

Debate Evaluation Sheet

1. Take off your partisan hats, bracket what you already know about the candidates, and adopt a neutral stance to each in order to evaluate their respective debate performances:

What do you think the most important goal was for Obama and McCain respectively going into this debate? In other words both candidates going in thought that their performance would be successful they . . . :

McCain

Obama

2. Were they effective in achieving them? If effective, rate them high, if not low.

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons:

3. Balance of rational logic and emotion: Rate them low if there was too much emotion and not enough reason or too much abstraction and not enough emotion.

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

4. Hard to understand or down to earth? Effective use of vivid imagery, stories, analogies, examples?

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

5. Genuine or Phony? Do candidates' answers seem based on principles or expediency? If principled most of the time rate them high; if expedient or pandering most of the time, rate them low.

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

6. Nonverbal communication: What do eyes say? Carriage of the body. Energy and voice and facial expressiveness? Rate them high if strong in this respect, low if weak.

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

7. Effective use of humor? Take points off if joke was planned. Add points if you think joke was spontaneous.

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

8. Attacks fair or hits beneath the belt?

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

9. Defense in response to attacks effective?

McCain 1 2 3 4 5

Obama 1 2 3 4 5

Reasons/Examples:

Obama Total _____

McCain Total _____