

Teddy Roosevelt



The Question: In the election of 1912, who should be President: Roosevelt, Taft or Wilson?

Your Script/Motivation: You are free to ad lib and improvise your answers **PROVIDED** it is school appropriate and within the confines of this script/motivation.

My Life: (Deliver in an extremely eager and larger than life way. You are an aggressive man).

- It's very bully to see you again my fellow Americans. You've already heard most of my live so let me tell you how I've been since I last spoke to you.
- I won the **Nobel Prize for negotiating the Treaty of Portsmouth** which ended the Russo-Japanese War.
- I made a **gentleman's agreement with Japan to cool tensions after California discriminated against Japanese immigrants.**
- I then decided to take the isthmus of Panama from Colombia to make the **Panama Canal**; an artificial waterway which links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- Everything was going great... and then Taft came along. **After my second term, Taft ruined everything I set up.** So, even though every President before me has stuck with Washington's Farewell Address of only serving two terms, I'm running again. The country needs me!

My Point of View and Personality: (Most people know your point of view so just add this).

- The Republicans won't nominate me and the Democrats surely won't so **I made my own party: the Progressive or Bull-Moose Party.** I have campaigned everywhere I can and nothing stops me along the way. **I gave an 84 minute speech only moments after I got shot in the chest.** It takes more than a gunshot to stop a Bull Moose.

My Argument: Why should you vote for me?

Taft is ruining everything:

- My fellow Americans, you know I'm a trustbuster. No one has busted more trusts than me. But I only go after the ones that hurt American consumers. **Good trusts are okay.**
- Taft is busting trusts like the American Sugar Refining Company which I say protects the American consumer. **That means Taft doesn't care about the American people!** He wants you to use sugar that's cut with salt, sawdust, and soap suds!
We need a balance to keep the country working and Taft is going too far!

Wilson is a wimp:

- My friends, you know my catchphrase **"speak softly and carry a big stick."** That means always be stronger than your opponent.
- With my **"Great White Fleet"** I painted all our naval ships white and sent them around the world. **We DIDN'T attack anybody but we let the world know not to mess with us!**
- Wilson is clueless about war. Look at Europe! That whole continent is going to blow up in a big war and Wilson, the college professor from Princeton University, can't handle it. **He's never been in a war!** He's going to try to give them lectures about **boring** parliamentary procedures while the Germans blow up our ships, killing American lives.

William Howard Taft



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My Life: (Deliver in a blunt and matter of fact way. Also you're angry at Roosevelt because he used to be your friend.)

- "Politics makes me sick." You can never make a decision that makes everyone happy.
- Teddy Roosevelt, you were my friend and mentor, and now you're my challenger. But, that's the business we've chosen.
- I've know that from day one because my father was President Ulysses S. Grant's secretary of war, attorney general, and drinking buddy. After graduating from Yale University, I served as Governor of the Philippines and I plan to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court once I'm done as President.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am an upper class white male with a conservative agenda.
- It makes sense that I end my career as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court because I pride myself on my knowledge of the law and what it should do.

My Argument: Why should you vote for me?

Roosevelt isn't doing enough and is kind of crazy:

- Mr. Roosevelt, you made your career over punishing bad trusts. That's commendable but you stopped short of your potential.
- You didn't go after trusts like the American Sugar Refining Company because you say they protect the American consumer. You say it's a good trust. There is no such animal.
- Any trust that prevents an American from competing is a bad trust. It kills the ambition of Americans hoping to make an honest trade. Everyone should have that right in America.
- **Also, calm down and take it easy.** When someone shoots you, do what everyone else does **and go to a hospital. Don't give an 84 minute speech.** With the way you get fired up, it's a wonder we haven't gotten into a war.

Wilson does not want to make America Number 1:

- Wilson is weak on foreign policy and that hurts America. A revolution is about to happen in Mexico and the best thing Wilson can come up with is "watchful waiting." **Nevermind the fact that our southern neighbor is about to explode in bloody conflict and people like Pancho Villa could harass Americans along the border.**
- At the very least we should defend our businesses with **Dollar Diplomacy.** I overthrew the government in Nicaragua and put Adolfo Díaz in charge of that country because he was pro-American business.
- When the Nicaraguans complained I sent troops there to "calm them down." **That's how you keep America on top: dollar diplomacy. Keep American business in mind or we'll send our troops!**

Woodrow Wilson



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My Life: (Deliver in a calm, professional and formal matter. Remember: You are a professor) Thank you my esteemed colleagues. School is now in session! I am a college professor by trade. I was born in 1856 to a Scotch-Irish father and an English immigrant. I got my PhD. in political science from Johns Hopkins University and am a professor at Princeton University.

My Point of View and Personality:

- I am a white male with a liberal agenda. I have seen the works done by Roosevelt and Taft and they sicken me.
- This great nation of ours needs a course correction and that is exactly what I offer.
- I have a doctorate in political science so I know exactly how to get it done.

My Argument: Why should you vote for me?

I offer New Freedom:

- While Roosevelt and Taft bicker about whether antitrust laws go too far or not far enough, **I vote we create new laws that clearly define what is appropriate.**
- **I propose a clearly defined Federal Reserve as a first step to keep banks in line by regulating money.** At this time in History if a bank loses your money it's gone. There's a lot more we can do with banking but the Federal Reserve is a good start. We need clear laws in place to keep everyone in line.
- **And speaking of clear expectations, Mr. Roosevelt, according to Washington's Farewell Address no president should serve more than two terms. You had your two. Please obey the wishes of our first president.**

I offer peaceful diplomacy first, then military action:

- As president, Roosevelt talked about a "new nationalism" where we expand our interests all over the world. While that may seem nice, Roosevelt did some shady things **like stealing Panama from Colombia to build his canal.**
- **And Taft, your dollar diplomacy is appalling.** We should not use American troops to support our businesses overseas. **What you did in Nicaragua was an atrocity!** You put American lives at risk to terrorize people in Latin America because they wouldn't do what you wanted.
- **We need to talk things out: use our words instead of big sticks, Mr. Roosevelt.** My foreign policy is sensible, not weak. Getting into wars puts American lives at risk. We should only turn to war when civilized diplomacy fails.