**America’s New Political War Pits Young Men Against Young Women**

Aaron Zitner and Andrew Restuccia, **The Wall Street Journal** 28/07/24

1. Collin Mertz, a 23-year-old farmer in North Dakota, believes American men like himself have been targeted by liberals in the push for diversity. “It would seem the white male is the enemy of the left,” said Mertz, who voted for former President Donald Trump in 2020 and plans to do so again in November.
2. Lauren Starrett, a 28-year-old engineer in Cincinnati, feels a personal threat from conservatives seeking to scale back access to abortion and other rights. “It’s kind of terrifying, really,” said Starrett, who backs Vice President Kamala Harris.
3. The forces of American culture and politics are pushing men and women under age 30 into opposing camps, creating a new fault line in the electorate and adding an unexpected wild card into the 2024 presidential election.
4. Voters under 30 have been a pillar of the Democratic coalition since Ronald Reagan left office in 1989. That pillar is showing cracks, with young men defecting from the party. Young men now favor Republican control of Congress and Trump for president after backing President Biden and Democratic lawmakers in 2020. Women under 30 remain strongly behind Democrats for Congress and the White House. They are also far more likely to call themselves liberal than two decades ago.
5. Before Biden ended his candidacy this month, Trump was winning support from a majority of men under age 30, according to a merger of Wall Street Journal polls in February and July. If that holds until Election Day, Republicans would win young men for the first time in more than two decades, voter exit polls show.
6. Young men backed Trump over Biden by 14 points in the merged Journal polls this year, a substantial swing from 2020. In that election, they supported Biden by 15 points, according to AP VoteCast, a voter survey. Young women in the Journal surveys backed Biden by 30 points and Democratic control of Congress by 34 points, essentially unchanged from 2020.
7. The gender gap extends to opposing views of abortion, student-loan forgiveness and other issues affecting the lives of young adults.
8. The question now is whether Harris, the expected Democratic nominee, will recapture the support of young men or push more of them away. Harris’s candidacy removes Biden’s age, 81, as a voter concern and instead spotlights social, economic and policy issues driving young men and women apart.
9. Trump, 78, now facing a 59-year-old female opponent, has long tailored much of his campaign to appeal to younger men with shows of virility. Days after an attempted assassination, the former president headlined the Republican National Convention, which featured an onstage appearance by celebrity wrestler Hulk Hogan. “I’ve been in the ring with some of the biggest, some of the baddest dudes on the planet,” Hogan told the cheering crowd. “Trump is the toughest of them all.”[…]
10. Following Trump’s decision to tap Sen. JD Vance (R., Ohio) as his running mate, a 2021 video of Vance resurfaced online in which he appeared to dismiss Harris and other Democrats who don’t have biological children as “a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they’ve made.”
11. The video went viral, showing a wide gap between the candidates about the status of women and further galvanizing support for Harris, according to her supporters.
12. Harris, the expected Democratic nominee, is pressing her party’s argument that the wave of new state abortion restrictions strips fundamental rights from women. The protection of reproductive rights is a far more salient issue for women than for men, Journal polls found.
13. The gender divisions reflect the increasingly different experiences of American women and men in their 20s, as well as the influence of campaign messages from candidates and parties. […]

**Method: making an oral commentary on a text or recording.**

**Introduction (≈ 1-2 mins)**

**1. General introductory sentence = related example / context / historical turning point**

*In November of this year, a presidential election will take place in the US. Yet young men and women seem more and more divided about who they will vote for.*

**2. Say what type of document it is (a news report, an opinion piece or an editorial), where it comes from, its date (or say if it is recent), what sources it uses:**

*This recent article from Wall Street Journal, published just after Biden withdrew from the race,....*

**3. Say what it deals with / the issue at stake:**

*... deals with election polls showing that more young men will vote for the Republicans and more young women for the Democrats.*

**4. Transition:**

*So what is the situation and why is this happening*?

**Summary (≈ 3-4 mins)**

**1. Written document : refer to the headlines, sub headings, illustrations (graph, cartoon, drawing etc) and captions:**

*The headline underlines that the political polarisation in the US between young men and women is new.*

**2. Announce what the document deals with: (who/ what/ when / where):**

*Since 1989, most young people have voted Democrat, yet this may now be changing.*

**3. Structure your summary (context / issue; advantages/ disadvantages; problem/solution; past /present /future; opposition proposed by the text ; action / consequences etc):**

**Context**  *Indeed, voting intentions for the November elections show a gender gap. Young men appear to be in favour of Trump and the Republicans and the latter have targeted campaigns and meetings to attract them. For example, Trump invited celebrity wrestler Hulk Hogan to the Republican National Convention. Young women, worried about the status of women, seem to identify more as liberals and prefer the Democrats, especially as the party is now led by Harris.*

**Issue** *One reason for this divide is that young men and women see different social and economic issues as their priority.*  *Abortion is one example of this*, *as we can see with a quote by a young women, Lauren Starrett, who describes abortion restrictions as ‘terrifying ‘. Men see the abortion issue as much less of a priority. The gap between men and women could change the outcome of the election.*

**Commentary (≈ 5-6 mins) = Start from the argument(s) the columnist/article makes:**

**What different point of view can you give (about one or several elements)? What different examples can you give?**

**Structure your commentary (advantages/ disadvantages; for / against; problem/solution; past /present /future; etc):**

**1. Transition:**

*This article argues that the gender divide could have huge consequences on the election results.*

**2a. Position yourself:**

1) *I'd like to agree with this analysis. It seems that young men and women live in totally different worlds. In fact....*

2) *I disagree with this analysis. The article refers to election polls, but these are not necessarily reliable or accurate. Indeed....*

**2b. or give new context to the issue you are going to discuss / recent example:**

*- I recently heard a report / read an article / saw a programme about why young men support Trump.*

*- Why is the US so polarised?*

**Conclusion (≈ 1 min):**

**By way of a conclusion, we can say that... - In conclusion, it seems that ...**

**This brings us to another interesting question, that of ....**