Remarks at the 2016 U.S. Presidential Debate by Student Body President, Kenneth Sng

Good evening and welcome to Washington University in St. Louis.

Long years ago this nation was founded on a grand promise, later memorialized by President Lincoln: America will create a true government of the people, by the people, for the people. This Great Democratic Experiment has since spread like wildfire to much of the world, sometimes raging but more often smoldering -- including to Singapore, my home. Today, too many democratic governments are being undermined by those who have a much different vision of the world, of their power, and of their responsibilities to their citizens.

This debate provides a momentous occasion to show that while citizens may disagree fervently on issues facing this country, they agree that it is important to stay engaged in the democratic process if Lincoln's words have any meaning at all. Come November 8th, citizens across this nation will cast their ballots and show the world that democracy as an ideal burns brightly in the dark.

On behalf of the entire student body, I am proud of Washington University for hosting this debate and for giving voice to the competing ideas at the core of democracy.