

UC Berkeley

The Charles H. Percy Undergraduate Grant for Public Affairs Research Papers

Title

The Great Divide: How UC Students See Politics in 2017

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7zq298sq>

Author

Miller, Carly

Publication Date

2018

Undergraduate

The Great Divide: How UC Students See Politics in 2017

Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to document how University of California students feel about politics in 2017. The research centers around the question: *Will Democrats and Republicans work more or less together in the future?* In a series of interviews with College Democrats and College Republican club members, the majority of students didn't believe cooperation between the two parties was possible for our nation. However, on the individual level the divide wasn't so deep. Rather, across political lines there was a driving commitment to make America a better place for its people.

I. Introduction:

In the days after the 2016 Presidential election, I observed a polarizing set of emotions play out at the University of California, Berkeley. The campus has historically been known as a bastion for liberal and progressive thought, which mirrors the surrounding city of Berkeley, California. Students and Berkeley residents of all ages congregated and marched, cried and protested. Amidst the rallies and anger was an opposing emotion from a small but prominent band of students who supported the new president-elect, Donald Trump. These students bonded together after the election and displayed their Trump posters every day at their booth in the center of Sproul Plaza.

As a political science student, these are very politically interesting times to study. As a young adult about to step into the real world, I am genuinely concerned about the future of our political system led by my generation. If my campus was a microcosm of what is happening around the rest of the country, I was afraid America had fallen apart.

The 2016 election and its aftermath proved that we did not know each other as well as we thought. And yet, I wanted to see if I could salvage my optimism and design a test to prove--if only to myself--whether we were ultimately broken as a country. More specifically, I wanted to

know from other college students what they thought. Can Democrats and Republicans work together? Are we too far apart? With these questions I applied for the Charles H. Percy Undergraduate Grant for Public Affairs Research to interview college Democrats and Republicans and hear both sides.

The research findings are summarized into four sections. First, I present my research procedure and how I acquired the qualitative data that serves as the foundation for my thesis. Second, I discuss the data I collected. Third I summarize the implications of what my findings hold for the future of our political system. Lastly, I conclude by recommending solutions for the pattern of issues that were illuminated in the interviews.

Before the research is discussed in detail, it is important to address the limitations to this research project and give context to the conclusions I will present. First, as a University of California student, I was interested in interviewing UC students, thus the research is limited by the state of California and the type of school being a large, public university. Additionally, the scope of students I interviewed are members of the College Democrat and College Republican clubs at their universities; these students are not representative of all students on their campus and their answers cannot speak for the perspectives and experiences of all students. I chose these students because they are most actively involved with the political parties on each UC campus and thus in my mind linked to the future of those political parties.

With this limited scope, I do not attempt to conclude the feeling of all college students in 2017, but instead present a general trend that I traced through a specific University school system. I hope that after reading this research students from other states will feel inspired to pursue a similar study of their own public school system.

II. Research Methodology

I. The Research Design:

The people interviewed are members of the College Democrats and College Republican clubs at each of the 9 University of California schools. I wanted to limit my research to the University of California system for a number of reasons. The first reason was of practicality: I believed that by limiting the scope of the research to 9 schools of the same state, type, and system would be the most feasible way to collect a comprehensive data set for my thesis

question. The second was more personal: I was curious to ask students in the same school system as myself what they thought, and how were they taking in the aftermath of the election.

II. The Research Strategy

The purpose of the research was to engage in conversation with University of California students. With this purpose, I designed a qualitative research strategy. The strategy was to reach out to members from the two political groups on each of the UC campuses and ask them a series of questions on how they see politics in 2017. In total, I asked 17 questions in a series of face-to-face interviews.

Research Questions

1. Describe the political culture/climate on your campus?
2. How did this culture change before and after the election?
3. What is the relationship between the College Democrats club and College Republicans club on campus?
 1. Did this change before and after the election?
4. Why did you join the UC College Democrats/Republicans club?
5. Does your club represent all parts of your national party? Or are some political identities more concentrated than others?
6. What are the most important issues that you care about?
7. What had the most influence on your political beliefs growing up?
8. How have your political beliefs changed since coming to college?
9. What is a misconception that people have of Republicans/Democrats? Why do you believe this misconception exists?
10. How is your generation of Republicans/Democrats different from the generation before you? How is it similar?
11. What is something you think your party could improve upon? What is something that should stay the same?
12. **Do you think that Democrats/Republicans will work together more or less in the future? Regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen?**
13. What is something you fundamentally don't understand about the other party that you would want to ask them in a question?
14. Are you friends with Republicans/Democrats? On campus? At home?
15. Background information of the interviewee
16. Is there anything else you want to add?
17. **What is America to you and do you think the current political system reflects that depiction?**

III. Analysis of the questions:

The numbers correspond to the order in which I asked the questions in most of the interviews. In rare cases where the interviewee(s) had to leave before all the questions were asked, I would shift around the order of the questions, asking the ones I thought were most interesting.

In conversation, I was equally curious to know the answers to all the questions and it was only in reflecting on the data gathered as a whole that I decided to focus on question 12 as the overarching thesis of the research. The second question bolded in the list, question 17, was always asked last. It was the question that interviewees thought was the hardest, but that I thought gave more insight into each individual's relationship with America, helping to set their answers into greater context, such as the thesis question. In a similar manner, the other 15 questions are secondary to, but supportive of, the main research question and help illustrate the climate/culture of that campus as well as provide a deeper profile into the persons who hold these beliefs.

II. Access and collected data

After creating the research questions, I reached out to the 18 clubs at the 9 UC schools. This process proved tricky as I tried many points of contact that didn't work. What ended up working was a combination of different personal connections from high school friends at each UC school, and reaching out through Facebook messenger. Though each of these methods were more informal contact mediums, I was able to get more responses by connecting through Facebook.

III. Errors in the sample set:

In political science research, the ideal representative sample of those you want to collect data from is what is called a simple random sample. In this sample set, there are no biases that affect the selection process of the individuals. I was unable to obtain a simple random sample because I was not pulling people randomly to participate in the research. I accepted whomever from the club would talk to me. Therefore, this research falls victim to a response bias, meaning that those who participated in the research had responded and voluntarily offered their answers. The dangers of a response bias in this study are that the participants may be more partial to the

experiment. With the central thesis being: will democrats and republicans work more or less together in the future, those who participated in the research acknowledged there is an issue with a large partisan divide. Their responses to the questions could have differed from those who chose not to respond, who may not have been more open to talking about the polarization in politics. Another explanation could be that I reached out as a student from Berkeley, which carries with it a connotation of being more liberal or favorable to Democrats, and therefore some students might not have wanted to respond.

A significant error in this research is that I did not get information from all the clubs and not all the schools were represented. I did not hear back from UC Merced and was unable to schedule a meeting with UC Riverside Democrats, so wasn't able to include their perspectives in the research. Similarly, I did not hear back from the UC Riverside Republicans or UC San Diego Republicans. Therefore, I had more College Democrat interviews and thus did not have a balanced set of responses and representation from both political parties.

Lastly, other errors that arose in the research process are products of the nature of collecting qualitative data. The way that I asked the questions, my facial expressions, the way the conversation was structured and flowed, my follow up questions, and more all have an effect on the answers the interviewees gave to the questions I asked; I was inevitably wrapped up in the research by being the one who asked the questions. Moreover, qualitative interviews are like conversations: the researcher has only so much control once the dialogue starts in terms of steering the conversation to what it is focused on and what is revealed.

It is important to understand my involvement in the data collection to know that these answers and data cannot be replicated in other populations with other data sets. Similar to conversations, qualitative interviews can be completely different each time they are held. At the same time, what I believe can be extracted and replicated from this experiment is the way one has a conversation with strangers to get to know their political beliefs. I asked personal questions in the interviews and received very personal stories. With each of my interviewees there was a sense of trust between us. I would listen to their stories and by no means warp or skew them. But I am also a person listening to their personal stories of their families, childhoods, hopes and aspirations. I told them similar stories about my family, hometown, and experiences at a UC school. For this, the source of the research is built from a conversation between young adults to

hopefully provide insight and clarity to how our peers think and view our current political climate.

III. Discussion of the Data:

Data Introduction:

This section presents the data collected from the interviewees answers to questions 12 and 17. In the next section I will discuss the significance of the collective data, some of its peculiarities, and the conclusions that we can learn from this research. The full answers to all of the questions asked in the interviews are found in the Appendix of this paper.

Part 1 - Question 12: Do you think that Democrats and Republicans will work more or less together in the future? Regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen?

For some interviewees, the questions elicited a clear “Yes or No” answer. However, for some interviewees there was more to their answers than a clear “Yes or No.” For this reason, I created a more sensitive measurement by adding additional categories for the responses to fall under.

The measurements of each respondent’s answers fall into 4 categories: “Yes,” “Yes with contingency,” “Skeptical,” and “No.” The “Yes with contingency” group represents students who felt that they would work with the other side only if there were changes made first in order to work with the other party. The “Skeptical” group represented students who expressed feelings of uncertainty, either saying “I don’t know” or that under Trump, both parties working together would be a “wild card.” The answers with asterisks will be explained in more depth as their individual answers provide more insight to the different interpretations to the questions.

Lastly, not every student interviewed answered the question. Most students answered both parts, however some students answered only one part of the question.

Question 12 (Thesis Question): Part 1: Do you think that Democrats and Republicans will work more or less together in the future. Part 2: Regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen?

Total interviewed: 24

Color code:

Blue: A Democrat student who answered both parts of the question

Red: A Republican student who answered both parts of the question

*Not every student answered both parts of the question; some students only answered one part.

This is why the numbers of students who answered each part are different.

Question Part 1:

Question Part 2:

- **Yes:**

- UCSB Democrat, Female1*
- UCSB Democrat, Female2*

- **Yes:**

- UCD Democrat, Female1
- UCSC Democrat, Female1
- UCSC Democrat, Male1
- UCLA Democrat, Male1
- UCI Democrat, Female 1
- UCD Republicans, Male1
- UCSC Republicans, Male 1

- **Yes with contingency*:**

- **Yes with contingency:**

- UCB Democrat, Male1
- UCSB Democrat, Female3
- UCSB Republicans, Female1
- UCLA Republicans, Female1
- UCI Republicans, Male 1
- UCB Republicans, Male 1

- **Skeptical:**

- UCSC Democrat, Female1
- UCD Democrat, Female1
- UCI Democrat, Female 1

- **No:**

- UCB Democrat, Male1
- UCB Democrat, Female1
- UCB Democrat, Male2
- UCD Democrat, Male1
- UCLA Democrat, Male1
- UCSD Democrat, Male1
- UCD Republicans, Male1
- UCSC Republicans, Male1
- UCSB Republicans, Male1
- UCLA Republicans, Female1
- UCI Republicans, Male 1
- UCB Republicans, Male 1

- **No:**

- UCB Democrat, Female1
- UCB Democrat, Male2
- UCSD Democrat, Male2
- UCSB Republicans, Male1*
- UCSB Republicans, Female2
- UCSB Republicans, Male2*

Question Part 1: Do you think that Democrats and Republicans will work more or less together in the future?

Of the students I interviewed who answered the first part of the question, will Democrats and Republicans work together, 12 out of 17 students answered “No.” Most of the students interpreted the time period for working together as “in the short term” as both parties being as we currently know them today. Those who were skeptical, answered that they didn’t know, but were less optimistic about the two parties working together. The two students who answered “Yes” believe that Democrats and Republicans will be forced to work together on issues as we experience environmental challenges that will affect all of us. Overall, the general sentiment of the UC students that I interviewed was not very optimistic about both parties working together.

Question Part 2: Regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen?

Of the students I interviewed who answered the second part of the question, regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen, a slight majority of students, 7 out of 19 students said yes, that they wished to see Democrats and Republicans to work together. Tied with the number of students who answered “No” were students who said “Yes,” but their answer indicated that there were actions to be taken and conditions to be met before Democrats and Republicans could work together, but that after these actions were taken, they would want to work with the other party.

Part 2 - Question 17: What is America to you and do you think the current political system reflects that depiction?

In the collection of answers to this question as a whole, there is a lot of overlap between the perspectives of students on what America means to them. In answering this question, there were 7 main themes in which the interviewees’ answers seemed to gravitate towards.

(1) America as an idea: This perspective of America as an idea centered around thinking of America as a collection of concepts, such as America is based on a civic religion. UC Democrats

from Berkeley, Davis, and Santa Barbara spoke to America as a nation based not on one basic ethnicity, as many other countries are, but based on a set of shared ideas. As one UC Berkeley Democrat said, “We are unified not by our history, I think, but by our ideals, our desire to move forward.” A UC Davis Democrat similarly states, “America is an idea of democracy, and the idea of the United States, and the Constitution... We all agree on this idea, it’s just how do we interpret it and go about it.”

(2) America as a social experiment: In a similar vein, many UC Democrats also thought of America as one large social experiment. A UC Berkeley Democrat said, “It’s more or less a social experiment where a whole bunch of people from different backgrounds, different colors, all this stuff, are put under this creed in order to share these ideals. Many would argue that this experiment hasn’t succeeded. Some might say that because we aren’t all in war, yet, means that it has. For me, I think it’s an experiment that’s still going on, that we are still trying, and I think that’s what makes America, not super great, but special, in the fact that we can actually continue to have this experiment.”

