

## **Script:**

**Trump - Thoreau- Kamala**

### **Introduction:**

[News-show introductory music plays]

News Anchor 1: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Jasmin Bella, and we are live at the presidential debate stage in Washington DC.

News Anchor 2: And I'm Avani Jain, co-anchor of this presidential debate. Our job is to facilitate this debate and make sure everyone follows the agreed-upon rules, *unlike in previous debates...*

News Anchor 1: Avani, we are getting ready to witness a historic event tonight.

News Anchor 2: A historic event indeed, Jasmin: we have a Libertarian candidate on the stage tonight, Mr. Henry David Thoreau.

News Anchor 1: Mr. Thoreau, disappointed with the political climate of modern America, found a time machine and zapped himself to the present day, just to join this monumental presidential debate.

News Anchor 2: Yes, and the renowned author will be debating with Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump.

...

[Candidates walk onstage when introduced and wave]

[Biden walks in by accident]

News Anchor 1: And we see a little slip up onstage, with President Biden entering

[ Biden enters, looking confused.]

Biden: Shut up, Trump.

[Biden then trips and falls, then stands up looking even more confused. Kamala Harris starts escorting him away]

News Anchor 1: ... and we can see Kamala Harris is now escorting him out.

News Anchor 2: Moving on. Candidates, welcome to the stage. Let's start with our first question.

### **Introductory Question:**

News Anchor 1: Please introduce yourselves and show America what you stand for.

Kamala: Good evening, America. I'm Kamala Harris and I believe in the promise of our nation—a promise that everyone should have a fair chance to succeed, no matter where they start in life. As a prosecutor, a Senator, and your **Vice President**, I have always fought for justice and equality. I also have seen how our systems can become better, how we can make sure that every child has access to **quality education**, how every working person can earn a living wage, and how we can assist the people who are trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Trump: Folks, when I was in office, we had the best economy in the world, the best... the best military, all the jobs, and *[Look over at Kamala]* no **illegal immigrants**. Sleepy Joe has... ruined all my work

[Adel/Biden interjects: Whoa!]

...Trump [Louder now] He told me, "Hey, Donald, I'll give our jobs to the illegals." And I told him, "No," and he said, "Yes, Donald." I will fix ... what Biden ruined, and I will make America great again.

Thoreau: Ladies and gentlemen of America, I am but the most spiritually optimal being and but a **perfect exemplar** of who should run this country. I but solely seek to maximize political autonomy and freedom for each and every citizen of our glorious, free country. Do your due diligence and vote for me as no one can govern at my level.

### **First Question: Poverty**

News Anchor 2: Onto the first question. What are your views on poverty and how would you help reduce poverty rates?

Kamala: Thank you, Avani. So listen, I do strongly believe that our country has come a long way **since President Biden, and I took office**. But poverty is a deeply rooted issue in our society today, and it's an issue that I am committed to addressing head-on. Poverty doesn't just affect individuals; it affects communities and our entire nation. To combat poverty, we must start by raising the minimum wage. No one working full-time should live in poverty as a living wage is essential for families to grow. **Donald will only undermine this progress**. He will continue to push policies that benefit the wealthy at the expense of working families, and-

Trump: Folks, she's lying. **She's a liar**. Her crowds are all AI, folks. She cheated at the rally. Martin Luther King, folks, he was a great man. The crowds at my last rally were bigger than his, folks. And he was known, and I've known him for many years, he was known for his big crowds.

News Anchor 1: Mr. Trump, her time was not up.

Kamala: Donald I'm speaking. Let me finish. So...

[Kamala tries to finish, but Trump keeps talking]

Trump: When I was president, folks, we had no poverty.

Thoreau: [interrupts] I disagree!

News Anchor 2: Please Mr. Thoreau. Mr. Trump was speaking.

Thoreau: [Ignores and continues talking] Poverty is but a result of your own superfluous spending. I urge all listeners to disentangle themselves from the bounds and chains of materialism in our modern society. You must only buy what you need and work for what you have. Live life simply. I am convinced that if all men were to live as simply as I then did, **thieving and robbery would be unknown.**

News Anchor 1: Time's up, candidates, thank you. Let's move on to question number two.

### **Second Question: Job Opportunities**

News Anchor 1: What do you think is the state of the current labor market and how do you plan to improve it for American citizens?

Trump: The labor market, folks ... we had the best economy in the world, we had the most jobs in the world, **when I was president.** And I still am, and I have been for many years. Sleepy Joe gave all our jobs to the illegals. Now, all the other countries say, "America has no jobs." I was talking to, uh, China, and he said, "Donald, what happened to America?" The Biden crime family took all your jobs, folks. But I, Donald J. Trump, will give them all back. I will -

Thoreau: [interrupts] Your claims are unsubstantiated!

