

# DEBATEWATCH 2020

## HOSTING A VIRTUAL DEBATE WATCH

Debate watches have long been a tradition in the United States, particularly on college and university campuses. In today's environment, a practical alternative to in-person gatherings is a virtual debate watch where participants watch the debate together or individually online, then come together to discuss what was seen and heard, ask questions and listen respectfully to other opinions.

### General Tips

- See the [Commission on Presidential Debates' website](#) for information on dates, timing and updates.
- Register with CPD's DebateWatch2020: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BU\\_fIE-3vbFYbP7nuggULdp9nnCyDGBM121Q9a4tCEs/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BU_fIE-3vbFYbP7nuggULdp9nnCyDGBM121Q9a4tCEs/viewform?edit_requested=true)
- Email invitations with instructions and the link for online meeting.
- Communicate to the group the elements of respectful discussion.
- If you choose to use facilitators, identify and prepare in advance.

### Pre Debate

- Plan to convene in advance of the debate which begins at 9PM ET.
- The pre-debate programming is televised on C-SPAN at 8:30PM ET.
- If viewing the pre-debate programming, ask participants to log in by 8:20PM ET. If not, ask participants to log in at 8:50PM ET.
- Set the stage by explaining the role of the facilitator, confirm timeline and discuss goals.
- Advise participants that the discussion following the debate will last for \_\_\_ minutes.

### Watching the Debate

- While not an exhaustive list, the debates may be viewed on major networks: ABC, CBS, CNN, C-SPAN, FOX and NBC. It can also be streamed via network websites.

### Post Debate

- Ask participants to turn off the TV or computer immediately following the debate before the post-debate commentary.
- Participants should log back into the online meeting by 10:20 PM ET.
- Facilitator to remind participants of the elements of respectful discussions and begins the discussion.
- Use the "raise hand" or "chat" feature on the platform to take comments in order.
- At the end of the allotted time, close by thanking all for their participation.

### Technology

- Use an online platform that is secure and user-friendly.
- Encourage participants to become familiar with the chosen platform. Have experienced technical support available for troubleshooting, if possible.
- Understand and adjust platform settings to prevent disruptions like "zoom bombing."