A fellow UC Berkeley Democrat echoed her club member’s perspective, by stating that it is something that has “never been tried before.” For a Democrat in San Diego, the “grand American experiment” inspires him. The homogenous nature of other countries seems uninteresting.

(3) America is not a melting pot: UC Democrats also talked about how America is not a melting pot, against what they say is claimed in American History textbooks and other mainstream rhetoric.

(4-6) America as the “land of opportunity”: The next three depictions of America were shared by both UC Democrats and Republicans. America “as the land of opportunity” was one of the most frequent responses to the question. It was how America was described by a UCSC Republican, and then in an interview hours later, by a UCSC Democrat. Similarly, by both a UCLA Democrat and Republican. We have heard this phrase “the land of opportunity” almost at nauseam. So much so that, in my perspective it sometimes seems to have lost its true value. But there wasn’t any value lost on these students, who believed in the phrase as an accurate way to describe America and what America promises. Students of both parties also believed in the American Dream. More UC Republicans gave this answer, but still, a UCSC and a UCSB Democrat said the American Dream is still very much alive for him. Lastly, UC Democrats and Republicans said that America is a place for freedom, liberty, and equality. Again, the majority of

those who gave this answer were Republicans, but a UCLA and a UCSD Democrat also described America this way.

(7) America as a nation of hope for immigrants: The last theme I noticed that came from these answers came from the specific experiences of these students' lives. Three UC Democrats I interviewed spoke about what America is to their parents who immigrated here, and how that has impacted their perception of America. One UC Berkeley Democrat told the story that her parents tell hundreds of times--crying every time--of how when her parents first came to America, they went grocery shopping and left their purse in the grocery cart. The purse had not only their wallets, but their passports, their visas, and documentation. The next day on a whim they went to the lost and found and there was the purse. In India, that would never happen, her parents would say. That is how they knew this was the country they were going to stay in.

A UCSC Democrat says that the American dream began for him in the 80s when his parents came to America. His parents worked hard, and were able to send their kid to a UC. For the strong population of immigrants in the state of California, the student said, the aspiration is to send their kid to a UC, and then to have them find a stable career.

Similarly, a UCSB Democrat believes the American dream is still alive. Her mom grew up in America and tells her why America is bad. Her dad immigrated to America when he was 25 and tells her why America is good. He tells her to look at what it has done for him and subsequently done for her. As her dad reminds her, she still feels really lucky to live in America.

The sentiment of what America has provided their parents as immigrants is reflected in the answers of two UC Democrats who immigrated to America themselves. One student spent years in Syria and got sponsored to leave Syria. He is thankful that he is here because he had a country that is welcoming to people, and that is something that scares him about America's trajectory. In his opinion, if we're not able to welcome more refugees and immigrants, we will be more one economically disadvantaged and two less moral as a county. Sitting at the same table, another UC Democrat student spoke about her experience coming to America from Georgia in Eastern Europe when she was 9. As she says, coming to America is the greatest thing that has ever happened to her. She values the freedom aspect a lot. Small things like running water and electricity is a constant in the US. As a woman, she values the fact that she can play sports and be respected if she chooses to go into politics. The student believes that people in America that have

not had to live in another country do not understand what it is like to not live in America and to not have the things that America offers.

In the next section I will elaborate on the significance that comes from pairing these two questions together as a sum of the lessons and knowledge that came from the research.

IV. Significance and conclusions drawn from the data

Evident in their answers to question 17, each individual I interviewed had their own unique story, so presenting their answers as “data” and not as stories is not the most accurate way to encapsulate the true value of the answers to this research. In this section I expand upon the answers given in the previous section as well as other discussions I had that were not related to the main thesis questions, but are fascinating in themselves and add to the perplexing nature of our politics today.

The motivation of asking question 12, of whether Democrats and Republicans could and wanted to work together was a genuine curiosity. But also hiding behind the genuine objectivity was a desire to make sense as to how we came to be so divided as a country. I was in search of a silver lining. I did not get this solace from the answers. I would drive long hours between the schools feeling defeated for our country. These students were passionate about changing the country. But what they were passionate about and how they were going to make that change were sometimes radically different.

One UC Democrat student vehemently opposed working with Republicans. When it came to the question of working with the other side, she said,

“I think too many democrats view politics as this academic debate between liberals and conservatives, and you go to the senate and you argue and you compromise and the compromise is somehow going to be better than what you put forward because it’s a compromise and that’s how it’s supposed to work. And I push back against that view and I think more people are, because at the end of the day if you compromise with Republicans on food stamps people are going to die. If you compromise with Republicans on health care people are going to die. You have to take the morally correct standpoint and it’s hard, no one wants to come to this conclusion but if you’re advocating for the American Health Care Act, which would kick god knows how many people off health insurance, that’s not just an ineffective or bad piece of policy, it’s an immoral piece of policy, there’s no reason to compromise with that.”

Yet, as the interview carried on and the future for cooperation got more and more bleak, there was a noticeable shift in the interview when the students were asked to talk about what America meant to them. There was a change of pace from hard, fast paced criticism of America, or the Democrats, or the Republicans, to the introduction of question 17. The conversation began to slow down. The criticism didn't stop, but in their answers, there were feelings of pride, of reflecting on the opportunities we have been given as Americans, and on the hope that we can do better. The same UC Democrat student who believed we should not work with Republicans, also used to work as a volunteer in the Reagan Library in her home town in Southern California. Many of her fellow docents and friends at the library are older, retired, and Republican. After the election, she was upset with Republicans and over winter break, she wasn't sure if she wanted to return to the library. But she did, and she was really glad she did. She said that she forgot how really decent people are when you take away those partisan lines. She says that it is important to remind ourselves that whatever our country's faults—and we have many deep faults—the vast majority of people in this country are decent people, really decent people, and if we are in politics it is our right and obligation to commit ourselves to doing right by that group of people.

Instead of taking a zoomed-out picture of the patrician divide, the stories from my perspective seemed to become much more nuanced at the individual level. I interviewed the UCI Democrat club president who is female, a Muslim, and whose best friend is a Trump supporter in the UCI Republican party. In the context of America today, this is really unusual. A UCLA Democrat likes to go the UCLA Republican meetings and sit and observe. The UC Davis Republican president said he likes sitting down with individuals who disagree with him and talking to them. A UCSC Republican said that there are too many echo chambers. It is easier to vilify somebody if you don't know them. He also enjoyed the interview a lot, particularly that he was helping to bridge the divide. And that brings him joy.

Similarly, engaging with individuals helped demystify stereotypes and made it clearer that I was talking to individuals rather than each party at large. For example, of the 7 UC Santa Cruz Republicans I interviewed, none of them identified as Republicans. They identified as independents, libertarians, and alt-centrists. Moreover, the UC Davis Republican President is openly gay, and is part of an LGBTQ fraternity. When people find this out about him, they are usually surprised, but he believes that being gay aligns with the ideals of the Republican party--small government and individual rights. Lastly, out of the members that I interviewed, more

Republican members said they had friends who were Democrats, some saying that most of their friends at college were Democrats. In contrast, fewer Democrats could name a Republican friend. These conversations reminded me that there are a lot of personal factors that go into political decisions. These often overlooked personal factors make it hard to generalize when studying each party as a whole.

V. Conclusion

The research confirmed the fervor of a country adamant to be ripped down the middle, but also that people on both sides of the aisle share a genuine commitment to make this country better. Unrelated, but ironically related in every way, at the end of the research trip I crashed the car I was using to travel to each school. To retroactively justify crashing the car, I like to say that it's a good metaphor for the trajectory of our political parties. We will crash as a country—total even—if we disregard people we disagree with so much so that we forget to see their humanity.

From what I've seen, and heard, and done, conversations with a complete stranger about politics are not so hard to have; people are willing to talk. But we lose faith in dialogue when we feel our personhood isn't respected. "The only way to have those conversations is to engage them as people," said the UCI Democrat President about how to have conversations with those she disagrees with. The larger conclusion of this research is that we need to employ having more conversations at the individual level, with people who we think are different from us.

In the interview room, it was often just me and 1-4 other students. These are my peers. No matter their political affiliation, we were all part of the same public university system, sharing a slice of history in a politically interesting time. While they spoke of their school and party, they were still 20-something year olds, each trying to make sense of everything as we are all do.

The future both excites me and terrifies me. But I think if you were to ask the generation before us, and even before that, they would say the same thing. The politically interesting time we live in will likely remain interesting for the extent of our college career and probably after that too. But for each student passionately participating in politics, no matter their policies and opinions, I think the overarching message can be summed up from one of my peers, "You can do what you can as an individual and hope for the best with the world."

VI. Appendix

The answers written below are taken from the interviews. The answers are written as they appear in my transcription notes. The responses here are not exact quotes. In conversations, we do not speak in full sentences and often stumble and re-start our sentences to convey our message. I also wrote them in third person and not first person. However, I did not alter any the meaning, nor any of the words to describe the schools and to answer the questions. The words below were all said by that student, and their meanings are still preserved. Lastly, the interviewees are referred to as “students” to give them the anonymity to speak openly about personal information.

1. Describe the political culture/climate on your campus?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Very progressive. A lot of people think politically, but are not politically active

Student 2: Academically a high pressure environment, don't prioritize politics (unlike some of the members of Cal Dems.)

Student 3: There is a presence of all political groups on the spectrum: Now a very big presence of Berkeley College Republicans. A socialist presence, Marxist, libertarian, as well as liberal.

Student 4: Wide but thin involvement in politics of the students. What is missing at Cal: The average person generally involved in politics

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: In one word he would say volatile. It's important to note the events that have happened here [on campus] and the effects that they've had, especially on the conservative community. It has drawn a lot of individuals to the conservative community. He's had his friends assaulted and transfer schools because of the political climate. One of his best friend's was punched on election night because he expressed excitement for the election of Donald Trump, and ended up transferring. The club has three pages of complaints with the University office of assaults on the Berkeley campus by Berkeley students against their club members, and has yet to receive remedy for them.

UC Davis Democrats answers:

Student 1: Very liberal, extremely liberal: very socially liberal, and accepting of different identities. You see this through issues people talk about, clubs on campus, events they host on campus

Student 2: There is a small but dedicated conservative group. There is a lack of discussions at Davis but that there should be more [discussion]. [Davis] is more socially liberal than economically—social problems are easier to grasp.

UC Davis Republicans answers:

Student 1: Liberal, and left leaning.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: A lot of desire for people to be politically active, but don't know how to transform that desire into action. Historically, UCSC has been the pinnacle of activism, seen a resurgence of activism—need to ask what it means to be an activist in 2017 as compared to the 60s

Student 2: A lot of people don't like either party or just don't care

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: Radical left—not “Manhattan democrat or moderate democrat”

Strong activism culture on campus
generally you run into people open to ideas.

As a Republican, you don't tell anyone; In class you don't speak up, people will respond negatively to you. You stay quiet.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: Generally politically active; the school doesn't experience the same political apathy that exists on other campuses so much; [UCSB] has the highest registered students in the nation. Really liberal campus.

Student 2: The conservative groups—not necessarily the college republicans, are very loud, small but loud. Have a presence and they push it—provocative, feed off of publicity

Student 3: Lot of student activists on campus: SAN (Student Activist Network) A little over a thousand people

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: Would say the general populace is pretty moderate but that they get strong backlash from the leftist groups.

Student 2: A lot of little interactions with the backlash, when one student tables, he gets called a white nationalist.

Student 3: Other club YAL, people have destroyed their signs.

Backlash isn't as extreme as they think maybe other campuses have, but they still get it.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: Thinks UCLA is different from other UCs where politics is more adversarial
Majority of students are apathetic about politics, apolitical; UCLA is a left-leaning institution, most of the students are left-leaning.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: Leans left by a solid margin.

Student 2: In the past 12 months there has been a significant strand of alt-right on campus.

Student 3: There is an apathy for politics around the STEM community.

Voter registration on campus fights the apathy—people are open to register to vote.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: UCI is not very politically active; would like to think that the majority of students are liberal.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: [Described as a] Dead zone: if strike the right pockets, you will get politically active people. The arts are very heavily liberal, not antagonistically liberal. In Bio/science, no one really cares about politics.

2. How did this culture change before and after the election?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Massive upsurge in membership in Cal Dems that lasted about two weeks
The core group of political people on campus hasn't really changed: it is a minority on campus. those people were there before the election and they are there after the election—that community didn't change because of the election

Student 2: before the election, the divisions were much more amongst the left. The election galvanized people against the current admin to create a more left right divide.

Student 3: In some ways it unified people on the left and in other ways it created more divisions by allowing some radical groups on campus to become more powerful

Galvanized Berkeley College Republicans and has made them a much more further right organization.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Thinks that before you had a bunch of passionate young liberals thinking it was going to be the shattering of the glass ceiling and all of that. Both candidates were incredibly morally vapid in his opinion, but to have someone who rebukes the left's entire ideology to win a presidency...now you see someone who is largely a political who is coming out against everything the left stands for, and to see the entire belief system shatter before their eyes, was a very hard pill to swallow.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: "we" have become more entrenched in the liberal ideology, not more liberal, but cemented in their beliefs

Student 2: Not that they have become more liberal, but have learned to reject the new administration; students have become more involved, more politically active, passionate

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1:

-Before/during the election: liberal but not militantly liberal

After the election: become more hostile. Everyone in the club has been called names almost to the point of harassment. Believes that the other side [the Democrats club] thinks it is too hostile right now too.

