**The Big Issues of the 2016 Campaign and Where the Candidates Stand-Activity**

**Directions:** With the 2016 election rapidly approaching the Republican and Democratic candidates will begin taking a stance on several “big issues” facing our nation. These issues will dominate the news over the next few months drawing in new supporters for the parties while alienating others. Read each article and use the information to answer the questions below.

**Gun Control:**

1. Based on the information in the text how effective are our current gun laws in comparison to other nations? **Support your answer with evidence from the text**
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Abortion:**

1. Are you a person (like the 40% of Americans polled) who feels abortion should outlawed? **Please explain your answer and if you don’t agree it should be outlawed explain why**
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Immigration:**

1. Do you think like the seventy five percent of Americans polled that if unauthorized immigrants meet certain requirements they should be extended citizenship rights?
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Criminal Justice:**

1. Is there a better solution than our current policy of sentencing non-violent drug offenders to steep penalties that does nothing more than add to the inefficiency of our prison system? **Support your answer with innovative solutions**
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Money:**

1. What changes would you recommend to change the fact that ninety percent of our countries wealth is owned by the top .1 of families? **Clearly articulate your ideas**
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**National Defense:**

1. What do you think about the fact that fifty seven percent of the American public oppose sending U.S. ground troops back to Iraq?
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Climate Change:**

1. IS there a better solution to Americas reliance on fossil fuels? Support your answer with evidence from the text
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Health Care:**

1. What do you think about Ben Carson referring to Obamacare worst thing “since slavery”?
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?

**Higher Education:**

1. What would happen if the nearly forty million Americans who are currently paying off student loans banded together and refused to pay the 1.2 trillion dollars owed nationwide?
2. If you were a Republican how would you feel about this issue?
3. If you were a Democrat how would you feel about this issue?