

Culture Message Quick Reference

To better connect with key demographic groups like moderates and independents, and to get a fair hearing on other pressing issues like the economy and national security, progressives need to handle culture issues carefully so the lens Americans see them through is not distorted.

The following messages will help progressives define themselves on hot-button issues by identifying shared values while staying true to progressive principles.

ABORTION

I want to find common ground to reduce the need for abortion in America while protecting the right to have one.

IMMIGRATION

We need immigration reform that is tough, fair, and practical. Tough means tough on border enforcement. Fair means fair to U.S. taxpayers. Practical means restoring the rule of law and solving the problem for good.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

I want to put the focus back where it belongs: on the mission, rather than on an individual's personal life. I agree with leaders at the Pentagon that we must allow our military to recruit and retain qualified, patriotic, and courageous Americans who want to serve their country.

RELATIONSHIP RECOGNITION

I support the institution of marriage. I also believe that gay and lesbian couples should be able to take on the responsibilities and obligations of making a lifetime commitment to each other. I don't see why we can't do both, and protect the prerogative of churches and pastors.

GUNS

I take a backseat to no one in support of Second Amendment rights, but those rights don't extend to terrorists and criminals.

CRIME

People have the right to feel safe where they live, work, and play. I believe we must be tough against violence and have smart anti-crime policies that demand responsible behavior from ex-cons.

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