*Militant liberal defined: liberal in the sense that it is left-leaning. Militant in that if you see someone walking around, you will engage them, call them names. Personally has been called names, lost a lot of friends the night of the election

-There was a group crying session in the quad on campus and a lot of resources groups emerged after the election—the student doesn't know why.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: A lot of marches right after the election (at least 4) and more since then. Change in culture/climate of the campus as it came together during election night

- Before election night, sense of complacency, thinks would have continued if Hillary would have won. That night the progressive coalition switched roles and became leaders.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: People were not thinking Trump would win. [The male student] was talking to some members in the club who were democrats and after the election with all the anti-Trump rhetoric/protests they thought the left in Santa Cruz was kind of crazy and decided to switch over
More destruction and violence in general

The resistance has been really popular, the idea that we're fighting the establishment

Some people who were once pro-protest or were indifferent about protests think it's stupid now bc there are so many

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: SAN (Student Activist Network) group emerged, have a “rapid response network”

Student 2: To a lot of people the election was a slap in the face

Student 3: Either people have sworn off electoral politics or they feel they need to support the democratic party

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Before: a lot of apathy; After: People started to wake up and get more involved. Bruin Dems membership went from 30-40 members to 50-60 members. The atmosphere on campus changed a lot

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: More adversarial in the time around the election—the months before and after. The day after the election, came to campus wearing Trump attire, got harassed. Currently is not favorable towards Trump anymore—main change was because of his actions in regards to foreign policy; intervention in Syria

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: People are more hostile, and aggressive in general. The Republican club will try to get the campus riled up and angry by inviting speakers such as Milo Yiannopoulos, who was invited twice to the campus. And as a result you will get people who are very angry, and really hate conservative and Republicans and will never socialize with them. So it created a charged atmosphere where you can't really disagree, because one side is preaching the destruction of the other. It's quite hard to have an opinion. Before you disagreed on a matter of policy, and you can talk about it, and have a conversation about it. But now, when someone is literally saying that ‘I think your parents, and you, and your siblings need to get out of this country, or deported, or physically harmed, or not be allowed to travel,’ it becomes very personal, and very different. Unfortunately, it gets harder to have just an opinion and a conversation.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: before and after the election noticed a change in a negative way. He became involved in the Trans-Political forum in March 2016, which is a club established in January of that year as a place “free for all politics.” The rules of the club are you can have a discussion as long as it is civil. After the election, the TPF membership cut in half, and became more right wing. The republican club increased its membership too.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: Yes, the right is more visible, emboldened.

3.What is the relationship between the College Democrats club and College Republicans club on campus?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: is personally friends with members of the Republican club. Organizes debates with BCR membership.

Student 2: “There is a specter drawn up of Berkeley that you are either liberal or you have no friends” that is not true. There are a lot of conservative students who, regardless if they are republican or not, have a lot of liberal friends.

Student 3: Believes that the fights with BCR and everybody else are so separate from the class environment where it is really fine to share your opinion. For the vast majority of students who aren’t intensely politically involved, don’t really care if they have friends who are Republicans.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: The Cal Dems leader is a good guy, they have a cordial relationship . Hopes to have more debates between the clubs moving forward.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: Have some members in the club that want to reach out to the Republicans, have joint socials—then the Milo incident happened. That event soured their idea of the College Republicans. The Milo event happened at the first week of Winter quarter, so the rest of the quarter they barely talked at all. By the end of the winter quarter they barely talked at all, which another student thought was healthy because the Democrat club needed to distance themselves and not fight each other. At the end of winter quarter they began to slowly warm up to the college republicans. Now trying to organize a debate with the college republicans, the “students of Democratic Society” (a very progressive group on campus) and the libertarian group. Before they had never done a joint social so this is progress

In a way, the college republicans bringing such a controversial figure has forced the college Dems to think about their relationship with them.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: first two years they [the Democrat and Republican clubs] would have debates, but the Democrats would usually pull out last minute and the college Republicans would be left debating the Libertarians. Didn’t host too many events with them bc the college Democrats weren’t chartered at the beginning of the year. Just now talking about doing a debate

Would definitely say has friends in the Davis Democrat club— is going to meet up for coffee and talk to

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: It doesn't exist

Student 2: Wants to make it exist. The UCSC College Republicans are a new club, and thinks it would be good to build a bi-partisan partnership because there is room for compromise. At the end of the day we are all people. Think it's important to acknowledge that they are all UC Santa Cruz students and that at the end of the day there is more that brings them together in terms of their daily lives than sets them apart.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: The college republicans are new, formed at the beginning of the fall. Have talked to some of their representatives during tabling. Are working on organizing a debate right now. The college democrats weren't very receptive at first, but more receptive now. What sparked the debate idea was wanting to do events with the Democrat club.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Definitely civil, there aren't intense feuds
Both recognize that the other club is a valid institution
Didn't interact too much this past quarter

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

They debate each other
The democrat club still has animosity towards the Republican club. They come to the debate table hostile, but their hostility is more subtle than the other clubs on campus—the more progressive or left leaning clubs
The College Republicans have a pretty strong connection to the Young American's for Liberty club (YALs), stronger than any other club on campus. A lot of overlap between the clubs—almost everyone at a YALs meeting is also at their club meeting. This is a unique relationship, because at most campuses, YAL and college republicans are rivals

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Things have become more contentious between democrats and republicans harder to arrange different things. They used to be able to collaborate on different things, but now there are

certain members of the Democrat club who don't want to arrange things with the Republicans. Since the election, the republicans are less hesitant to reach out. They have a president this quarter that is more open than the previous club president. Would say it is harder from their end, the Democrats end to reach out because you have people in the club who are undocumented. Some members feel that reaching out is being complicit to the oppression that is happening. The student understands this, from the language the Republican club uses as trying to incite people.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: Have a very strong relationship with the Bruin Dems. They have talked about hosting social events moving forward. Host quarterly debates, which have been standing for the three years the student has been at UCLA.

Student 2: Used to believe that debate and dialogue with the other side worked and did that a lot last year, but lost faith in it from the interaction he had every day—micro aggressions and harassment when he wore his feminist and Dems shirts. Avoids them on campus now. Have always had debates between the two clubs every quarter for many years. At the last debate, the GOP said more extreme things than the college Dems were used to.

Student 3: Has a couple of friends who are no longer part of the club, who she doesn't personally agree with but has gotten along with, got coffee with. The college republicans have reached out to have more social events. The dems have declined. Will continue to have formal meetings with debates and discussions, because they are a political organization, you can't shy away from political arguments. But declined the social events because:

Doesn't want to put some of the college dems' members in an environment where their identity is not being respected by the people in the room. The college dems have transgender and non-binary members. The tone of the college republicans reaching out was very demeaning, it was a "we won, now we're right" and that they knew the college democrats were going to say no but that they could say/look like they were reaching out more. Before the election: It was less contentious. The college republicans held new board member elections and a lot of their more reasonable people resigned immediately upon seeing the results of those new elections.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Before Trump came on the scene, [the Democrat and Republican clubs] were very very friendly with the other club. They would hang out, party together. It didn't really matter, they would have debates, even in a casual setting. They were brought together by college kids being interested in politics. There used to be this other club called the Trans-Political Forum, that a Bernie person and a Republican founded together. And it was for all of them to hang out, connect, and have a good time. What's interesting with that is that with the rise of Trump and the Republican party getting more extremist and aggressive, that organization has died.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: Answering as a formal representative of the Republican club: [The clubs] don't bump shoulders; not a whole lot going on across aisles; they don't see eye to eye on things, and have different interests in how to run the organizations.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: It's difficult. The College republicans will go after UCSD Dem members individually, go after the club a but it's different face to face as opposed to the internet, like to mess with the college dems on the internet. In forums and discussions, it is generally less hostile, because of the "mutually assured destruction" that debating in public has, especially since the college democrats have a larger following

4. Why do student join the UC College Democrats/Republicans club?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: "Just being a democrat doesn't mean they want to be a part of this club"

Student 2: People join because they are interested in a career in politics. The 3 big reasons why is they are 1) democrats who want to get involved. 2) activists and want to get involved in political work 3) interested in a career in politics

Student 3: Wants the club to be a broader resource for liberals on campus, bc there are literally tens of thousands of Democrats at Berkeley

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Why he joined: Has been involved in the Republican party since 2015. The club was the only place he felt understood, and the sentiments he has.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: Want a place to speak freely and discuss politically, because can't do that in other settings. There are ppl in their club questioning Trump. It isn't the Republican label, mainly just want political discussion. Some people want to hear more opinions on campus.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: People come to the club for different reasons, some for the camaraderie, to meet other like minded students bc it is easy to feel isolated when you are in a minority on campus

The right is very diverse ideologically, even more so than the left in their national politics. Leading up to the election, made an endorsement as a club, which is not typical of a college republican club—they aren't allowed to under the California Republican charter if there are more candidates running in the primaries. But Bruin Republicans aren't chartered through the state. The club voted to endorsed Marco Rubio, second was Ted Cruz, and then Rand Paul. Only two members voted for Trump in the primary. Going into the national, the majority of members came behind Trump and a minority behind Gary Johnson

The unifying factor supporting Trump:

Primary unifying factor was the supreme court. Those who were hesitant to support him new that the Supreme Court was more than 4-8 years, more like 40-50 year lasting impact. So people weren't voting necessarily for Trump but against Hillary for the Supreme Court nominee. A lot of students in the club and in California College Republicans were really happy with Neil Gorsech, and that was a realization of their vote being cast.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: They never really felt like I had a choice of being political, because as a brown person, and who was raised Muslim and wore the scarf for the majority their life. Their existence as a person of color, and as a woman has always been politicized. They have never felt that they had a choice to sit one out. Because if they didn't give a fuck about politics, politics still gave a fuck about them.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Curiosity is the biggest thing to check out the club

Have people who are from really conservative families/hometowns and want to see what the party is like OR they come from really progressive places—from Berkeley or San Francisco and want to find their people

Because of their large membership, they can bring big candidates to campus—so they offer people the opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves, but also maintaining a family aspect of the club.

5. Does your club represent all parts of your national party? Or are some political identities more concentrated than others?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: The club is definitely more left. There is political diversity amongst the membership, although there is a predominance towards the progressive side of things. All have a similar core beliefs for justice and equality

Student 2: Cal Dems as a club has had a more moderate history. A lot of people on the left don't consider themselves democrats, and that's not specific to Cal Dems, that is associated with the national Democratic Party.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: His demographic is Trump heavy. When there is a Republican president, it's just a fact. They are the most "Trumpian" club on campus, but that doesn't mean they aren't all Trump supporters. They represent from all over the right. In fact, some of the right they represented was so extreme they had to get rid of them, such as the alt-right.

- Alt-Right: A group of beliefs that say your race is inherently tied to your creed. So that, Western civilization isn't ideals, it is skin color. They are also vehement readers of Niche. The way you have your civilization survive is you have a group of people who are homogenous and if there are dissidents, your job is to exclude them from the community.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: Wants to appeal to all types of conservatives. Republicans are a minority in California, so need all the conservatives they can. Have members of all types: some love Trump, some were for another candidate in the primary, from moderate to libertarian. Some that are more moderate, identify with the national party. Doesn't believe there are any Tea party or far right. Consider Milo more moderate because he is an openly gay republican, but a lot of people consider him far right.

Defining far right: Tea-party esk, doesn't mean it like an extreme

An extreme would be more like a nationalist and a communist. Far right doesn't really mean extreme right or extreme left. On the political spectrum, it means they align further right or with the team party

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: most members fall towards the Bernie Sanders side, progressive. But there are other members as well. Have a little bit of everything: one democratic socialist—that is the extreme. Have some who are more right of the spectrum, and everyone in between

Terms:

- Rural democrat: Things he learned about small government
- A conservative Democrat: Believe in policies enacted by both sides. Not as strict as the majority of the party on gun control. Some of them might see how tax cuts for some people are beneficial in some ways

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

- 70% are Trump supporters
- A good portion are “Never Trumpers
- Some are past democrats
- 30% are mixed, questioning Trump
- Only knows one guy in the club who supports Trump on everything, but most people question him on a few things.
- Biggest minority are libertarians.
- Everyone is a Regan fan
- **Of the members I was interviewing, there were: independents, libertarians, alt-centrists—none that outright identified as a Republican
- They identify more with conservatives and libertarians

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: A lot of progressives in the club, but also well-educated moderates. Feels student 1 couldn't tell me what the national party looks like, the Democratic party has always been a big tent party

- Defining terms:
 - moderate in their club's organization goes hand in hand with the establishment—a good measure is who they voted for in the primary, if they voted for Hillary, they are probably very establishment Democrat. But even so, one of the biggest moderates in their club voted for Bernie in the primaries, so has to do with their viewpoints on different things, especially with representation and the value they put on solidarity
 - Student 2: A lot of progressives in the club are hear for California first. The current head of the California County party came to talk to them after the election and told them to not give up the fight/keep up the activism—that is something you don't hear from the national party

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Thinks they are not representative of the national party because they are a lot more liberal, and a lot more left. A lot of them were inspired by Bernie, so they have a lot of those [progressive] values, and they don't think the Democratic party has caught up, but they don't believe that the solution is to go outside of the party.

6. What are the most important issues that you care about?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Number one issue- College affordability. Not to freeze the cost of tuition, not to make it debt free, but to make it zero in as many places as possible. Second: housing, which is the number one political issue in this area. The number of students that struggle to find an apartment or place to live is insane, and that has a lot of city level solutions, but mostly state level solutions

Student 2: Financial regulation: work towards electing people who are strong on financial regulation with regards to Wall Street.

