

Conversation Flow in Oxford-style Debates

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Public debates



Public debates are more than public monologues.

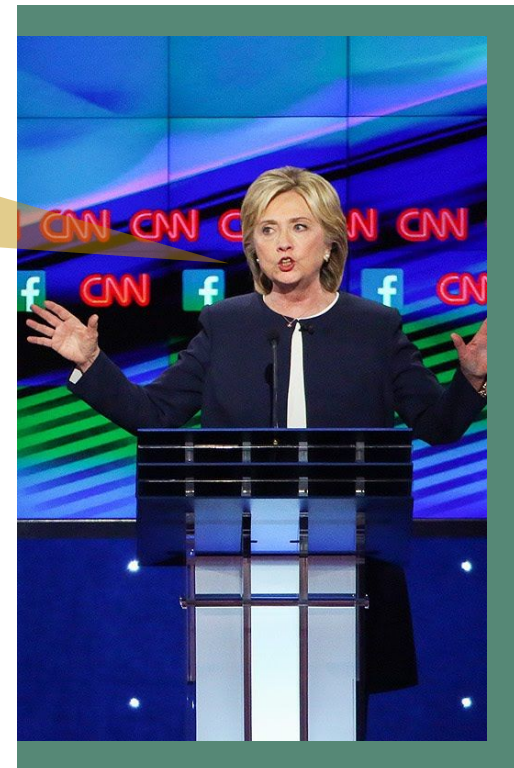


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We need to knock down barriers in order to --

Yes, but what we really need to talk about is **breaking up the banks.**



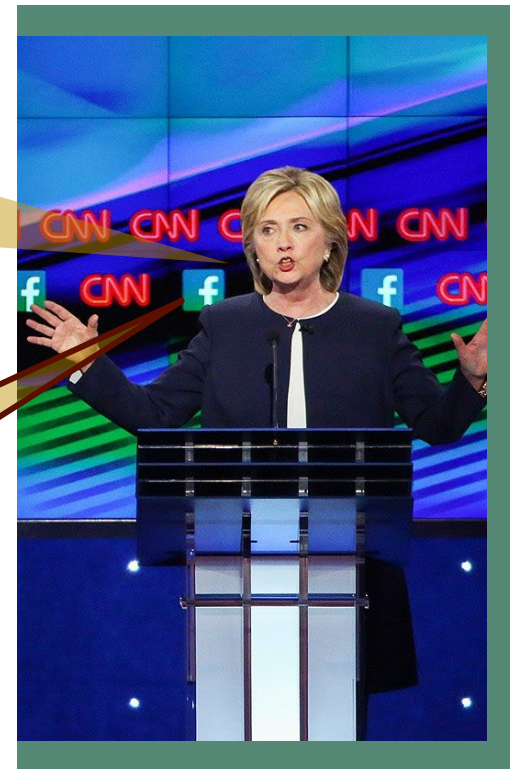
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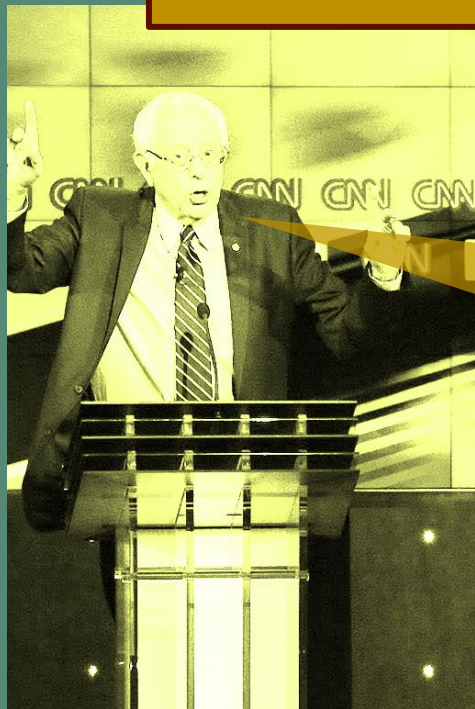
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Yes, but what we really need to talk about is **breaking up the banks.**

*Do you have any actual strategies for **breaking up the banks**, or is that just your talking point?*



What are effective debating strategies?



Dataset:



