



Youth Summit: America in the World

October 16, 2004

The Democracy Wall

Students were invited to share their views by writing on The Democracy Wall on one side of the Gym.

On American Power and Global Security

1. Should our struggle against terrorism be defined as a war?

- Most definitely, and a just one. We are eradicating an evil force that threatens the great truths of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which everyone, everywhere deserves. Defending these truths is a Noble Cause.
- I don't think so because everything between good and evil is a war.
- Yes – organized violence is war.
- Yes it should but in order to fight terrorism, we don't necessarily have to go to war.
- No. Terrorism is a type of military offense. Unless Bush & Co are willing to invade Chechnya, take down Iran and spend a lot of time in Africa, plus settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, take the less histrionic route and call it: THE WAR ON AL QAEDA. Terrorism propagates itself and is not a physical enemy.

2. How do we balance or reconcile our international responsibilities with our national interests?

- As with anything, we must strike a balance and find a way to help other nations without hurting ourselves. However, America must assist other nations crying out no matter what! We have power, and therefore, great responsibility.
- We have the obligation to protect justice, human rights, and democracy throughout the world. Case closed.
- We must make sure that people within the United States have their basic needs taken care of while also realizing when people have a dire need in other parts of the world.

3. How do we protect ourselves against future terrorist attacks?

- Watch out for unusual signs such as letters that don't seem right. Things that pose a life threatening situation or a danger to yourself or those around others.
- Work to end poverty and injustice. Establish peace and friendly relations with people and nations throughout the world.
- We need to look out for each other. Try not to be bullies and come together as a whole and listen to what everyone has to say because everyone can avoid terrorists.
- We need to have logical, well thought-out measures for security. Ignoring civil liberties, taking off shoes at airports and other nonsense are not the way to approach the issue.

On Prosperity in a Global Economy

1. **What should be the purpose of development assistance to other countries? Please rate 1 – 3 (1 being the most important and 3 being the least important), and explain who should receive it.**

- a. **Short-term disaster relief**
- b. **Long-term economic development**
- c. **Encouragement of political reform**

- C= 3

A= 1

B= 2

- In order: B, C, A. Long term sustainable development leads to stable political reform and thus short term disasters can be averted or ameliorated.

- A= 1

B= 1

C= 1

There needs to be a balance of all three in order to actually help people and create a world/nation where people can help themselves. They are all vital.

- C= 3

B= 2

A= 1

2. **Are there ways to protect or help American workers without restricting trade from other countries?**

- No matter what any country/government does it will always affect the lives and living ways of those who surround us.

- Yes. You can have workers in both places. Also, new industries and jobs can be created to monitor possible and convicted child molesters or child abuses in order to make jobs and protect children.

3. **Do our trade policies help or harm workers?**

- Which workers are you referring to?

- Harm. Sweatshops are disgusting. Law needs to guarantee International wages and working conditions.

- They also can provide the best jobs possible in such squalor.

On Iraq

1. **“By the time we leave Iraq, the results will have been worth the cost in lives and dollars...”**
 - “ ‘cost in lives’ – Agree Strongly; ‘cost in dollars’ – Disagree Strongly”
 - “If results are bad.”
2. **“It’s just too difficult to establish democracy in countries like Iraq...”**
 - “Democracy should be democratic; an internalized thing that is chosen ‘by the majority’”
 - “Democracy [is a] very subjective term”
 - “This depends on your definition of *democracy*”
3. **“The US should share its control of Iraq with other countries or the UN in return for their sharing more of the military and financial burden..”**
 - “Military control I don’t think is necessary, alternatives should be used. Global intervention should turn into Global Mediation.”
4. **“The War in Iraq has got in the way of the war on terror...”**
 - “More *terrorists* are being produced by the day in Iraq”
5. **“In general, the US should be willing to invade other countries we believe pose a serious and immediate threat, even if we don’t have a lot of international support...”**
 - “Depends on if the country is a direct threat or has acted in terrorism”
 - “*Serious and immediate threat* not applicable to Iraq”
 - “Agree Strongly, but I believe killing is wrong.”

On Trade

6. **“On the whole, more free trade means more jobs, because we can sell more good abroad...”**
 - “Trade is good; sweatshops are bad, but trade raises poor countries out of poverty.”
 - “If it gets to the people/workers Good, if not, Bad – depends on where the money goes.”
 - “More jobs for some means someone is getting screwed over.”
7. **“The US should generally obey WTO decisions that go against us...”**
 - “It depends in each situation”
 - “...still grappling”
 - “WTO is incredibly corrupt”

What is Your Future 5? – Qualities? Goals? Policies?

After exploring the Four Futures from the “The People Speak” Choices Curriculum, they were encouraged to articulate their own “Future 5.” Here’s what they wrote:

- “All four futures need to be followed. – It’s just finding the correct balance that’s difficult!”
—*student*
- “Increase US public awareness of squalor, poverty and abuse of capital in other countries. DON’T LEAVE IT UP TO THE CHARITIES and stop wearing Che Gueveran t-shirts made in 3rd world sweatshops.” —*student*
- “Promote democracy by working with other governments and the people, so they may decide for **themselves** their leaders rather than being led by self-seeking, or even sorta-benevolent, tyrants. Make sure ‘democracy’ (in whatever form it may be – NOT **necessarily** a replica of US democracy) allows for reform as well as the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” —*student*
- “The US must promote and support justice—the rights of all human beings to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” —*student*
- “My future 5 is helping our own people understand human rights and to help them become educated. But we also need to join with the rest of the world to help those who are in such a state that there is no longer good and they are oppressed.” —*student*
- “Our long-term goals should be to establish peace and help other countries in desperate need of our assistance. Right now, many countries do not like us or give us the respect that we deserve. Hopefully in the future we can increase our respect from people around the world and be viewed as a leader that people are willing to follow. Important values are freedom [and] peace. In order to have prosperous trade it is important to keep our lines of communications with other countries open. It is important to keep trading with these countries even though we may not agree on human rights. Set our example of trade, and show countries that it is possible to be prosperous.” —*student*