Student 3: Workers' rights, climate change, those are big ones, but his general thing is he likes big government—this drives republicans crazy. Not in a tyrannical kind of way, but a democratic small d, government that engages in large-scale public projects is an incredible thing.

Student 4: We need true representation and participation—and the fact that we have so much money in politics makes the government not as representative as it could be. Also believes in free education and housing, and campaign finance reform. Repeal citizens united, and stop gerrymandering.

Student 5: Women's issues and climate change—more renewable energy, regulations of fossil fuel emissions, and also protecting reproductive health care and making that affordable, equal pay, fighting sexual assault and domestic violence, fighting for women's rights on a more international level with increasing girls' education and reproductive health care.

Student 6: Equal treatment for all. Super vague but brings things like free education, free health care, not such a hawkish foreign policy.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Tax reform, alleviating tax burdens on small businesses that can't afford CPAs and out of tax loopholes. Obama Care repeal, health outcomes have gotten worse for individuals. It is dis-incentivizing individuals to go into medical fields. Tricking the supply of health care won't increase the quality. There are three things, there is quality, universality, or affordability, and we can only have two of those three things. Immigration reform, he likes the RAISE Act, meritocracy in immigration.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: Environmental issues, social issues, and immigration have become more salient since the election. One of the main reasons the student is a democrat: the idea that you take care of your poorest, weakest citizens. They didn't choose to be poor, you take care of them because there are all these structural factors that contribute to being poor/unemployed.

Student 2: A matter of equal rights, because that's what triggered the student's departure from the Republican party. So whether it is LGTB rights, women's rights, muslim rights—anything along those lines, those are issues that make the student more passionate. There are still ideas that the student learned from the Republican party that are still in the student's head, such as immigration, and while the student is questioning the student's stance on those issues, the student hasn't solidified the students views on them. On the issues that they have learned to fully oppose the student's Republican upbringing are the issues the student's most passionate about, the one's the student is questioning, not so much.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: Free speech. Difficult to raise a hand in class because other students will get really upset and try to counter argue. Other members have had teachers who say things that are definitely left, but he hasn't had too much of that. Being a part of the LGTB community, wants to show that the Republican party is the party of inclusion, and that the party is changing and that Trump is a very good candidate for LGTB members. In response to a follow up question on speaking to how some republicans don't support LGTB rights: we need to reach out and tell the national party that the needs of the LGTB community are mirrored by the foundation of the Republican Party: small government and individual rights, which mirrors LGTB rights.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: In 2017-2018, public health as it relates to homelessness. Housing, it is incredibly expensive and rent control is illegal in Santa Cruz. On the local level in Santa Cruz, think it's important to show that immigrants are important to the community (the area recently experienced ICE raids).

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: In order of importance: Abortion, he is very anti-abortion, then free speech, then gun rights, but those aren't really threatened now. For the election it was abortion, anti-establishment, taxes, and Obamacare—those were the 4 main areas that Trump's campaign focused on.

Student 2: Pro-nationalism: Pro-America—what America stands for. And pro-freedom. The concept of America getting away from the monarchy and the king's oppression and we can live in a democratic republic where everyone has a say and everyone has as much freedom as possible.

Student 3: Preservation of family values. Is a muslim, so believes there is an overwhelming amount of decadence in our society, but believes the Republican party cares about family values. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech.

Student 4: Freedom of discussion, freedom of belief is the biggest for this student. Gun rights bc he is big on individualism, so supports the 2nd amendment. Is pro-background checks, but doesn't like ppl to be impeded from needing to defend themselves. Anti-interventionism, not just when it comes foreign policy but also with freedom domestically—keeping the government from interfering in the lives of American people.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: As a student, making higher education affordable. Making the UC free again.

Student 2: The student debt crisis really cripples the economy. Making undocumented people are safe and can stay with their families and aren't actively being deported.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: Abortion. Is very pro-life as you can be. It is a very republican value.

Student 2: Capitalism, nationalism, and preservation of western civilization and culture. Vehemently anti-marxist. Believes that whether you acknowledge it or not, Marxism is the fundamental influence behind lefts ideals.

Student 3: Primary reason he's involved in college republicans: to resist the growth of Marxism, bc Marxism is growing to universities, and is convinced the result is catastrophic. Believes government has become this totally bloated mess. Believes the growth of America has slowed since FDR, both economically and culturally.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Top most thing right now is immigration. Turning the state into a sanctuary state. As a student, tuition hikes and making college more affordable. Social issues in general, how communities are treated: Islamophobia, anti-blackness [lack of understanding of African-Americans on this campus]. Cares about these issues personally bc has met undocumented, muslim, black students who he is very close to, and it has become very personal to him.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: Biggest national priority: immigration, the United States is facing fundamental demographic changes that have deciding implications when it comes to voting outcomes in the future. The demographics are changing in a way that would make Republicans unable to win elections ever again.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Really cares about women's rights, a woman's right to choose. Access to education and healthcare is really important. Criminal justice reform, and social justice: like Black Lives Matter, and ending racism and police brutality. There is also the Industrial Military Complex, and how we generate wars for profit in the Middle East and elsewhere.

9. What is a misconception that people have of Republicans/Democrats? Why do you believe this misconception exists?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Democrats just want bigger government that taxes more, spends more, that's constraining, and that's not really how I see it. I don't want a government that constrains people. The way I see it, I want a government that protects people from corporations, from other powerful interests and then if the government steps back, you leave the people to the mercy of those interests.

Student 2:

- Conservatives feel that democrats just want to spend, without any objective with that spending. He think's it's a translation of Democrat's values, Democrats value people that may be marginalized or may not have the same opportunities as those who are more privileged to have them. Therefore, Democrats are going to spend more, want to invest in people—that's what they do, they invest.
- That Democrats are not inclusive of people that are particularly religious or have different affiliations outside of politics. Democrats are usually seen as the party without a religion, or that they are anti-religious. While he acknowledges that the party does have elements like that, the party means to be as inclusive as possible. Striving for inclusion creates a lot of growing pains within the party, as they try to be as inclusive as possible without being exclusive to anyone. So not trying to prioritize any religion over another, so that comes off as "you are not the party of a religion" but he thinks that they are the party of many religions and that they are still trying to figure out what that sounds like and what that looks like.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: That they are a bunch of dumb hicks. That's his favorite one. He was called a hick evangelical t*** on the phone during his internship over the summer which he thought was hilarious, when I was working at a congressman office. And the guy kept repeating that he was an 'intellectual, so obviously I'm a Democrat.' The arrogance the comes with individuals who think that Republicans are somehow not educated—no, Republicans just have another outlook on the world. It's disingenuous. It's actually hilarious to think that all these individuals in the

Republican party are just some hicks that graduated from community college, when really its another version of Mr. Smith goes to Washington. It's not that at all. Tim Cotton was an graduated an undergraduate from Harvard, could have gone to Harvard law, instead he decided to enlist as a Marine. Ted Cruz has an eidetic memory, he is a Princeton graduate. George Bush, a Yale graduate. George W. Bush also a Yale Graduate. You have all these prominent Republican individuals, incredibly successful individuals. The Republican party aren't a bunch of hicks. There are individuals in the Republican party who are foolishly outspoken and elevated to a platform they don't deserve because said arbitrary trait, but that being said all these individuals are incredibly [inaudible]. The Left acts like they are the academic elites of the coast, when really the Republican party are the academic elites, they're just in touch with the heartland of America. That should be something the Democratic party should be weary of moving forward. [To Democrats]: Stop lecturing to the American people, stop lecturing to the heartland of America. Stop going to the rust belt Hillary Clinton and telling them that it is their fault, the miner's fault that global warming is occurring—it's not their fault, they were born in that culture.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: That we're all young people who don't know what we're talking about. That we're willing to compromise our country just for the sake of equal rights, whether it's just straight up open borders to let immigrants through, because democrats love immigration. A misunderstanding of how intelligent we (college democrats/liberals) are and how much we've thought this through. Democrats are too politically correct. He hears that phrase a lot—this whole idea that Democrats are trying to limit freedom of speech because they can't handle all the negative things (they're a bunch of snowflakes) But all that political correctness is, is not being unnecessarily offensive. You can talk about policies without being offensive, and unnecessarily so.

Student 2: Hard for her to think of a misconception of the Democratic Party because she has never thought about it before. She has always been in a very left-leaning environment, whether that be her home or UC Davis.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: That people on both sides think that everyone agrees with one hundred percent of their party. There's always one issue that they are more moderate on, disagree with their party on. They think this comes from a lack of knowledge, a lot of people don't like politics and don't want to learn about it, so they get these generalizations that all democrats or all republicans think this way. That all republicans are against LGTB rights—John McCain is part of the super pack for Log Cabin Republicans. Republicans are attacked for having bad policies for minorities, racial politics, for not reaching out enough, for not having minorities but if you were to take the racial demographic of the College Republicans at Davis, you'd be surprised about how many minorities are represented. Affirmative Action: a Democratic policy that favors one race over another. Realized in high school that it isn't fair to call the Republican party the party of the rich, because there are a lot of rich people who support the democrats

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: That we're all tax and spend. About politicians in general: A lot of people don't see them as people, as people part of a community who want to improve that community. At the local level you see these are people who care about the issues and sometimes it's other forces that are stopping them from execution.

Student 2: Democrats aren't fiscally responsible. Democrats don't value small business. There are a few examples—Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley—that push back against that notion. Jerry Brown wants to push our state to be in the top ten economies, so that's important on his agenda.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: A lot of people think republicans are racist, naturally supportive of Trump.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: A lot of democrats associate local democrats with the national party. The national party calls themselves representative of everyone, and that's just rhetoric to gain minority votes or marginalized groups, and with that assumption is that their UCSB Democrats club/local group doesn't actually care about minorities or marginalized groups, which she thinks is false. How she sees the national party: It is very distant. There is very little way that she can have input on what it means to be a democrat at the national level. She can influence what it means to be a democrat on her campus, and maybe the greater central coast area, maybe the state. But the path to those conversations at the national level is very elitist.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: A misconception people have of republicans is that they sit in little rooms and constantly plot how they're going to make their lives miserable. A lot of people who hold these misconceptions think that they are triggering trolls that troll for the sake of trolling, instead of that they actually have ideological backing. The republicans do have substantive opinions, but people think they are all milo and that they hold opinions opposed to them just to make them uncomfortable and upset. Admits that sometimes trolling is fun, but he never takes it to the extent that people think he's taking it too.

Student 2: Big misconception of exclusion, that a lot of former friends she's had who are left leaning think that Republicans won't accept you if you're anything but a white, straight, male, when in fact all the people who say that—the left leaning people—are the ones who will stop talking to you because you're conservative leaning. Whereas, what she's found from the Republican things she's gone to, she's never felt unaccepted for not being white or for not being a man. (Someone mentions that last year's exec board was all Hispanic.) She has never seen a

conservative friend distance themselves from another friend because they were a lefty, but has seen so many friendships that have been broken because the left person doesn't want to be friends with the conservative person.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: That Democrats are young, naïve, and don't know much about policy. People believe that though they are liberals now, when they become older they are going to start paying taxes and become republicans. They do not think this opinion applies to many of their members—a lot of their members are very strong in their beliefs. The republicans say they are the party of fiscal conservatism, but there is also fiscal conservatism in the Democrat Party, within their club there are people who are fiscally conservative.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: A misconception people have of Democrats is that we are out of touch. That we are in some kind of ivory tower. Or are just city people, which is to some degree true, we are city people and we are educated, but the misconception is that we live in a bubble and you don't understand what people go through, and that's not true. And I think that sometimes Democrats don't know how to convey that. Like the comment that I said about white privilege, if they don't translate what white privilege means, then people think, 'wow you have never really suffered. To think that I am privileged right now as I am suffering in front of you. You are leeching all the resources and that's why, me in rural America is suffering and that's why I hate liberals.' That's one misconception, another is that we are very sensitive, especially because of this whole free speech craze going around campuses. And yeah, sure, some people are sensitive. But most people aren't even democrats. Some of those people are so left wing and so "woke" that the Democratic party is reforming the means of oppression. And we have to discard everything and start over, etc, etc. But that's really not the majority of people, that is hyped up.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: A misconception that people on the left have of democrats is that people in the club do everything they do for political gain. The members of the club care about the same things that people on the left (those who hold the misconception care about. The club members don't endorse the candidates because they are paid to do so, not because someone told them to or because they have to. The things the club members do are genuine.

10. How is your generation of Republicans/Democrats different from the generation before you? How is it similar?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: The emphasis on inclusivity. Seen in changes to the language. More willing to put the work to do things, more willing to be more upfront about what we think. There is the stereotype that millennials don't respect people that are older than us. But he thinks it comes from the fact that a lot of millennials feel they are going through college to come out the other side with no guarantee of a job, or a house, or health insurance. So he thinks we've been on the tail end of a lot of things that made this generation more vocal with what we want and what we want to do to get that.

