

## DEBATE SCORE CARD

Presidential debates have had an important influence on the way undecided voters cast their ballots. They can help you clarify why you support a candidate. Through scoring debates, you can improve your understanding of what is really happening. Score the candidates in each category from one to three, with one being the poorest and three the best score. Select three categories that you consider the most important and double the scores from these. Add up the points to help you decide the winner. Justify your decision on the back of this scoresheet. Use complete sentences and specific examples.

**Issues:** Is persuasive and you agree with the positions taken.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Organization:** Stays on topic. Ideas follow logically. Makes smooth transitions.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Mental Agility:** Thinks on their feet and responds quickly.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Knowledge:** Gives evidence to support arguments.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Language:** Captures ideas in precise phrases that move the listener.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Barbs:** Uses wit to present points and clarify positions.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Blunders:** Makes errors of fact, loses control, looks silly.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Presidential:** Looks and acts like a president.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Trustworthiness:** Is believable.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**So What?** Uses arguments that speak to the issues.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**

**Defining Moment of the Debate:** The one thing everyone will remember from the debate, for good or ill.

**Bush:**

**Kerry:**