

Viewpoints Summary Answer Key

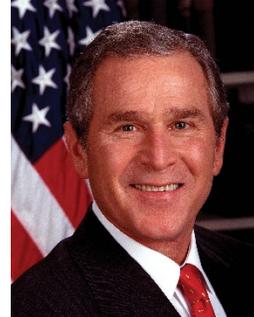
Directions: Check the box under the photograph of the president assigned to your group. Use this sheet to answer the questions below. For each question, provide a relevant section from the reading, along with an explanation of that section in your own words. Important: There will be multiple (and often conflicting) answers for each question.



George H.W. Bush



Bill Clinton



George W. Bush



Barack Obama

- What is the purpose of Social Security?
 - *To be a supplement to people's incomes, not a welfare plan (George H. W. Bush)*
 - *Not a welfare program; allows seniors greater dignity and the ability to maintain a middle-class standard of living (William J. Clinton)*
 - *To provide young Americans with ownership, access to wealth, and independence (George W. Bush)*
 - *Not an individual account, but an intergenerational commitment to provide for one's retirement (Barack H. Obama)*
- Is Social Security reform necessary? Why or why not?
 - *No. It will be solvent until 2030 and should be fixed then. (George H. W. Bush)*
 - *Yes, but it is currently working so we should be very careful about the changes that we suggest. (William J. Clinton)*
 - *Yes, private accounts should be allowed so workers can earn a return on their investment greater than 2%. (George W. Bush)*
 - *Yes, but not an individual account; the next generation will pay for the current generation of workers. (Barack H. Obama)*

- Whose responsibility is it to provide for the nation's elderly?
 - *It is the individual citizen's responsibility, with the help of government supplements in the form of Social Security payments. (George H.W. Bush)*
 - *It is the responsibility of the American people, through payments into Social Security. (William J. Clinton)*
 - *People should provide for themselves through investments and planning, and Social Security should be structured in such a way as to promote this. (George W. Bush)*
 - *The younger generation pays for the retirement of the elderly, and will have their own retirement paid for by the next generation. (Barack H. Obama)*