Student 2: Young people are economically to the left by a lot. Thinks this is because if you're her age, you've never experienced a prosperous economy that benefited the middle class—she doesn't remember the 90s. Thinks that when her generation becomes middle-aged, this viewpoint is going to have tremendous political implications.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: This generation is more economically concerned, less socially concerned — Socially liberal, fiscally conservative.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: Defines the last generation as 10 years older than him. The biggest thing with the current generation (millennials) are they are anti-establishment, even more on the left. Believes that the left is the main culture—they run the universities, the schools, the big cities, Hollywood, music, and it is now fashionable to be anti-establishment, which he relates to the Vietnam war era. Every generation wants to be anti-the previous generation. 80% of the club opposed the 59 missiles at Syria, which comes from an anti-intervention stance, thinking back to Iraq.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: We are definitely a lot more woke than the previous definition. Woke is slang for being aware of the fact that the world is not okay. We have dealt with a lot more than previous generations in a way, like the previous one, because we are born to such conditions economically that leave us in debt for the longest time, that give us no job security. Rent is harder, and it makes you lose faith in the institutions, and that a lot of them are fucked up. And that's something that older Democrats don't completely get. They are not as attuned to it as we are. Hear's a lot of casual racism, that is definitely not intentional, but it shows you the age difference if anything.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: His generation gives him hope. He will bash on his generation for not understanding parties, but when he thinks about what his generation is going to do when they actually go to the ballot box, he is inspired. His generation is pretty much in consensus about climate change, when it comes to diversity, building social welfare. Has even more faith in the incoming generation, his sister is 8 years old and when they discussed the forth of July, they talked about how America has not been great for certain communities, and she mentioned LGTB communities—he hopes they will still hold the same ideologies when they are 30.

Student 2: Is a big fan of the old, great society politics. Sees a lot of the making of the big government and taking care of people in our generation. Saw it a lot in the desire for corporate reform. What frustrates him about Bernie and his movement was that he was very adverse to identity politics, which are civil rights politics. Wants to see the return of identity politics along with corporate reform. He thinks that the democrat party has moved a little right on economic issues. He'd like to see a mesh of the Great Society with a focus on civil rights (combining Bernie's and Clinton's campaigns.)

11. What is something you think your party could improve upon? What is something that should stay the same?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Be more welcoming to more progressive people. The way the DNC elections went to elect the new chair was a very establishment election. Thinks that if the democrats are going to remain the party of young people and an inclusive, diverse party, they need to start welcoming outside ideas.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Something that should stay the same is intellectual diversity, which he believes is one of the reasons Republicans have such a hard time at passing legislation, because they are dealing with not wanting the government to intervene, but how much to intervene is the question. Intellectual diversity should stay the same but something that the Republican Party should improve upon is the tools for which they reconcile that. You have to keep that intellectual diversity open, but at what point are you a Democrat? He doesn't want everyone to be Ted Cruz, but at the same time Republicans can't get anything passed, and need to reconcile those differences. There needs to be balance but doesn't know how they are going to achieve that?

UC Davis Democrats answers:

Student 1: The national party has some soul searching, especially after the last election. Believes our leadership is old, that we need new leadership. Believes that a lot of the party's problems of

finding a cohesion between those who supported Bernie and other factions in the party with a built up base of encouraged young people to rise up the ranks and hold office. Getting people to run for office is another issue (what the republicans have been doing well for a long time) Need to get people to go into politics/run for political positions from the bottom up.

- Stay the same: The Democratic values; don't think the Democrats should take such a hard line, but at the same time shouldn't compromise our values just to say that we worked with Trump because he's our president, because is he really?

Student 2: The election of Donald Trump presented the Democratic party with the best opportunity to bring people into the Democrat party out of anger for the Trump party. Along the way of doing this, it is expanding the base and making people politically active. Thinks that it is an interesting game to play: you want to have a diverse group of young people involved, but there is also the old white people wing of the democratic party that is doing a lot of good for us in Washington. Examples: Diane Finestone, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren. Playing identity politics has alienated a lot of people, especially the whiter folks, which has contributed to why Trump won. Thinks that we should focus on economic issues that people can agree on, not just on racial/ethnic issues. You can't convince white people who are working two jobs that they are privileged, that's just going to make them angry. And angry white people turn into Trump people.

UC Davis Republicans answers:

Student 1: For the California party, they need a rebranding: to get their message out there and address misconceptions and things that have been made misconstrued. The top issues mentioned by the chairmen of the California party were water conservation and weeding out corruption. He wouldn't change anything for the California party, he is very in line with it. For the national party: putting more emphasis on the small government, individual rights, and inclusiveness. He is more focused on the California party, that is why most of his answers go there. Believes that a lot of the economic policies are on point. Believes that the national party shouldn't focus too much on social policies—that should be driven by society.

- When he has disagreed with his party: The transgender national bill that Trump rolled back. The transgender bill is a concern that he believes should be addressed at the state/community level so that they can have policies they agree upon. He thinks there are many more important issues that our congress could be working on than which people can use which bathroom. For LGTB rights, thinks that it's one of the most conservative things you can do, is to be in favor of LGTB rights.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: What should change the president. Democrats need to stop believing that if it is a republican dominated area that nothing can be done about it. Need more of a push in rural areas, and more of a push in Republican areas. Folks in rural communities want to see younger faces of

people who is invested in the community. Don't send someone with a Harvard or Yale degree to the small town. Send someone who is invested in the community and it is clearly visible.

- What should stay the same: Don't think Democrats should be easily pushed to the left. Need to incorporate the Berniecrats into the party, but cannot afford to lose the base, because then it all crumbles.

Student 2: One thing that should change: Getting more involved at the local level, and involving younger people. Right now there are a lot of older members in congress and it is time to hear new voices. One thing that should stay the same: She likes Obama's and Hillary's approach to the economy over Bernie Sanders, but that's her own opinion.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: Republicans need to win the Latino vote. Republicans have been good with their stance on gay rights. Need to shrink government. Haven't been a real Republican since Reagan. Republicans need to reach across the aisle.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: Doesn't know if there are many high-ranking government officials in the republican party that realize how polarized the country is becoming. There needs to be a better way to reach out to our generation specifically—thinks there is a lot of untapped potential. The Republican party is having a hard time being productive at all—speaking specifically about Congress, the people in power. Believes that they can take advantage of what is happening on campus—related to free speech and those in support of it are violently being attacked.

- Stay the same: Their core values. She thinks that it is extremely sad that Republicans had to stoop so low to bring Donald Trump into the White House—that he doesn't stand with

Republican values. Thinks that Republicans should return to the core values of conservatism.

Student 2: Finds it very frustrating that there were 12 primary candidates, and that they couldn't find someone actually committed to conservative beliefs, but Trump attracted people into their party that aren't republicans, and he doesn't want to change the party's tenants and its values just to match this Trumpism.

Student 3: The Republicans need to go back to their stance opposing national health care.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: Get rid of super delegates

Student 2: Change some aspects of our foreign policy—the way we handle problems in the Middle East in a non-humanitarian way is a belief in both parties.

Student 3: That Democrats, in being the bigger person and working across the aisle, Democrats concede too much—are sometimes called the party of concessions by a lot of leftists—and therefore the policy is never the ideal, and then there is backlash from people saying they were

going to follow through on their promise and it didn't work out that way. On the national level, democrats pander to the invisible moderate that doesn't exist and underestimates the potential of leftist/progressive groups to vote for democrats. Heard the county official say: Democrats lose election but we don't learn from it. Democrats aren't self-critical enough of the way we push legislature through or the way we set up our platforms.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: The establishment is becoming a lot more quid-pro quo: in order to get nominated to run for a certain seat, you need to know the right people. Sees this more in LA than where he is from in Riverside. Doesn't like machine politics. Sees some democratic clubs on campus drifting away from that machine politics set up and hopes the democrat party can also move away from that.

- Stay the same: how diverse the democratic club meetings are—different ages, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations. When he goes to the Bruin college republican meetings, there isn't that much diversity

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: Change their messaging

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Improve upon is messaging. They need to message better, because people who voted for Trump voted against their interest because they were misguided to believe what they were voting for was their interest. That's like an insane messaging success. To convince somebody to do something that is literally stabbing their own family in the back. But we are loosing that battle because we don't know how to talk to people. Something that should stay the same: Our commitment to marginalized groups. Because I know we get a large more support if we suddenly abandoned the undocumented community, or Planned Parenthood, because that is a stickler for some people. But if we do that then we could easily abandon anybody else, and that would alienate our base, and our base is a conglomerate of different people. Multicultural, and multi-experience people.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: Something that should be improved: to be accommodating of a larger group of people.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: Democrats need to be a lot meaner: Need to get better at forcefully communicating their messages and coming off as the rational, strong people on it. Not “bleeding heart liberals” who are a bunch of softies. Need to know how to advocate for your position, twist arms, have done it before with Ted Kennedy, but need to come back and do it again.

Student 2: Has no issue with his party because they won the popular vote, and when more millennials vote and more of America is diversified, believes we’ll be fine.

Student 3: The democratic party needs to call the Republicans out more and stand their ground. Democrats are really bad at addressing issues head on. There are a lot of people upset with the democratic party and believes the way to resolve these issues it to speak to them. There are some candidates who will listen to the critiques, whereas there are others that don’t address it and try to go around it. Needs to be more openness when it comes to those issues—better lines of communication between the left and the democratic party.

12. Do you think that Democrats/Republicans will work together more or less together in the future? Regardless of what you think will happen, what do you wish to see happen?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: At the national level, currently, in the framework we have now, Democrats have no choice if they want anything to get done. Democrats have a lot of potential, and that potential means that you can have a party that takes over and dominates at the federal, state, and local level. For the future: The Republicans are going further right, the Democrats are going further left. So he doesn’t see cooperation happening. Ideally, he would love for Republicans to have a change of heart in some way that reflects them actually listening to what people want. But that is talking in idealistic terms, and doesn’t think that’s going to happen anytime soon. There is a sect of republicans that we don’t want to work with—the alt right. Then there are level headed republicans that have an ideology that’s different than ours but ultimately they want the same thing—a better country, a stronger economy, they want people to have money in their pockets and to live a decent life. He thinks that they should actually talk to each other because in the system they have currently, it is necessary to do that. Democrats have an obligation to reach out to people that are repugnant, that have a moral leaning that’s different from ours. But not bring them to our side, because that’s a losing battle.

Student 2: I think that the problem is too many people, I think too many democrats view politics as this academic debate between liberals and conservatives, and you go to the senate and you argue and you compromise and the compromise is somehow going to be better than what you put forward because it’s a compromise and that’s how it’s supposed to work, and I push back against that view and I think more people are because at the end of the day if you compromise with

Republicans on food stamps people are going to die. If you compromise with Republicans on health care people are going to die. You have to take the morally correct standpoint and it's hard, no one wants to come to this conclusion but if you're advocating for the American Health Care Act, which would kick god knows how many people off health insurance, that's not just an ineffective or bad piece of policy, it's an immoral piece of policy, there's no reason to compromise with that. And I think at the end of the day, someone's life or their finances, or whether or not they're going to be able to pay for their kids, that's not something you can compromise on. You have to stand for those progressive positions as moral positions and I think one thing that's hurt people in the party is seeing it as an academic debate. And so I think that what I'm expressing is probably the standpoint of people in the democratic party and left-leaning/Bernie Sanders is probably what those people would say. But I think that that viewpoint is becoming more and more adopted by people in the party that it is about a moral fight, and if that becomes the view of people in the party than there will probably not be very much compromise.

Q: Do you wish for there to be more cooperation or working together?

Student 2: : At the national level? No. I think that republicans over the past 30 years have become kind of extreme. It's become asymmetrical polarization, they've become a lot more extreme than democrats have. If you have one party that's advocating for eliminating the EPA, getting rid of government regulations, essential health benefits, and making sure that people with pre-existing conditions don't have to pay more--If you have one party that's advocating for getting rid of those things, I don't see where there's compromise. They're advocating for a completely immoral pieces of legislation that would really hurt lots of people. To me there should be no compromise with that.

Q: So how would you work with Republicans?

Student 2: V: I think you have to be more focused on winning elections, because there's this assumption that you go to the south or something, and you have a rural town--you know the south is the poorest part of the country. There are people there that have just no money. And there is an assumption that those people are going to keep voting republican and they're never going to vote for democrats, well if you don't try, then yeah.

Q: What does 'try' look like?

Student 3: Well if you look at what the party's doing we're not even putting money in those state parties, we're not competing in those races at all, there's no field, there's no investment. I mean we need to be thinking a little more class based, which is that working class people, lower income people need someone to fight for them, they will support whoever that is, I really don't believe that someone who has no money, who lives in Mississippi, who's in a rural white district that is underfunded, who is really struggling to get by, I really don't think that that mom or dad is going to say, well I have no money but my ideological principles commit me to limited government. Those people don't say that if you ask that about them, they don't say that. What they say is I vote for Republicans because I don't think Democrats care about me. And when you invest in those races and you start to win those people, maybe you don't win the rural district but heck you lose it by 10 instead of 40, which is what we're doing now, then you can start winning

more races, I mean if you look at where we were, where the party was even 20 years ago that's what we were doing, but then we became so focused on the new states that were winning--we've pulled Colorado to the democratic party, we've pulled Virginia to the democratic party. We didn't win those states because lower income people started voting democratic, we won those states because the suburbs grew and those upscale voters started voting for democrats. And so I think if we start seeing it that way, I mean most people in this country are middle class or lower. And if we try working on winning over those voters by focusing on an economics based argument I think we can start winning sustainable legislative majorities but that's just me.

