

HAVE A CONVERSATION, NOT A DEBATE

Why is who won the first question after a political debate? (“Who won the debate between JD Vance and Tim Walz? 5 takeaways,” Oct. 1) Shouldn’t we ask instead who elucidated the issues best? Who made the most sense? Who demonstrated competence? Who demonstrated character consistent with the political office at stake?

For that matter why have a debate at all? Holding office does not require debating skills. It requires mastery of the issues, negotiation skills, leadership, integrity, and courage. Why not have a public conversation instead of a debate? Dialogue instead of combat?

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