

# From I have the Utmost Respect for my Opponent (who happens to be a Godless Radical Marxist sure to destroy America), by Don Zolidis

---

MAGGIE, 40s,  
JACK, 40s,  
CYNTHIA, debate moderator

*(MAGGIE and JACK are running for city council. This is a televised debate with CYNTHIA as the moderator. There is only one microphone.)*

JACK

I'm glad you asked that question. First, I want to take the time to thank our brave men and women fighting overseas for our freedom. In honor of their service, I am tonight dedicating my campaign to them. Can we have a round of applause for the troops?

*(MAN claps.)*

Now if you were watching carefully just there you noticed that my opponent, who I have the utmost respect for, declined to clap for the troops. I'm not saying she's not patriotic, or that she doesn't love America as much as I do, but when given the opportunity to applaud America's greatest heroes, she declined. So you think about that.

CYNTHIA

Time's up!

*(JACK hands his microphone to MAGGIE.)*

MAGGIE

Thanks, Jack. I do want to say that I love the troops too. I love them very much.

JACK

You didn't clap. You didn't clap for them.

CYNTHIA

We can't hear you Jack.

*(JACK takes the microphone away from MAGGIE.)*

JACK

I'm just saying that it's one thing to say you love the troops, it's another thing to actually applaud them when it's called for. Also – if you note here – I have a flag pin on my lapel. This was given to me by a soldier named Brian Turkowitz – Brian is stationed in Kandahar this year, and he told me, 'Jack – when I come home to America – I want to be able to recognize it. You wear this pin for me. You wear it for my family.' And I want to say to Brian, you fight for us. And I'm going to fight for you. Thank you. Next question.

*(JACK strides around with microphone in hand.)*

MAGGIE

Can I actually answer the question?

# From I have the Utmost Respect for my Opponent (who happens to be a Godless Radical Marxist sure to destroy America), by Don Zolidis

---

CYNTHIA

Gotta have the microphone to talk.

*(MAGGIE pursues JACK and takes the microphone from him.)*

MAGGIE

Just so that we can get back on track. Your question was actually about how we would help revitalize downtown, right? Well I think there's two things we could do right away to help people – one is try to have a tax break for a business that relocates to downtown, or one that renovates an existing building, and two... um... more parking which will –

*(JACK takes the microphone from her and walks in a different direction.)*

JACK

I think before you can even begin to address those issues you have to do something about the sidewalks, which are in terrible shape, so you have to begin there –

*(MAGGIE follows, trying to get the microphone. JACK is keeping it away from her.)*

And the problem with tax breaks for companies trying to renovate is where is that revenue coming to come from to make up that deficit? Property taxes. She wants to raise property taxes –

*(MAGGIE fights for the microphone)*

MAGGIE

Not true because there will be added revenue from more business which – if you will allow me – right now you're not getting any tax revenue because there's no business, but even if you provided a break that would still be more money than zero, which is what we're getting right now.

*(JACK tries to get it back, but MAGGIE is trying to stay away from him.)*

You have to provide an incentive for a company to come back to downtown – and then it's a positive feedback loop, because if you have –

*(JACK gets the microphone back.)*

JACK

Clearly Maggie knows a lot about the reasons why businesses fail. She's got lots of ideas about that. Now hey hey – I love that you are so passionate about this. I mean, I can just feel your energy on this issue, and it is so adorable. If only your level of understanding was equal to your level of passion.

CYNTHIA

Okay! We need to move on!

MAGGIE

Can I have the microphone please?

JACK

From I have the Utmost Respect for my Opponent (who happens to  
be a Godless Radical Marxist sure to destroy America), by Don  
Zolidis

---

Hey she does know the magic word! You know, you'd think a Mom would be a little more polite.  
Now that you've asked nicely, you can have it.

*(JACK gives her the microphone.)*

MAGGIE

First of all, it's so blatantly sexist what you're doing –

JACK *(taking the microphone)*

Oh I'm sorry! Is pointing out that you don't know what you're talking about sexist?

MAGGIE *(taking the microphone)*

No it's the way in which you did it.

JACK *(taking the microphone)*

So you admit that you don't know what you're talking about.

MAGGIE *(taking the microphone)*

I do know what I'm talking about and –

JACK *(snatching the microphone)*

You know what the real sexism is? The real sexists out there are the people who are always  
yelling sexism at the slightest little thing. Sexist this, sexist that! Come on.

CYNTHIA

Moving on, guys! Moving on! It's getting like a catfight in here! Mrrawor. All right, next  
question?

*(to read the rest of this play, please email me at [donzolidis@yahoo.com](mailto:donzolidis@yahoo.com))*