Student 2: I want to ask a question, does that mean we shouldn't come to the table when it comes to these life changing decisions, these life changing decisions--because they're all life changing decisions to someone. But does that mean we shouldn't come to the table...does that mean we shouldn't come to the table and have these talks with republicans.

Student 3: I mean no, I think even if you had a democratic majority you would need to negotiate within the party to get it passed, the democrats don't vote as a block, they never have. I think that you should be practical when you need to be practical, but don't place--which is what I think Obama did, which is what I speaking for myself, think he did, which is place bipartisanship above the ideology. Don't govern for governing sake. You can't--this is what too many people in the party think, which is they go to the voters and they say, we're democrats, we're going to support you, you should vote for us, the other side is crazy, which is what democrats tend to say. And then they get elected and they go into government and they see government as, let's get a bunch of people who have masters in public policy, put them in charge, have them write a bunch of legislation that slowly changes things at a time because incrementalism, and then we go back to the voters and say, look we changed like three policies, we moved the bar just a little bit further, the uninsured rate is not 20% it's 10%, yes your premiums are going up, yes you still can't afford your health insurance, yes the system is completely screwed but the uninsured rates down, why won't you vote for us? We bent the cost curve, that's what democrats like to say, we bent the cost curve. Your premiums went up 20% not 30%. That doesn't mean anything to someone, you still can't afford your health insurance. There are too many people in the party who see it about this technocratic, bureaucratic governance, and not bold enough, not ideological enough to go back and win those voters. There's too many people who see Obama's whole political philosophy was rising above partisanship to lead and unite America, not be divisive. You know, that's cool but that doesn't help anybody. And you can't place those idealistic philosophies of bipartisanship above economic justice and social justice for so many people, that doesn't mean anything. How many hundreds of thousands of people have died in the past couple of years because they don't have health insurance. You can't go back to them and say, well I was nice to the republicans, or I was nice to the democrats who didn't want single payer. I'm not saying you should be completely impractical and say no to everything. But I think that the party needs to really rethink how it tends to view elegant governance above actual solutions that help people. That's my rant.

Student 4: I think there's going to be less until the republicans stop appealing to this ethno-nationalism. Dog whistle politics is something that republicans are great at, you know make America Great Again, that means don't let black people eat in the same diner as white people...

The other day we got this question, how would you guys respond to bringing a speaker to campus that was controversial, and I was really trying to think who could we bring

Student 5: The problem of gerrymandering has propped up a lot of Republican representatives, but by fixing the problem of gerrymandering, Republicans in office will be forced to compromise or then face not being reelected.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Short term no. The sensationalization of the media is too high. Democrats have labeled Trump as Hitler and any concession they make will look like World War II making a concession to Stalin or to get some short term gain. Long term: In the history of the news media, like the 20s and 40s, was very, very sensationalized. During the 70s and 80s, you had individuals like Walter Kronkite, who were very objective. He thinks that the socialization of politics determines the terms of discourse. And that socialization comes from the media. You watch the media, and that defines how your going to talk about politics. In the long term, once we realize Antifa and the Alt-Right are the scum of society and we don't give them any attention, then we'll be able to see a swing back to Democrats and Republicans working together in some respects.

- What he wants to happen: Personally, when he sees the Republican party make bipartisan deals it means 'we're going to roll over to the Democrats because it's going to look good to the general populace.' He'd like to see bipartisanship that Republicans actually get what they want, for once. The Diversity Visa is an example of that. He wants Republicans to represent their constituents

- *Q: So what does working together look like to you?*

- He think's we've exited an era of compromise because of the superb labeling of Democrats, for Trump as Hitler. So not exactly sure what areas of policy they will be able to work together. Foreign policy is a good place for that. Sanctions on North Korea, for example.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: Hopes both sides will become less partisan. Thinks that moderates are key in national politics for getting things done. Thinks that both sides have gone off the deep end and that's why we can't get things done. Wants both sides to work together, but doesn't know if it will actually happen because partisanship has been on the rise. She doesn't know what would decrease partisanship, but she wants it to decrease. She doesn't see how both sides can move back to the middle when even the bases of each party are becoming more polarized.

Student 2: When Trump started doing all the things he was doing, they expected the more intelligent minds of the Republican party to turn against him, and unify in disgust for Trump. That didn't happen. Doesn't see both sides coming together as much as he hoped it would, and doesn't see that happening in the future. Doesn't know what would actually change that. The only things that have changed the country to that extent were events like 9/11, and even those

polarized the country and brought new issues such as a negative view of muslims, how we treat refugees.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: What he wants to happen: More dialogue, more reaching across the aisle, more bipartisanship, a more relaxed environment. Believes that even if you disagree with them, you have to have respect for them because they are trying to do what they think is right for the country hopes this will make policies pass a little easier. What he thinks will happen: Seeing the senate at Davis, which is slightly left than the student body, and seeing what he has on campus, not as optimistic, believes that the gridlock will continue. Hopes that it will go well, that agreeing to disagree will make policy easier to pass by being a little more open. But with what he has seen on campus, he doesn't know if it will actually go that way

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: Thinks there's a lot more cooperation at the local level and that will continue. At the federal level, not sure. Wants there to be more communication and bipartisanship. Thinks that with things like the tax code and building infrastructure, there is room for compromise.

Student 2: Always hopes for compromise, not on the label of bipartisanship. Suggests that there should be more town hall meetings, of getting to know the people that you serve so that you don't have to ask for more money from your party if you have more and more support from those in your district. Suggests that there should be more conversations between officials from congressional districts neighboring each other, developing policies. It is not bipartisanship between elected officials such as Mitch McConnell. Believes that there are certain things that the Democratic Party has to stand for, but compromise doesn't come from the party leadership. If you're from an area where you know your constituents need health care, why is it going to become a conversation in the first place? If you properly represent your area, you shouldn't be faced with the possibility of killing people, on spending more on the national defense—because you understand what your constituents need. Doesn't believe that compromise is where you close your eyes and sign the bill, but thinks it is going back to your constituents and seeing where their interests lie. Compromise isn't between two individual elected officials who represent themselves and making a compromise between themselves. It is going to be two elected officials who represent their bodies, and that's going to lead to something.

Student 1: Believes that it is better to compromise because it leads to a better result because it is better to have a result for some people than for nobody. For example, the ACA is not perfect, but it is better than what we had before. If we went single payer straight away, thinks that that would have failed. We've had debates on health care for a long time. If you fail it sets you back even further.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: Gerrymandering needs to be gotten rid of: have independent councils choose their districts. Don't think working together is going to happen. Trump has reached across a little bit. And the Republicans don't need the Democrats now. During the election, was sitting in a classroom and as Florida was going to Trump, the girl next to him said, "Those crazy country folks." They believe you're not going to win a debate if you call them crazy. Politicians are only going to work together in districts where the election is close. Believes you're only going to see change across those areas. When asked if he wants Democrats and Republicans to work together more in the future, he said: Of course. There needs to be more discussion. There are too many echo chambers. When their club tables on campus, they are breaking the echo chamber. It is easier to vilify somebody if you don't know them. Enjoying this interview, that it's bridging the divide. And that brings him joy. What policies Democrats and Republicans can work together on: Immigration.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: One area where it is becoming more and more polarized but eventually will reach a breaking point where they will have to work together: the environment. All issues are lost causes on a dead planet. Historically, the environment wasn't a polarized issue—Nixon was one of the largest supporters of environmental issues. In the future, she thinks this will be the source of common ground. But doesn't see cooperation happening under the current admin.

Student 2: Doesn't see cooperation happening under the current administration. Believes that, like the environment, another issue that can have a unifying effect could be reproductive justice and planned parenthood if more women republican senators and congresswomen get elected and there is more diversity in the republican party.

Student 3: If they can work together and maintain their moral integrity in that the democrats see what they want to happen actually happen, she absolutely wants to see collaboration if the end result—equality and justice for all—is reached.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: Doesn't think they will. Thinks that the high polarization is creating a climate where we are never going to get anything done working together. Doesn't see any bipartisan legislation coming out from any side anytime soon. When he says he doesn't want to work with them, he doesn't mean he wants to stop having discussions; he is always open to discussion with these people.

Student 2: Would want to work with them, but believes that a lot of them are on the side that they are on because of this culture where they (the left) refuses to listen to the other side of the

argument. She thinks that people would be on their side (the conservative/republican) if it was more acceptable to listen.

Student 3: Doesn't want to work with them

Student 4: Believes that rapid polarization is bad because it leads to everyone hating each other. But that it is not bad because extremes are bad. If you can justify your beliefs rationally, being extreme is a good thing, so bipartisanship is admirable because it gets people to respect the other side, but it also implies that both sides are going to water down their philosophy and mesh it together. Believes that if half the country fundamentally thinks differently in their social economic, political views, the way they act with each other, they shouldn't be one nation or one culture. He acknowledges that this is a radical view, but that if things continue as they are, doesn't believe it will be feasible to coexist with the leftists. And he thinks they would want the same thing. Republicans disagree on a lot of things, but they have the same core values of liberty and individualism.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Thinks that until the Trump administration is out of office, it's going to be really hard for people to work together. The democrats who do want to work with Republicans are going to be chastised, and think the people doing the chastising have a point even though he disagrees with them. He really, really hopes we can work together. Believes that democrats and republicans do agree on a lot of things, and a lot of compromise can be done. Wants to start within the Bruin Dems club something where Dems go to Republican meetings and they go to their's

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: They will not work more together in the future. Looking at data on partisanship in Congress, it is only becoming more polarized.** She could be completely wrong, and this election has proven that, because a lot of people who used to caucus with Democrats and vote for people on the left are now "Trumpocrats." The entire platform of the republican party is changing. Would like to see Republicans develop spines and start advocating for Republican principals and using that as the basis from which they reach across the aisle instead of moderating and allowing the left to dictate their positions.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Under Trump, it's really a wild card. Under him, we could very well start working with his administration. But with your average Republican, it's going to depend if they disown Trump at some point in the future. And I really don't see it happening, so if they don't do that,

and they stick by the party lines, nothing is going to change and we are going to have gridlock in congress like we did before. Except it being about a black man, it's going to be about an orange cheeto. Nothing's changed. Would I like to see cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, yes, but in a way that doesn't compromise our values. I am more than happy to compromise with Republicans, and I think there are a lot of reasonable Republicans out there, but I think unfortunately, and five second attention span and a sensationalist media definitely works in the favor of crazy fringe people, rather than John Kasich. I think we can work with a majority of Republicans, but they have to fix the fake news crisis and try to be more reasonable in choosing who we want to run the country and rank-choice voting is an option there to elect more centrist people.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: Doesn't think they will come together at least for another political generation. Believes that the gap will widen. Ideally, rebranding of what it means to be a Democrat/Republican.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: To answer that question, need to look at the different levels: college students in politics, party infrastructure—which is meant to work against each other, and elected officials who have to work together on policy. In the short term, think we will work together a lot less. This relates to the recent election cycle, where the Republicans got very radical in who they elected for president. Sees it in the “nuclear options” coming from the right and believes that won't encourage people to work together, the notion that it is either my way or the high way. In the long run, thinks that re-alignment (either like what happened in the 60s/70s or the 90s –think it has to do with realignment of democrats...?) is going to carry out a party—probably the Republican party, or it's going to create a third party that is going to envelop the center and fade out the hard right. In the long term, thinks that this will make people mad and vote people out of office. Doesn't think there is a good chance of people working together coming up anytime soon. Thinks it is going to take one party getting “thrashed”—to fall apart or collapse into another party. But that won't happen in the short term. Doesn't think that the republican party will exist in the same way that it does in four years.

13. What is something you fundamentally don't understand about the other party that you would want to ask them in a question?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Do they really believe you are 100 percent in control of your outcome? That it doesn't really matter your race, where you started off economically—the structural things that get in your way? That Donald Trump is rich because he is one of the smartest businessmen in the world and

not because his dad was rich? The number one predictor of your SAT score is your family's income. Everything is effected by your wealth and your background. There is no evidence that you can be successful because you are a "person of character" and that might makes right—there is no evidence for that. The people in our society who are mighty didn't really earn it, and the people who aren't it's not like they didn't work hard. Addressing the idea that people choose where they end up, she says, "I am here because in many, many ways I am lucky" and the government has to address that. She doesn't know how you can justify someone's position in life because they are poor.

Student 2: Doesn't understand how the Republican party preaches the idea of small government and yet they want the government to make abortion illegal, and want to make the government illegal, and yet it goes against small government. Doesn't understand how they claim to be the champions of free speech and freedom of religion, yet try to impose their religious views on other people. She asks, what if my beliefs were different from yours and I didn't think gay marriage was wrong?

Student 3: On the subject of the Russian government and Trump officials colluding together to change the outcome of the election, his grandfather seemed to be more concerned with the democrats and what they were doing, viewing them as more of an enemy than a foreign adversary. In an unprecedented time with foreign intervention in our elections and in our democratic institutions, do you prioritize vilifying actual Americans who might not have the same ideology as you rather than actual foreign adversaries?

Student 4: Is sympathetic towards but doesn't understand the idea that life begins at conception. He understands when people want to put restrictions on abortion, like the first trimester. But he doesn't understand how abortion and the idea that life begins at conception became associated with religion—that there is not really a lot of religiosity around it. He is sympathetic towards people who hold this perspective. He acknowledges that in the Democratic Party, some people make the argument that pro-life people just want to control women's bodies. He doesn't believe this is true. He believes that they hold the sincere conviction that life begins at conception. They believe that Democrats shouldn't vilify them from holding this belief. It also creates the belief that life is worth fighting for if its dignified, and he believes life should be protected at all costs.

