

# Presidential Debate (A)

## MODERATOR VOGT

Act 2 Scene 2  
Politician

President Carroll, running for re-election is debating opponents Speaker of the House Lancing and General Waters. After the recent scandals, the moderator is expected to ask detailed questions about the candidates' stances on the Resonance Project. This is an open format debate, and questions may come from the press on the floor as well.

You have been appointed by the Commission on Presidential Debates as moderator for this debate. It is a great honor. Your job is to ask thought-provoking questions, time responses, and intervene in the case of misbehavior on the part of any candidate. This is an open format debate, meaning that each candidate will be asked either a moderator question or an audience question, alternating. Each question is directed at one particular candidate. That candidate has two minutes to respond. Afterward, each other candidate has one-minute for rebuttal. If you choose, you may then allow each candidate an additional 30 seconds on that question. After that you move on to the next candidate for the next question.

You are currently on the portion of the debate about national security and defense. Your first question will go to President Carroll. After that, you will take an audience question for Speaker Lancing. Then you will ask a question of General Waters. Next you will take an audience question for President Carroll and continue your alternation.

The questions you have planned on this topic are:

1. What is the most important project currently being undertaken for national defense?
2. Since the recent arms deal scandal, in which bio-weapon secrets were sold to Israel, would you continue research into biological weapons?
3. Many people in the USA think that we spend too much on defense. Would you cut defense funding, and, if so, where?

However, something is wrong. All these people are making your head hurt. You've always been an extrovert and good at reading people, but now it seems almost like everyone's emotions are screaming in your head. Every time someone gets upset or excited it hurts so badly. You just want to run and hide. But you have to do your job, even if you can barely stand from the pain.

**PRESIDENT CARROLL**

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Your first term has been a mixture of great successes and scandals. From the beginning, your goal has been to strike a balance and help bring moderation and stability to the USA. After the economic crashes and water riots of the past decade, your message was well received. You instituted reforms preventing companies from shipping as many jobs overseas, you quenched riots through a mixture of emergency support and military policing. You have led a popular military action to overthrow a brutal dictator in Egypt.

On the other side, people won't stop talking about the stupid affair with the the 18-year old intern or the Israeli arms deal. One of your people sold confidential information about the Resonance Project to Israel. The Resonance Project started as a gene therapy cure for Braiden's Syndrome, but since then, crowd control applications were discovered. People with the Resonance Virus are more sensitive to the emotions of others. Hurting others hurts them almost as much. There are still issues to work out, but it could be a great advance in handling these problems.

However, one of the Resonance scientists sold information on the project to the Israeli military, and they appear to have used it on rioting Palestinians to devastating effects. To make things worse, recently some of the early test subjects escaped from the project. These were Braiden's kids who are now completely cured. People should be celebrating! Instead they are terrified of the spreading virus and angry about the testing on children. You expect to have to address many of these questions in the debate.

Worse yet, you are debating your old rival Speaker Lancing. You know that Lancing will leap on any perceived failure of yours and oppose you no matter what stance you take.

# SPEAKER LANCING

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This is your chance to out Carroll. You have been dogging President Carroll's heels since you started law school, and this is your chance to demonstrate all the things that have gone wrong in the Carroll administration and show how you will do better. President Carroll has angered much of the country by handling the Resonance Project poorly. You came out against that program early: genetically engineered viruses are dangerous and a waste of our defense funding. We should be pursuing alternative solutions, certainly, but nothing like this. What is important is to maintain our conventional military in readiness to jump on any emerging threat.

You need to take full advantage of the recent failures in this program: secrets were sold to Israel, and the source was never investigated sufficiently thoroughly. After a fall-guy went down, it was all swept under the table. Even worse, when the Resonance virus was deployed in a riot situation, there were terrible unforeseen side effects. The Resonance virus is nowhere near as controlled as people previously thought. This disease could be spreading throughout the populace right now and we wouldn't know. We have no way to counter this. Our first priority on this project needs to be finding a good and consistent anti-virus and then shutting down the project and never making this mistake again!

President Carroll has left a trail of mistakes behind on this project. You can follow that trail to victory!

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After the recent water riots and arms deal scandal, you are running to make this country safer and more secure. You have been in the army for 24 years, and you understand both the terrors of war and the importance of security to every man, woman, and child in this country. If people don't feel safe in their homes, everything else is a luxury. As president, you will do whatever it takes to protect Americans from terrorists, rioters and external attacks on our resources.

Project Resonance was a brilliant idea, but too much of the handling was left to the scientists. Scientists do not and will never understand security. The growth of science is all about giving pieces out to everyone and waiting for them to come back, but you simply cannot do that with a project so central to national security. You will make sure that every scientist working in a secure installation is carefully screened and carefully watched. Incidents like the escape of the infected children or the selling of secrets to Israel would never happen on your watch.

President Carroll has many good ideas, but has been too cautious when it comes to National Security. You cannot allow exciting research to come before the security of the American people.

# AGENT BALE

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You are leading the secret service here. Your job is to protect the President against any attacks. You will also protect any of the presidential candidates as a secondary task. If anyone threatens any presidential candidate, your job is to 1) protect the president, with your life if necessary, 2) protect the other candidates, 3) take out the assailant.

Presidential Debate (A)  
**ARTHUR TOVIN**

Act 2 Scene 2  
Other

President Carroll, running for re-election is debating opponents Speaker of the House Lancing and General Waters. After the recent scandals, the moderator is expected to ask detailed questions about the candidates' stances on the Resonance Project. This is an open format debate, and questions may come from the press on the floor as well.

You have been working towards this day for years. Your son went into the Resonance program and never came out again. He had Braiden's Syndrome, sure, but he was alive, and he was yours. Now you have heard that the children have escaped but your son has not returned. You want answers.

You managed to get into the audience for this debate. You have smuggled in a small plastic gun with two bullets. You know this is the end of your life, but that's okay. You want to make sure that whoever gets elected doesn't do this to any more children. You are going to play it calm. Ask a few questions first. You think you want to take out Carroll, but you never know. One of the other two might be even worse. You have to wait to see what they say.

You've thought very carefully about what you want to ask:

1. How far can you go to develop a better weapon? How much risk is reasonable?
2. Do you think that what was done to the children for Resonance was justified? Why or why not?

You want to ask the second question of President Carroll. You need to know how Carroll can justify what has been done here.