News Anchor 2: Mr. Trump's time is not up.

[Thoreau continues]

Thoreau: "Most men, even in this **comparatively free country**, through mere ignorance and mistake, are so occupied with the factitious cares and redundant coarse labors of life, that its finer fruits cannot be plucked by them. Their fingers, from excessive toil, are too clumsy and tremble too much for that. Actually, the laboring man has not leisure for a true integrity day by day; he cannot afford to sustain the manliest relations to men; his labor would be depreciated in the market. He has no time to be **anything but a machine.** How can he remember well his ignorance — which his growth requires—who has so often to use his

knowledge? We should feed and clothe him gratuitously sometimes, and recruit him with our cordials, before we judge of him.”

News Anchor 1: That is time, Mr. Trump and Mr. Thoreau. Ms. Harris?

Kamala: Mr. Thoreau, I appreciate your comments on the burdens that the laboring men face however, I believe it is time for us to recognize that in today’s world, we cannot just focus on ourselves. We must acknowledge the numerous Americans **working hard not just for themselves, but for their families**, their communities, and for society. The reality is, we live in a society where our actions impact one another. To improve the labor market, we need to focus on tackling issues such as **income inequality, gender pay gaps, and racial disparities in employment.**

News Anchor 2: That is time for this question. Let’s move on to the third and final question.

### **Third Question: Education**

News Anchor 2: How will you improve public education for elementary, high school, and postsecondary students along with closing gaps among different demographics?

News Anchor 1: The public has demanded Mr. Thoreau’s views; thus Mr. Thoreau will get the opportunity to speak first.

Thoreau: “To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts, nor even to found a school, but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates a life of simplicity, independence, magnanimity, and trust. It is necessary in the spiritual journey of perfection to read well-written books solely in their **native vernacular**. Reading is of the noblest activity a man can indulge in and is much more laborious than any exercise a modern man can undertake. I believe and endeavor to ban **all and every child’s book** in my advanced and perspicacious United States. I confess I do not make any very broad distinction between the illiterateness of my townsman who cannot read at all, and the illiterateness of him who has learned to read only what is for children and feeble intellects. In my time at **Harvard**, I learned of ancient Hindu scriptures that greatly influenced myself and will greatly influence others. These and solely these must be read by Americans.

Trump: The Hindu scriptures ... folks, the Hindus, they love me, folks. And I know a lot of Hindus, and they all say, “we love you, Donald.” And I must say, folks, that Thoreau is just spreading his woke ideology.

News Anchor 2: Mr. Trump...

Trump: We should ban all the books. Those books are communist. They spread their CCP propaganda ... to your kids.

Kamala: Can you imagine? We want to ban assault weapons, and they want to ban books. Donald, while you're focused on censoring knowledge and ideas, we're focused on keeping our children safe in their schools and communities. Instead of hiding the truth, we should be empowering our students with the tools they need to think and survive in the world they live in. Books are a tool that allows students to understand different perspectives, to learning about our history, and to imagining a better future. Education should be expanding minds which is why ensure that every child, from elementary through postsecondary, has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for the future.

News Anchor 1: The time has run out on our very last debate qu-

[Trump interrupts]

Trump: Folks, did anyone understand what Talkative Thoreau and Crazy Kamala just said?

Thoreau: [arguing] And will anyone even bequest you with a vote?

News Anchor 2: Candidates. The time has run out on our very last debate question.

[They stop talking]

**End:**

News Anchor 1: Thank you, candidates, for your responses.

Thoreau: Most certainly.

Trump: Folks, that was easy.

[Silence and lights shut off - Sign saying election result day]

[Election introductory Music]

News Anchor 2: Ladies and gentlemen, this is the moment we have all been waiting for. The results of the 2024 Presidential Election!

Trump: I'm already the president, folks, the liberals stole the election.

Kamala: Donald you're wrong. I'll be winning.

Thoreau: I'm but the one and only candidate here.

News Anchor 1: According to the polls, the winner of the 2024 Presidential Election is...The Woodchuck! It seems that America was not impressed by the arrogance displayed by the candidates.

News Anchor 2: We have some breaking news. *The woodchuck*, winner of the 2024 presidential election, has been eaten by Mr. Thoreau!

[Gasp from audience]

News Anchor 1: Regardless, the citizens have spoken!

[Audience claps and cheers]

[Close out with the lights]

The End.