Student 5: If the country is supposed to be over party, why are you [Republicans] acting the way you're acting? If the Republicans advocate for smaller government, why is it that southern states have the largest part of their budget contingent on federal aid.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Why abortion? Why do we find it acceptable to believe that it is a human right to remove life and, depending on what you believe about science, and why would we even remove a ball of tissue that is clearly well on its way to become life. At four weeks the embryo's heart has started to form and is pumping its own blood. This isn't a ball of tissue, in due time it will be completely viable. So why make the argument of human right when talking about abortion. Why

say that it's not on my moral compass, to say that there is nothing morally wrong about abortion, he finds that pretty repugnant.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: Doesn't understand that when Trump was running for office, the Republicans thought he was crazy, and now they are falling in step with him. How can you put your party over principle? She thinks that the Republicans are compromising themselves in order to further their agenda, through being in power and having Republicans like Mike Pence. Putting blinders on to all these other factors? Why are you compromising your principals?

Student 2: There isn't a lot he doesn't fundamentally understand because he used to be one of them. A lot of Republicans see it as an opportunity to pass policy. Even though they hate him, you put up with him for 4-8 years and at least on the way there you can pass some policy.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: Being a Democrat back in middle school and early high school, understands a lot of where their policies are coming from, even if he disagrees with them now, he understands what they are trying to accomplish. A policy he disagrees with but doesn't understand: Higher taxes. He get's what they want to do: people pay higher taxes so that the government can fund better programs, and offer services that way. The Republican Party wants people to keep the majority of their money, and instead of going to the government programs, those people spend it how they want. Countries that have higher tax rates have a lot of issues with their programs, and within their society—such as France and it's high unemployment rate. So he doesn't understand how having higher taxes will work better than people keeping their own money and spending it their own way.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: Has always wondered this: Within your party, at what point did the Christian conservatism, libertarianism, and all these different factions of the party agree that personal freedoms and small government is important, except when it comes to women's rights? Student 2: Believes that it is dishonest to say that you are the party of fiscal responsibility and then give giant tax cuts that don't make up for it—supply side economics. Defining fiscal responsibility: Being aware of where the money is going and how it is beneficial. If you give tax cuts to the rich, where does it go tangibly?

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: Why don't they clear their ranks? What "clear your ranks" means: The Republican Party gets a lot of scrutiny, from the media and from almost everywhere, so they've had to clean their ranks. For example, the term racism has spread, recently Fox news got rid of Bill O-Rilley. Allegations arise and they clean their ranks. You see it with some of the crazies we have, such

as how the Republicans disavow the white nationalists and the majority of Republicans disavow them. And you have Black live Matter fans, who say “F the Police” and the Democrats don’t disavow them. Bill Mahr will disavow some stuff, like what happened in Berkeley. And the Democrats spoke out about it but it took a while.

- Why do they not like businessmen who are successful? They criminalize people who were successful, like how Trump is successful. They victimize wealth. The belief that the Republican party is just rich white men, and the belief that being rich is not cool, but that’s the American dream for a lot of people, is to make money. They brings up that Obama wrote an essay in school that the American dream was to become Donald Trump.
- Why do they call anything hate speech? And why do they think hate speech and not free speech? There are haters out there and you should let them speak and then destroy their ideas. The democrats/liberals claim tolerance a lot, but they don’t give tolerance to the right at all. What tolerance looks like to them: Milo is a great example. Protestors call him a Nazis, then they shut him down and not let him speak. They love socialism, maybe it’s the really outspoken ones, but there seems to be a big push for socialism. But it didn’t work in other countries.
- They love socialism, maybe it’s the really outspoken ones, but there seems to be a big push for socialism. But it didn’t work in other countries.
- Democrats are very stereotypical in that they come up with some understanding of the Republican Party. For example, they need to explain why Trump won, so they say it is because Republicans are racist.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: Doesn’t understand the culture of: republicans doing anything to fight the liberals. The idea that they are taking this stance because it would upset the liberals. She says, stand for something.

Student 2: Doesn’t understand why Republicans don’t want women to have abortions but don’t want them to have access to contraception. Can’t justify the religious justification of it. Doesn’t understand the argument against the legalization of marijuana. Believes that it aligns more with Republican ideals to criminalize it. There are hard statistics that people of color are disproportionately hurt more.

Student 3: If they have access to birth control, they are a slut, if they have the baby, then they are a welfare queen. There is just no way to exist as a poor woman. Specifically with welfare, the idea we should drug test people on welfare she doesn’t understand the underlying notion that people addicted to drugs don’t deserve food or shelter.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: Feels like he understands what they are saying, and he just doesn't like it.

Student 2: Feels that he understands their motivations, maybe from his background as recently part of the liberal community. He'd like to talk to them about it.

Student 3: Maybe because a majority of us were just there [that's why the UCSB Republicans don't have any questions], we used to get it. We used to think the things that they think, and now we've changed our minds. But the group of UCSB republicans remembers what they used to think.

Student 4: Republicans feel that they are in the democrats' echo chamber, surrounded by what they think.

Student 3: They make sure to explain it to us constantly

Student 4: His professors every day explain why what we think is wrong.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Republicans say they are the party of fiscal conservatism. But what does that fiscal conservatism mean and where does that fiscal conservatism go when we're talking about things about defense spending or starting wars? And is there a certain level of flexibility in your level of fiscal conservatism, why don't you think liberals are fiscally conservative? Just the whole idea of fiscal conservatism he doesn't understand.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: Doesn't think she can come up with a question. She has taken a lot of time to understand the left and their positions. Used to also be on the left, so doesn't have a question why they believe what they believe because has taken a lot of time to understand why they believe what they believe.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: Why can't you understand that there are experiences out there that you won't ever be able to understand? As a white person, she knows that she will never understand what it is like to be black. She understands that she won't understand. She cannot comprehend that their experiences' are all of the experiences. And they deny that other people in this world get treated differently. Why don't you believe in something as simple as climate change? Why don't you believe in fact and science? Why don't you believe that humans are causing climate change?

Student 2: As a libertarian, he understands the conservative framework. Issues of race are his biggest thing—how do you not get that specific identities are marginalized? How can you not get that voter ID laws disproportionately affect different people? That colleges and universities are at odds with their [republican] ideas. Like in the debate when the Republican was upset that as a social science student he is taught in class that there are multiple genders. How can you disregard academia so much is his biggest frustration.

14. Are you friends with Republicans/Democrats? On campus? At home?

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: Yes, he get's along quite well with them. Disagrees about politics but he is in the greek system, which is made up of individuals who are more left leaning then he is. He gets along with one of his professors really well and the professor is a raging socialist. His roommate is a socialist. Sometimes when he is in a debate he can get feisty because he is at the point where he knows he cannot make any gains with that person, that this person is very dug in and the only way he is going to make gains is to embarrass them and to have others around him saying, wow he embarrassed that person, maybe his points have validity. And it is not him regressing to ad hominem, but pointing out the flaws in their logic.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: The closest thing to a Republican she has as a friend is someone who is more socially liberal but economically conservative. They don't call themselves Republican but they don't call themselves a Democrat either.

Student 2: Left most of his current friends at home and started a new when he came to college, so a lot of his current friends are Democrats. Not anyone outside his family that he is constantly keeping in touch with.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: His roommate voted for Gary Johnson, he gets along with his roommate. Not aware of any republican friends he has. From home when he was there, he didn't have a choice. Now that he has had the opportunity to move away, he has gotten rid of most friends from back home who identify as Republican. Moving away from home has provided him the opportunity to distance himself from ideologies that he doesn't agree with.

Student 2: Has acquaintances, wouldn't say they are friends.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1: The vast majority of his friends from college are Democrats. It's the nature of this campus. Sometimes he gets into political conversations. Has discussions with his roommate who is a moderate. Not a lot of debates change his views. Debates with his Republican friends he's changed his views a little bit.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: A lot of friends back home. 90% of her guy friends back home are definitely not democrats, probably more libertarian. Marco Rubio voters. Her entire family is Republican.

Student 2: Freshman and Sophomore year of high school she did, but once she became more vocal about her political views, it became kind of impossible. Because politics will come up in conversation. She knows that she is surrounding herself with the same views, but feels way more comfortable when her friends are liberal. She feels she doesn't have to watch herself and she can say what she wants. She has friends that are more moderate, but definitely lean more liberal. Has had close friendships drift off because they were republican. She is not sad that that happened. Politics is an important part of her life. But she also acknowledges that she doesn't have argumentative skills that other people have because she is surrounded by people who think like her/are democrats. She is used to people agreeing with her and feels that she needs to work on expanding the people she surrounds herself with.

Student 3: Has a couple of friends back home who didn't vote. Doesn't run into too many people that she disagrees with.

Student 4: By virtue of where she is from (Portland, OR) doesn't encounter that many Republicans. Her whole family has been established Democrats. The election cycle has made it even harder to have Republican friends. It depends because she doesn't think Donald Trump represents the Republican party and a lot of Republicans. But if you were talking to Republican Trump supporter, it gets really hard to sustain a healthy friendship when a Trump presidency threatens everybody—obviously some more than others. Because he ran on a campaign so personal, it gets hard to separate the politics from the person.

Student 1: When you have friends who are undocumented and who are DACA or Dreamer recipients, it's difficult to be friends with someone who supports Trump who would see your friends' family shipped off.

UC Santa Barbara Republican answers:

Student 1: All of them

Student 2: “You kind of have to.” At home, has two gay moms, he’s not allowed to talk about Trump, because his mom get’s so mad. Last time he went home, he got called a bigot by his mom.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: Yes. His roommates claims to be a Trump supporter. One of his best friends is a libertarian, and they debate. One of his friends back home. He has a lot of best friends who are Republicans. They don’t usually talk politics, but when they do, it is respectful, they both listen to each other. He is kind of acquainted with the board of Bruin Republicans, and they are cordial with one another. When they start talking about politics and policy, that’s when things get contentious, but when they see each other on campus, it is pretty nice.

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1:

- Yes. She lost friends, especially after joining Bruin Republicans. She was friends with people in her pre-college program that was focused on social justice. Most were socialists or communists. And they had strong friendships. But once she joined Bruin Republicans that was a deciding factor for a lot of them. A lot of them stopped being her friend, stopped making eye contact with her on campus. She still has some friends from the program, and their friendship hasn’t changed—it models what politics should be.
- Even for other conservative students, the times she has gone viral on national media, some have hesitated to hang out with her because they don’t want to get hurt. The day after the election she was wearing a Make America Great Again shirt/hat/pin, and one of her fellow Bruin Republican members who also voted for Trump didn’t want to be seen talking with her because she didn’t want to get attacked.

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student 1: Yes, one of their best friends voted for Trump, and also has other friends too who are conservative.

17. What is America to you and do you think the current political system reflects that depiction?

UC Berkeley Democrats answers:

Student 1: Unlike other countries that are based on a historical, ethnic lines or based on a ridiculous, post-colonial hodgepodge of borders, the US is really interesting because we are based on a set of shared ideas. We are based on our “Civic religion”. Anyone can come to America and be an American after living here for a brief period of time. “ We are unified not by our history, I think, but by our ideals, our desire to move forward. And I think that’s why I’m a progressive, because I believe in progress, it’s because I want our country to move forward.” It is important to have a government that makes sure its people live good lives, they have individual liberties and economic security and opportunity. “A key part of America is progress” Why is not a conservative that wants to slow change. “That’s what’s makes me a Democrat”

Student 2: The idea of the united states is idealistic. “It’s more or less a social experiment where a whole bunch of people from different backgrounds, different colors, all this stuff, are put under this creed in order to share like student 1 said, these ideals. Many would argue that this experiment hasn’t succeeded. Some might say that because we aren’t all in war, yet, means that it has. For me, I think it’s still an experiment that’s still going on, that we are still trying to do, and I think that’s what makes America, not super great, but special, in the fact that we can actually continue to have this experiment” Our ability to criticize the government makes us a special entity on this global stage. It’s a social experiment that needs to be critiqued, and molded, and malleable. When the US stops becoming malleable, when government entities want to keep things the way they are, then our experiment has failed.

Student 3: This is the same country that elected Barack Obama twice, and then voted for Trump. Same group of people. It’s not like the night of the election things changed.

- Student 3 Talks about how we are a country that is trying something that has never been tried before, that we are trying to be a diverse nation, and try to reconcile all that and provide an American dream for everybody, and at times it can feel really disheartening, and there are a lot of things to criticize about this country. “But the thing that I always think is that the people in this country are really decent. They are really decent. And there are a lot of people in my party who view the masses as this unsophisticated, uneducated group of hicks, and that’s bad, that’s really bad, because most people in this country are really, really good, a heck of a lot more decent than their representatives”
- She was wrestling with going back to the Reagan library over winter break, two weeks before the inauguration, because she was not having it with the republicans. But she did and she was really happy she did, because she forgot how decent really people are when you take away those partisan lines, there just a decent group of people”
- Tells the story about how her parents came here in 1997 and went grocery shopping and left their purse in the shopping cart, which the purse not only had their wallets but their passports, they were here on visas, and so they lost their documentation. The next day on a whim they went to the lost and found and there was the purse. In India that would never happen. They will tell that story hundreds of times, they cry every time, that’s when her parents knew this was the country they were going to stay in.

