SHAKING ON THAT.

If I supported it I would, if I agreed with the issues and felt really strongly about it.

MODERATOR – OKAY MOST OF YOU SAID NO TO THAT ONE.

I put parentheses around political because there could lots of different campaigns. It might be political but I could take a part in.

MODERATOR – ANY ONES THERE TOWARDS THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST. OBVIOUSLY THESE KIND OF GO FROM LEAST COMMITMENT TO MOST COMMITMENT HERE, ANY OF THE ONES AT THE BOTTOM THAT YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DO.

If I was really passionate about an organization. I mean you're saying business or organization so if it was something that I was really passionate about I would probably try to do something to get people together but that is only [likely.]

I guess if you had, I mean I put it is very unlikely that I would fund and/or an organization but only because of my financial situation. If I was a person of a higher financial stature it might be easier for me to consider something.

That is something that I would like to do but I agree with you I couldn't do it anytime soon.

MODERATOR – LAST THING I AM GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO...

(end of session)