



Olly Olly Oxen Free!

Student Handout #1: **CNN/YouTube Republican Debate Transcript**

Transcript

The New York Times

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Following is a transcript of the Republican Presidential debate in St. Petersburg, Fla., as provided by the Federal News Service.

PARTICIPANTS:

FORMER NEW YORK MAYOR RUDY GIULIANI

REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER (R-CA)

FORMER ARKANSAS GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ)

REPRESENTATIVE RON PAUL (R-TX); FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR

MITT ROMNEY

REPRESENTATIVE TOM TANCREDO (R-CO)

FORMER TENNESSEE SENATOR FRED THOMPSON

MODERATOR: ANDERSON COOPER

MR. COOPER: All right. Let's begin.

The governor introduced the candidates. He did a very good job of it. But one Republican YouTube user wanted to do that also, and he does it in a way that reminds us this is definitely a new kind of debate.

Here's Chris Nandor from Snohomish, Washington.

CHRIS NANDOR: (Singing.) The Grand Old Party's looking for somebody who can lead, someone who is electable and adheres to our creed. Some say the group is not diverse; they're white, they're men. But wait! The Dems have just one candidate. Republicans have eight!

Rudy's leading all the polls, but can he win the base? Mitt changed on abortion. History he can't erase. Ron Paul would end the FDA, and that is just a start. Fred has just begun to run but sure does look the part.

Hunter tells us what to do in foreign policy debates. Huckabee's compassionate and lost a lot of weight. Tancredo says let's build a fence across the whole Southwest. McCain is loved by many, and hated by the rest. (Laughter.)

We don't know who we're voting for. We don't know who will win. That's why use YouTube to ask our questions of these men. Time is short. We're voting soon, and I just thought I'd mention: If we don't reach consensus, then we'll decide at convention. (Applause.)

MR. COOPER: All right.

You've got a guitar, right? Yeah.

All right. Enough of the singing, enough of the snowmen,. Let's begin the debate. From one tough-talking New Yorker, a question to another tough-talking New Yorker.

Q This is Ernie Nardy (sp) from Dyker Heights in Brooklyn, New York, with a question for the Ex-Mayor Giuliani. Under your administration as well as others, New York City was operated as a sanctuary city, aiding and abetting illegal aliens. I would like to know, if you become president of the United States, will you continue to aid and abet the flight of illegal aliens into this country?

MR. COOPER: Mayor Giuliani?

MR. GIULIANI: Ernie, that was a very good question. And the reality is that New York City was not a sanctuary city. (Audio break) -- single illegal immigrant that New York City could find that either committed a crime or was suspected of a crime. That was in the executive order originally done by Ed Koch, continued by David Dinkins and then done by me.

And the reason for the confusion is, there were three areas in which New York City made an exception. New York City allowed the children of illegal immigrants to go to school. If we didn't allow the children of illegal immigrants to go to school, we would have had 70,000 children on the streets at a time in which New York City was going through a massive crime wave, averaging 2,000 murders a year, 10,000 felonies a week.

The only two exceptions related to care -- emergency care in the hospital and being able to report crimes. If we didn't allow illegals to report crimes, a lot of criminals would have gone free because they're the ones who had the information.

But the most important point is, we reported thousands and thousands and thousands of names of illegal immigrants who committed crimes to the immigration service.

They did not deport them. And what we did, the policies that we had were necessary because the federal policies weren't working. The federal policies weren't working, stopping people coming in to the United States.

If I were president of the United States, I could do something about that by deploying a fence, by deploying a virtual fence, by having a BorderStat system like my COMSTAT system that brought down crime in New York and just stopping people from coming in, and then having a tamper-proof ID card.

MR. COOPER: Governor Romney, was New York a sanctuary city?

