

HOW TO TALK TO A CONSERVATIVE IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

The following is a list of comments that will often be made by hard conservatives along with a reply that can be made by a progressive. It is important to note that there should be some level of agreement with the conservative regarding their comment in order to open them to a different way of looking at things. You will not change their mind with one comment, but you may plant a seed of doubt that may grow later.

Obamacare is a mess and we need to get rid of it.

It does indeed have problems, and we need to fix it, but it is not what most Democrats wanted. Most Democrats would have preferred to have expanded Medicare to include everyone. It is a system that has a lot of choice, both public and private options, that has served us well for years. Taxes will be raised, but we are already paying for our very expensive system through hidden costs that only make the system more expensive than it needs to be. No one really gets to duck the cost of paying for our health care system, so why not make it as cost efficient and fair as possible.

Illegal immigrants are taking our jobs and bringing increased crime

It is true that some jobs are being taken by immigrants that natives would want to do, but it is also true that they do jobs that others won't. There are many sectors of our economy that depend on immigrant labor. Ultimately they improve our economy rather than take away from it. Much of the job losses have to do with technological improvements and educational deficiencies, rather than swarms of immigrants. Illegal immigration can cause problems, but the focus should be on going after those providing the jobs, not the immigrants. During the last recession, more people left than entered the country. Take away the jobs and fewer come in. And as far as criminality goes, immigrant communities often show lower crime rates than native communities. We must still be vigilant against the repeat offenders coming across, but working with rather than demonizing immigrant communities is the best way to minimize the problem.

Democrats want to take my guns away

Most Democrats support our second amendment rights, but with that right comes a responsibility to not harm others. Those who because of criminal or mental problems will be a threat to the lives and property of others should give up that right. A thorough system of background checks to help minimize the threat of firearms in the hands of violent people should not be seen as a threat to this important right.

Global Warming is a hoax designed to push a radical agenda that will hurt our economy

There is a difference between accepting the science of a warming planet and making plans as to how to deal with it. No one knows exactly how the change in climate will affect all areas of the planet or what is the best way to deal with it. Let's focus on ways to reduce our impact on climate change that does not ruin our economy or degrade our way of life. The debate should be on how to deal with the problem in a responsible way rather than denying its existence.