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Govt and Mass Media  
2nd Debate Analysis  
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The second Presidential debate, which was in the format of a town hall debate, saw sparks fly and a rebound of the President's performance from the first debate. Ultimately, the debate has been portrayed by the media as either a slight win for President Obama or a tie. There were a few interesting moments which deserve closer attention.

The first memorable moment came when Governor Romney accidentally misspoke and used the awkward phrase "binder full of women" to describe how he, as President, would help increase equality for women. This phrase was immediately highlighted on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, gaining hundreds of thousands of followers and likes in a matter of hours. Though the phrase is awkward, it ultimately made sense in context. Governor Romney was trying to explain how he asked for women's resumes to fill his Cabinet after he was elected governor. The fact that this phrase caught on shows the media's, and the public's, interest in sound bites over talking heads.

The second memorable moment was when President Obama spoke about his response to the killing of a U.S. Ambassador in Libya and called Governor Romney's remarks, that the President and his administration were playing politics after this event, offensive. He spoke at length about how he immediately denounced this "act of terror." Once the President was done speaking, Governor Romney stood up and asked the President if he did, in fact, call the events an "act of terror." The President looked at Governor Romney and said, "proceed Governor" knowing that the transcripts would indeed show he had used the phrase "act of terror." Romney, slightly confused by the President's response, was corrected by the moderator and informed that he did indeed call it an act of terror. It was yet another awkward moment for the Governor.

This second moment was especially interesting because there was a real-time fact check by the debate's moderator, Candy Crowley. In an election where everything the candidate's say are "fact checked" within days, Crowley was able to correct Governor Romney on the spot and inform him that he was wrong. Had she not done so, it may have appeared as if President Obama was attempting to dodge Romney's question instead of baiting him into saying more about how the President didn't call it an act of terror.

The big picture here is whether or not this debate will ultimately matter. Much like the Vice Presidential debate, I believe this debate will have little, if any, effect on national polls or on undecided voters. Much like Biden's performance, I believe the President's performance in this debate will rejuvenate his base and get them active in the campaign again. After the first debate, Democrats were shocked and awed at how poorly the President had performed. This debate, however, the President was quick and held his ground. While it may not have an immediate effect on the polls, the increased energy may help get more volunteers out and connecting to voters, ultimately helping the President win reelection.