MR. ROMNEY: Absolutely. Called itself a sanctuary city, and as a matter of fact, when the Welfare Reform Act that President Clinton brought forward said that they were going to end the sanctuary policy of New York City, the mayor brought a suit to maintain its sanctuary city status. And the idea that they reported any illegal alien that committed a crime, how about the fact that people who are here illegally are violating the law. They didn't report everybody they found that was here illegally, and -- (interrupted by cheers, applause) -- this -- this just happens to be a difference between Mayor Giuliani and myself and probably others on the stage as well, which is we're going to have to recognize in this country that we welcome people here legally. But the mayor said, and I quote almost verbatim, which is, if you happen to be in this country in an undocumented status -- and that means you're here illegally -- then we welcome you here. We want you here. We'll protect you here. That's the wrong attitude. Instead we should say, if you're illegally, you should not be here; we're not going to give you benefits other than those required by the law, like health care and education. And that's the course we're going to have to pursue.

MR. COOPER: Mayor Giuliani?

MR. GIULIANI: It's unfortunate, but Mitt generally criticizes people in a situation in which he's had far the worst record. For example, in his case, there were six sanctuary cities; he did nothing about them. There was even a sanctuary mansion. At his own home illegal immigrants were being employed -- (laughter, cheers, applause) -- not -- not -- not being turned in to anybody or by anyone.

And then, when he deputized the police, he did it two weeks before he was going to leave office, and they never seemed to even catch the illegal immigrants who were working at his mansion. So I would say he had sanctuary mansion, not just sanctuary city. (Cheers, applause.)

MR. COOPER: All right. I got to allow Governor Romney just to respond, then we'll move on.

MR. ROMNEY: Mayor, you know better than that.

MR. GIULIANI: No, I --

MR. ROMNEY: Yeah? Okay, then let -- then listen, all right? Then listen. First of all --

MR. GIULIANI: You did -- you did -- you did have illegal immigrants working at your mansion, didn't you?

MR. ROMNEY: No, I did not. So let's just talk about that.

Are you suggesting, Mr. Mayor -- because I -- I think it's really kind of offensive, actually, to suggest -- to say look, you know what, if -- if you're a homeowner and you hire a company to come provide a service at your home -- paint the home, put on the roof -- if you hear someone that's working out there -- not that you've employed, but that the company has -- if you hear someone with a funny accent, you as a homeowner are supposed to go out there and say, I want to see your papers? Is that what you're suggesting?

MR. GIULIANI: What I -- what I'm suggesting is if you --

MR. ROMNEY: No, no, let's -- that's -- that's what -- (inaudible).

MR. GIULIANI: -- if you -- if you -- if -- if you are -- if you are going to -- (cheers, applause) --

MR. ROMNEY: Let me -- let me just --

MR. GIULIANI: If you -- if you are going to take --

MR. ROMNEY: Let me finish the rest of my story.

MR. GIULIANI: If you're going to take --

MR. ROMNEY: Let me finish the rest of --

MR. COOPER: No, you asked him a question, let him respond, and we got to move on.

MR. GIULIANI: If you're going to take this holier-than-thou attitude that your whole approach to immigration was so -- was so --

MR. ROMNEY: I'm sorry, immigration is not holier-than-thou, Mayor; it's the law.

MR. GIULIANI: You're going to take a holier-than-thou attitude that you are perfect on immigration --

MR. ROMNEY: I'm not perfect.

MR. GIULIANI: It just so happens that you have a special immigration problem that nobody else here has. (Laughter.) You were employing illegal immigrants.

MR. ROMNEY: You know, one -- one --

MR. GIULIANI: That is a pretty serious thing. (Applause.) They were under your nose. (Applause.) And --

MR. COOPER: All right, we need to --

MR. GIULIANI: -- and -- and --

MR. ROMNEY: I ask the mayor again: Are you suggesting, Mayor, that if you have a company that you hired to provide a service --

REP. HUNTER (?): Cooper, let us jump in here.

MR. ROMNEY: -- that you now are responsible for going out and checking the employees of that company, particularly those that -- that might look different or don't -- doesn't have an accent like yours, and ask for their papers? I don't think that's America, number one.

Number two, let me --

MR. COOPER: We got to move on.