- Important to remind ourselves that whatever our country's faults, and we have many many deep faults, the vast majority of people in this country are decent people, and if we are in politics it is our right and obligation to commit ourselves to doing right by that group of people.

UC Berkeley Republicans answers:

Student 1: To him, America in one word is opportunity. The only way we can procure opportunity is through the creator and the freedoms that we have been granted by the United States constitution. Right now he sees a movement towards not caring as much about those individuals rights and correlating opportunity with the level of government intervention and the government providing that opportunity. He thinks that is not what America is about. The power of the individual doesn't stem from government; government's power stems from the individual. That is what America is about and he hopes that America accepts that definition. He thinks that our generation has a hard time doing it; voter turn out is at an all time low, welfare spending is at an all time high.

UC Davis Democrats:

Student 1: A lot of countries are united with ethnicity, a common language. The only thing that unites us all in America is an idea of democracy, and the idea of the United States, and the Constitution. That's what she thinks of when she thinks of America—again we all agree on this idea, it's just how do we interpret it and go about it. People are uncomfortable with a mix of people not like them. The melting pot is true, but it's kind of a false narrative with these segregated neighborhoods.

Student 2: The idea of the melting pot idea, the idea that so many different cultures from so many different countries can come together and form this melting pot. Doesn't think that that actually happened. It's more of a stained glass, or we have different cultures that just happen to live right by each other. We have entire neighborhoods, black neighborhoods next to white suburbia.

UC Davis Republicans:

Student 1: America is freedom. It stands for freedom, for equal rights. This is a lot more of a difficult question to answer than he thought. America is the best country and that's why he lives here. Not to say that he thinks America is better than any other country, but that America is the best country for him. If what he thinks America stands for is what is actually in practice: For the most part, yes. There are definitely things that need to be worked on, progress is always a good thing. Things change overtime and its best that policy changes over time. Guaranteeing equal rights and having that translate into policy is something we can always work on, and hopes that we can work on always making that better, that we are one of the best countries to do this. We still have the idea of the American dream, which is definitely changing. But our high levels of immigration prove that there is this idea that America does stand for freedom.

UC Santa Cruz Democrats answers:

Student 1: America is a land of opportunity, and we need to realize it. We need to realize that immigration is a source of strength for us. America is not as down in the pits as some people would like to believe, on the world scale America is doing quite well economically speaking. Don't want to go back to the American Dream, but it exists in some part, probably less realizable now than a few years ago, but it still exists.

Student 2: America is still very much so the American dream for him. The American dream began for him in the 80s when his parents came to America. That's when the American dream began for himself and many other individuals, and he doesn't think the American dream has died—the group of people who can relate to him, they are continuing it. His parents worked hard, were able to send their kid to a UC. For the strong population of immigrants in the state of California, the aspiration is to send their kid to a UC, and then to have them find a stable career.

Follow question: Do you think the American dream will go away?

Student 2: No, I don't think it will ever go away. The first part is getting to America. The second part is building and establishing a family here. The third part, the third generation is being an American, and being able to say my family has been here for 2 generations—to say that is an access of the American dream.

Student 1: Neither her dad nor her mom has a college degree but her dad built a successful auto business, and now she's here.

UC Santa Cruz Republicans answers:

Student 1:

- There is a saying, “you deserve who is elected.” You deserve/are responsible for the government you elect to a certain extent. You're hands are not clean of the government. But our current system, the way we have the primaries and then the general (appeals more to the center), politicians have to change their stances a little bit.
- We are not a democracy, we are a democratic republic—referring to the electoral college. What we have today is the majority did not choose the president. Why we have the electoral college is for states' rights, and they are in favor of state's rights. Believes government is a necessary evil, and the larger it is the more evil it will be.
- Good to keep the electoral college, and to change it would be really hard because states aren't going to give up their rights.
- It would be great if the political system represented exactly what people thought.
- What America is to him: Goes on Quora, and reads the stories on there of people you would never have come into contact with otherwise. Quora is a fat melting pot, which is what America is. The term by the left right now is, “we are a nation of immigrants” which is true but it was legal back then, we have different laws now.

- Individuality and liberty—we are not the freeist country anymore. The government can't have a lot of freedom/power at the same time as the people have a lot of freedom—one group is going to have more than the other
- The land of opportunity;“America, a Dream” Which is what it is, people come here for their dreams (which has some negative consequences to that) and it's a dream because people can pursue their own desires and goals in life. And they have been able to because the government has been small, and now our government is a lot larger. Hopes Trump can level off the debt.
- A place where people can pursue their own dreams and hopes can be judged based on their character, which free market allows them to because it doesn't matter what connections you have to a government or people in power.
- Likes Jefferson and Lock, not Hamilton—he was a central government guy. Wants people to chose by means of market, what they want.

UC Santa Barbara Democrats answers:

Student 1: Feels that America is very interesting as a concept. The idea that there would be a place where you could exist without persecution for religion or things like that. When you look at the constitution, it is pretty beautiful, and it only gets really gross when you realize they murdered a lot of native Americans and had slaves. Thinks that something that has suffered a lot is the concept of democracy. Our democracy is not an effective democracy, and doesn't know which idea on how to make it better we should follow, but she hopes that we can move forward and acknowledge the problem and not get caught up in winning individual elections and we forget that the elections aren't being won except for anyone who is giving money.

Student 2: Her mom grew up here and grew up with her mom telling her, this is why America is bad. Her dad immigrated here from India when he was 25 and would tell her why America was good, and look at what it has done for him and subsequently done for her. America to her is that her father could come here from a dirt poor city in India and be able to achieve what her dad has achieved. Believes that the American dream is still alive. Thinks the current Admin/political system is deteriorating this dream—foreign interest to come here has declined---and that's what to her we have been about, bring the best people here. As her dad reminds her, still feels really lucky to live in America/ Her dad's love for America: Her dad compares it to India, and the corruption and the rich pay zero taxes.

Student 3: A lot of Americans say America was bad but it is better now, and from that is born this idea to look the other way if things are going okay for you. And our political system reflects that. That is a capitalist issue.

Student 4: Growing up, America is this melting pot. And that's what the current administration was trying to sell, but that is not representative at all. Thinks the voices that are heard and are currently being represented are not representative of the vast population because you have people who are systematically disenfranchised. America is a really complex entity. Thinks that sometimes she can get too negative. She is someone who is privileged enough to leave. But thinks that it is really important for them to hold the politicians to be representative. In California and the west coast, we are incredibly lucky. We will be the most okay. We have a certain level of

power that cannot be challenged. Fighting to make the political climate more representative of more Americans and the America that we should be heading for.

UC Los Angeles Democrats answers:

Student 1: It is of course opportunity, and liberty, freedom, and equality, and all of those things—very good things. Thinks America is a really good country, and stands as a beacon of hope. But our current political system hasn't been the best at accommodating those values, and we've made a lot of progress the past 50-60 years, but now we are starting to move a little backwards.

- Like to see us continuously moving forward, but knows we are on the defense in the short term. As democrats right now we have to defend where we are right now and fight hard, but in the future be able to change the system and continuously move forward.
- America typically marches forward no matter how many setbacks we take, and typically become more progressive, more accepting, more liberal in general

UC Los Angeles Republicans answers:

Student 1: America is the land of opportunity. As cliché or ironic as that may be, thinks that America is a place for anyone, regardless of your demographics or background to be able to achieve prosperity if you chose—if you embrace personal responsibility and perform hard work.

- Thinks different groups are presented different barriers and that there are obstacles to success that some groups have to face that others don't by virtue of where they were born in the country or their public school education system, but thinks that if one chooses to believe in themselves and their independent ability to be able to succeed and to strive, that America is the best place for people to achieve upward social mobility, increasing living standards, and overall prosperity—not only economic but in terms of family life and social life.
- America was founded on the principal of equality under the law, and therefore, regardless of one's demographics, they are seen by the law in the same way, they have individual private property rights, and human dignity, that's inherent in the law that protects them. Thinks that we have institutions that allow people to live their lives largely without interference from the government in such a way that they are able to realize their individual potential.
- Does the current system reflect that: In general, it does. But she would like to see increases in liberty such as decreases in our surveillance state because that infringes on our privacy rights and our security. Would like to see increases in our economic freedom. Our government promotes a lot of protectionist policies, like subsidies and picking winners and bailing out companies, doesn't like that, wants a free market approach because we are a developed country. Thinks protectionism is fine for developing countries. We are inhibiting “innovation, disruption, and progress” because of the hand of government intervening too much.
- Wants to see decreases in corruption—collusion between special interest groups, big business, teacher unions colluding with our government; Wants to see increases in liberty but that our institutions are better than any in the world

UC Irvine Democrats answers:

Student: That's a hard question because there are so many different answers I can give. If the question is what is America, then this is exactly what it has always been: having a bunch of incredibly conservative folks and racist folks, sexist folks, that have power and are denying that they see the pain and the experiences of people of color, that is something as old as the hills we have in America, that literally is and what makes America. But if we are talking about what I think America is, the ideal that I have in my mind, that I hope is true, inspire of our history and not because of it. What I hope America is and what I want it to be is a place where everyone has equal rights, is a true democracy, you never have to feel scared that that will ever be compromised. That is a sensation you get in the Middle East all the time, you are always scared that this will be the last election, and usually the elections are a sham anyway, but you are always afraid for your security and the security of your family. You are never allowed to speak out, because what if they take you to the torture room, because they can. Because even though there is a law against it, it doesn't matter. America is something different. Not is it somewhere where your rights are safe, it is somewhere where you can be as out there as you possibly want, and nobody's values about who you are will deter you from being whoever you want to be. Whether that means you want to be gay, or be very jewish, it doesn't matter. And that's the beauty of it. We don't really an ethnicity, we just have a collection of backgrounds, that it is a melting pot, and that's what makes America America. So that's my vision of America, somewhere with equality, and justice, but also we are just a bunch of colors.

UC Irvine Republicans answers:

Student 1: America is a place where he can make his dream.

UC San Diego Democrats answers:

Student 1: As someone who's parent is an immigrant, his father doesn't have any distinct allegiance with any country, given his motivation to move to Australia, it's a better country.

- But he says no, he is don't something here, he is working to make this a better country, and the grand American experiment does inspire him. A very diverse country with all different types of people living together, not just racially. Seeing the homogenous nature of other countries seems uninteresting. American life is beautiful. In the grand scheme of things, he is one person living one life and it is selfish for him to want everything to be corrected in his lifetime.
- America to him is this grand fucking experiment where we're trying to all live together as one human race and sometimes we trip up, other times we do better. He gets to be part of an organization like this one, where he sees the America that he wants to enact—where we're treated equally, we're able to be different people and still be nice to each other, that's how he sees America.

- How he sees his American identity: would he be willing to trade what he has here for the benefits of another country that he agrees with more? No. What he finds here is valuable to him [school, friends] and wants to be able to pass that along to his siblings.
- The story of his grandfather (1:50) The fact that he is able to be a part of two different political communities vs. Australia which is 1) kinda boring and 2) wouldn't want to live in a country
- We always have power, we always have internet, are things that he values. He could have easily not ended up like this on the path to becoming American citizens. Spent years in Syria, got sponsored out of Syria. Is thankful that he is here because he had a country that is welcoming to people, and that is something that scares him about America's trajectory, if we're not able to welcome more refugees and immigrants we are 1) more economically disadvantaged or 2) it's immoral of us.

Student 2:

- Has a similar experience; Is an immigrant, immigrated when she was 9.5-10. Came from not a third world but a semi-European country that is trying to become a stable country but is not succeeding at it.
- Coming to America is the greatest thing that has ever happened to her; Holds this believe that people in America that have not had to live in another country do not understand what it is like to not live in America and to not have the things that America offers. As a woman, the fact that she can play sports, be respected if she chooses to go into politics. Yes sexism exists in America but there are still places where you can pave that way for yourself. People have done it before you in the past.
- Finds value in the diversity in America, and the different cultures that have come together to create this—don't want to say melting pot. America has profited off of imperialism and exploitation and there are really bad oppressive systems within America, but at the same time, it is this beautiful place with beautiful people with all these diverse communities, and the most diverse place in the world, she thinks.
- The freedom aspect is something she values a lot. Small things like running water, electricity—a constant thing in the US.
- Doesn't say she's American because it's weird for her when someone asks her where she is from and which answer she gives based on how long of an answer she wants to give. Just says she's from San Francisco. But is Jordan, and identifies as Jordan. But America has been a haven for her family.
- When people make the argument about leaving--the opinion she has is that we need to stay, we need to work on making it a better place because she loves this country, she is able to work towards making it better. Able to critique the thing you love. Believes in the American vision and what it stands for, there have been problems with America in the past but they were able to fix, and there are problems with America now that we will be able to fix in the present and in the future. The constitution, country, government was built in a way that it is a malleable thing that can be changed and can be made better, that is what makes America a really great place, are those tools that we have to make change where there are countries that are stuck in what they have—so oppressive and authoritative that they can't move from that. In 250 years we have made so many progress vs other countries that have been around for 1000 years.

- Believes in America's ability to make progress happen and to change and to become a better place as we go on—because it wasn't too long ago that her country wasn't allowed to immigrate here. We have a long way and we have a long way to go but you have to think of that trajectory, but it wasn't a long time ago when Obama was saying marriage is between a man and a woman or before people were saying black lives matter. Believes in that vision and that path that she knows we can pave