

**IOWA STATE SENATE DEBATE**  
**(DRAFT BY SEAN TAYLOR 9/1/12)**

INT IOWA CITY CONVENTION CENTER - DAY  
(PHIL, CHARLES, DOUG)

OPEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEBATE BETWEEN SITTING SENATOR CHARLES CLAYTON AND CHALLENGER DOUG SIMPSON EACH BEHIND PODIUMS AND MODERATOR PHIL BREWER SEATED BEHIND A DESK DOWN, CENTER STAGE.

PHIL

As a two term Senator representing our great state of Iowa, please tell us about a recent accomplishment. You have one minute.

CHARLES  
(very presidential)

I'd be glad to. Last year I introduced a program called HEALTHY FOOD FIRST to combat childhood obesity which went into affect last April and I couldn't be prouder of-

CHALLENGER DOUG SIMPSON INTERRUPTS

DOUG

Which doesn't work.

CHARLES

I thought I had a minute.

DOUG

You had 12 years.

CHARLES  
(clarifying to Doug)

No, I thought I had a minute to talk about my HEALTHY FOOD FIRST program but the moderator seems to like you more than me.

PHIL

That's not the case, this is a debate, Senator.

CHARLES  
(turning to Phil)

Phil, I thought you liked me. You were so nice to me during the cocktail hour and now this? Geez.

PHIL  
(shrugging)

I didn't mean to offend you, Senator. I am just trying to be fair. Now you were talking about a recent accomplishment. You have 30 seconds.

CHARLES  
(on edge)

Wait, that counted against me? I thought I had a minute.

DOUG SIMPSON INTERRUPTS AGAIN

DOUG  
(confrontational)

You had 12 years, Senator Clayton and you produced a program that has in five months has made our public schools less healthy and increased our taxes to pay for it.

SENATOR CHARLES CLAYTON BEGINS TO BREAKDOWN.

CHARLES  
(mouth agape)

Oww. Now you too? Doug Simpson! We went to high school together, Dougster.

DOUG  
(clarifying to Charles)

I'm your opponent. And please don't call me that.

CHARLES  
(failing to hold back emotions)

Seems like everyone's my opponent today. Let's just gang up on the Senator. Doug, that program might not be perfect but I'm darn proud of it. It's not easy coming up with a whole program, but I did it...and (to Doug) I don't even think you like it.

DOUG

It's not that I don't like it, it just  
doesn't work.

CHARLES  
(instantly)

YOU don't work.

PHIL

Ok. Ok, Senator.

DOUG  
(in disbelief, to audience)

How is this guy beating me in the  
polls?

PHIL  
(to Senator)

Just give me a nod so I know we're  
ready to move on.

CHARLES

Oh, I'm golden (under his breath) no  
thanks to you.

PHIL CHOOSES TO IGNORE THE COMMENT

PHIL

Like Healthcare, this question is for  
you, Senator Clayton.

CHARLES  
(sheepishly)

But you just asked me the last one!

PHIL

I assure you the questions have been  
randomized.

CHARLES  
(to himself, holding back  
emotion)

I'm getting hit from all angles here.  
You guys used to like me. I wonder  
what I did wrong to make you hate me.  
Phil, why do you hate me?

PHIL

I - I don't. Hate. You. As a matter of  
fact I'm voting for you.

DOUG

Wait. What? You're the moderator, you  
can't-

PHIL

Let's move to the Q&A, does anyone  
have any questions for Mr. Simpson or  
something nice to say to the Senator?

BLACKOUT

WHEN I REVISE THIS, I WILL SWITCH ORDER (HAVE SENATOR GET  
FLUSTERED WITH DOUG FIRST THEN THE MODERATOR) AFTERWARD HAVE  
IT GO TO A PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE WHO STARTS TO ASK A  
QUESTION THEN THE SENATOR STARTS TO HYPERVENTILATE SO THE  
AUDIENCE MEMBER JUST SAYS "KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!"