108 debates, ~90 minutes each

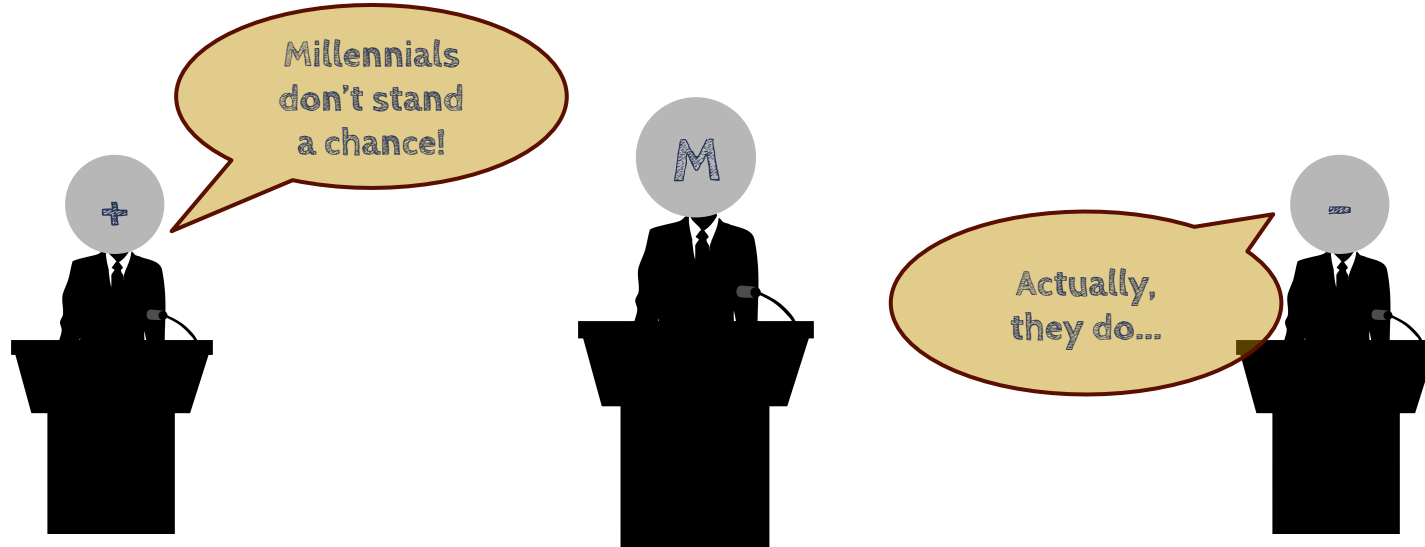
<http://intelligencesquaredus.org/>

Dataset:



Millennials don't
stand a chance

Dataset:



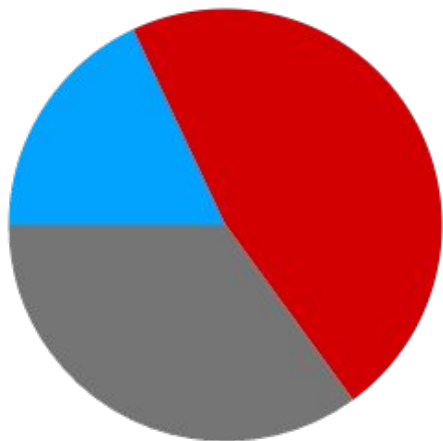
Dataset:



*Do millennials
stand a chance?*



Dataset:



(before)

For: 18%

Against: 47%

Undecided: 35%



Dataset:

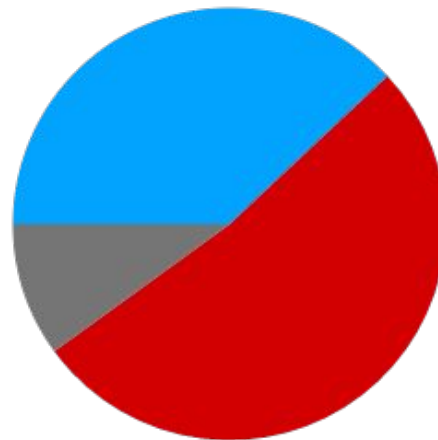


(after)

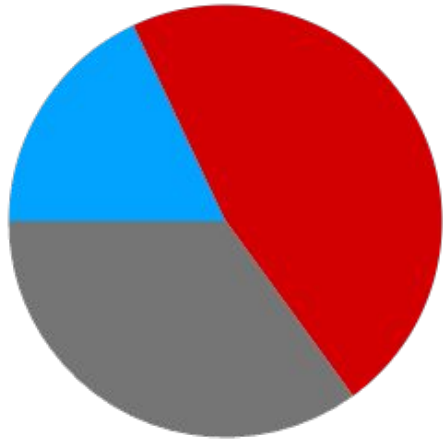
For: 38%

Against: 52%

Undecided: 10%



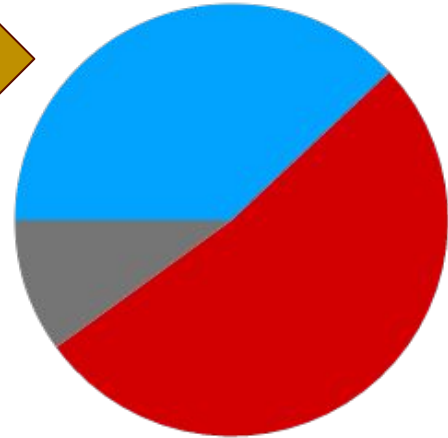
Dataset:



**** For: +20%

Against: +5%

Undecided: -25%



Dataset:



introduction



(7 min / speaker)

discussion



(~30 min)

Conversation Flow: Talking Points

introduction



... These kids are given a sense of specialness, they think they're better than others. It's great to raise expectations if you can provide a **reality** for that... We have a trillion dollars in student loan **debt**, and student loan debt is horrible... The **boomer** generation is now at a 32% college completion rate. Millennials are currently at 33%. So this notion that millennials have more education at this point in time than anybody else is not actually true...



