

Presidential Debate Audiences 1960-2008

These figures do not include the PBS audience which in 2008 was estimated to be 2.6 million viewers

TABLE 1						
Year		1st Debate	2nd Debate	3rd Debate	VP Debate	
2008	Viewership	52.4 million				
	Date	9/26				
2004	Viewership	62.4 million	46.7 million	51.1 million	43.5 million	
	Date	9/30	10/8	10/13	10/5	
2000	Viewership	46.6 million	37.5 million	37.7 million	28.5 million	
	Date	10/3	10/11	10/17	10/5	
1996	Viewership	46.1 million	36.3 million	n/a	26.6 million	
	Date	10/6	10/16	n/a	10/9	
1992	Viewership	62.4 million	69.9 million	66.9 million	51.2 million	
	Date	10/11	10/15	10/19	10/13	
1988	Viewership	65.1 million	67.3 million	n/a	46.9 million	
	Date	9/25	10/13	n/a	10/5	
1984	Viewership	65.1 million	67.3 million	n/a	56.7 million	
	Date	10/7	10/21	n/a	10/11	
1980	Viewership	n/a	80.6 million	n/a	n/a	
	Date	9/21*	10/28	n/a	n/a	
1976	Viewership	69.7 million	63.9 million	62.7 million	43.2 million	
	Date	9/23	10/6	10/22	10/15	
1960	Viewership	66.4 million	61.9 million	63.7 million	n/a	60.4 million
	Date	9/26	10/7	10/13	n/a	10/21**
* Debate between John Anderson and Ronald Reagan. Jimmy Carter did not participate.						
** In 1960 there were 4 Presidential Debates.						