... Young people have gotten deeply **engaged** in what it means to be a candidate for office... Millennials **volunteer** more than any other generation. 73% of millennials volunteered for a nonprofit in 2012. And the percentage of students believing that it's important to help people in need is at the highest level in 40 years... the jobs of this **economy** are different, but this is a generation that has grown up in the future...

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Conversation Flow: Talking Points

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discussion

It stinks to be young, having gone through what millennials have gone through. But **keep in mind** the **boomers** have gone through the same... I'd make the argument that **volunteering** is done for extrinsic reasons. So it's done for college applications, or it's done because it's a requirement in high school.

Thinking about community is really one of the big traits of this generation. This generation is finding new ways to **engage** their community in helping them... it's hard to argue that this is the most narcissistic generation when you say that this generation is **volunteering** at higher rates.



Conversation Flow: Discussion Points

discussion

Generation X is also known as the **digital** generation. The companies that make you **digital** natives were all founded by people in generation X... actually the numbers are showing ... that it's worsening... same **statistics**, **dreadful statistics**...

[Millennials have] an **incredible advantage** [...] when it comes to **social media** [...] because [they are] **digital** natives.

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Conversation Flow: Discussion Points

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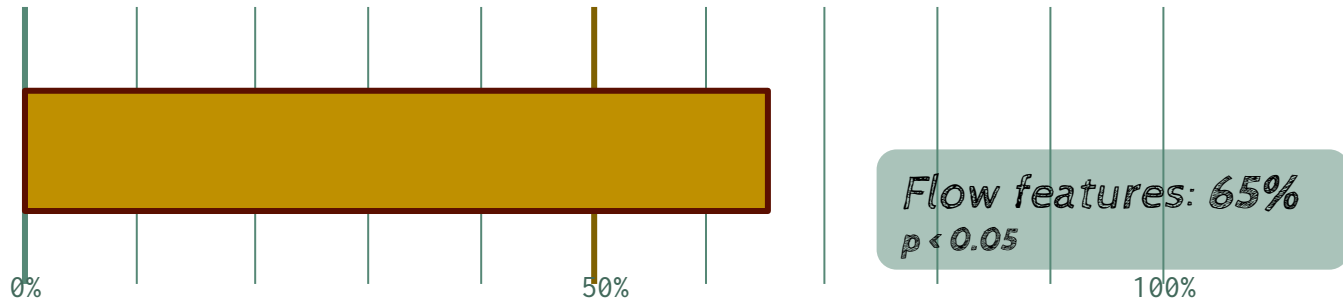
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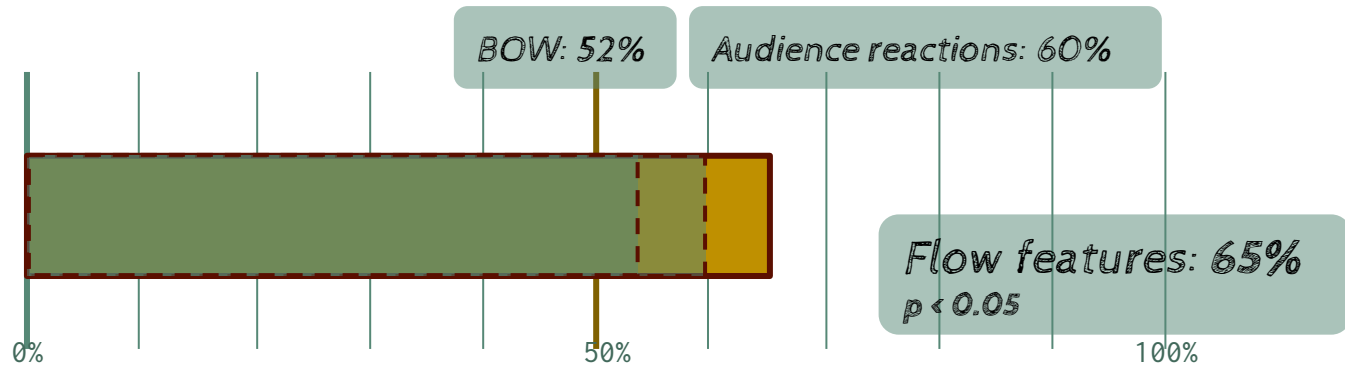
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Conclusion

- Main contribution: Modeling idea flow
- Dataset: Intelligence Squared Debates (*available online!*)
- Main observation: winners use interaction more.

Questions?

(check out our long paper poster, "*Conversational Markers of Constructive Discussions*", today at 5:45, M30)