

Donald Trump under fire for not paying tax

4th October, 2016



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is in trouble again following revelations about his tax returns. The New York Times said Mr Trump's 1995 tax returns showed he reported over \$900 million in business losses. This has enabled him to not pay nearly a billion dollars in income tax over the past 19 years. The Times suggests Trump is being hypocritical, as he has constantly criticized the tax system for being unfair. The Times wrote: "Trump is right when he says the system is rigged. What he doesn't say is that it's rigged in his favor and in the favor of people like him, and against regular people - those of us who earn money, pay income tax on it, and financially support the country in which we live."

Mr Trump has spent years on social media attacking high-profile people for not paying enough tax. He attacked President Obama for paying a "paltry" tax rate of 20.5 per cent. Former New York mayor and Trump campaign advisor Rudy Giuliani said Mr Trump had done nothing illegal and called him a "genius" for not paying tax and turning around his loss-making business. He likened Trump to Winston Churchill, Britain's leader during World War II. Mr Trump tweeted: "I know our complex tax laws better than anyone who has ever run for president and am the only one who can fix them." When Hillary Clinton accused Mr Trump of not paying taxes, he replied: "That makes me smart."

Sources: *Washington Post.com* / *NY Times.com* / *Reuters.com*

Writing

Donald Trump would make a good U.S. President. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

presidential / nominee / revelations / tax returns / income tax / hypocritical / support / social media / tax rate / mayor / illegal / genius / leader / loss-making business / smart

True / False

- The Washington Post made revelations about Donald Trump's tax. T / F
- Mr Trump's business lost over \$900 million in the 1990s. T / F
- Donald Trump has not paid tax for 19 years. T / F
- A newspaper said the tax system favors people like Mr Trump. T / F
- Donald Trump attacked president Obama for paying too little tax. T / F
- A former mayor of New York called Mr Trump a fool. T / F
- The former mayor likened Donald Trump to George Washington. T / F
- Mr Trump said he cannot fix America's tax system. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. nominee | a. mastermind |
| 2. revelations | b. fraudulent |
| 3. hypocritical | c. clever |
| 4. rigged | d. disclosures |
| 5. regular | e. criticizing |
| 6. attacking | f. complicated |
| 7. paltry | g. candidate |
| 8. genius | h. small |
| 9. complex | i. ordinary |
| 10. smart | j. holier-than-thou |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of Donald Trump?
- What do you think about what you read?
- How much will this hurt Mr Trump's bid to be president?
- Should Mr Trump run a country if his business lost over \$900 million?
- Why should people trust a billionaire businessman who doesn't pay tax?
- In what ways is Mr Trump being hypocritical?
- What do you think U.S. tax payers think of Mr Trump not paying tax?
- What advice do you have for Mr Trump?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. presidential nominee Donald Trump is in | a. us who earn money |
| 2. revelations | b. criticized the tax system |
| 3. he has constantly | c. has ever run for president |
| 4. it's rigged in | d. about his tax returns |
| 5. those of | e. making business |
| 6. attacking high-profile people for | f. tax rate of 20.5 per cent |
| 7. a "paltry" | g. his favor |
| 8. turning around his loss- | h. to Winston Churchill |
| 9. He likened Trump | i. not paying enough tax |
| 10. better than anyone who | j. trouble again |

Discussion – Student B

- Why is this big news if Mr Trump has not broken any laws?
- Is Mr Trump a genius? Why or why not?
- Why do we pay tax?
- What do you think of Mr Trump being likened to Winston Churchill?
- What kind of President would Donald Trump be?
- How would Mr Trump change America?
- Why is Mr Trump popular with many voters?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Trump about his tax?

Spelling

- Republican presidential nmeione Donald Trump
- following aelivrntoes about his tax returns
- This has lbneeda him to...
- Trump is being piltrchaociy
- he has scanloytnt criticized the tax system
- the system is grdgie
- attacking high-eolprif people
- paying a "lpatyr" tax rate of 20.5 per cent
- called him a "nesuig"
- He kledein Trump to Winston Churchill
- I know our mexpolc tax laws
- Clinton cueadsc Mr Trump of not paying taxes

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. d | 3. j | 4. b | 5. i |
| 6. e | 7. h | 8. a | 9. f | 10. c |

Role Play

Role A – Donald Trump

You think Donald Trump is the biggest genius. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there people are not geniuses. Also, tell the others which is the least intelligent of these (and why): Serena Williams, Hayao Miyazaki or J.K. Rowling.

Role B – Serena Williams

You think Serena Williams is the biggest genius. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there people are not geniuses. Also, tell the others which is the least intelligent of these (and why): Donald Trump, Hayao Miyazaki or J.K. Rowling.

Role C – Hayao Miyazaki

You think Hayao Miyazaki is the biggest genius. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there people are not geniuses. Also, tell the others which is the least intelligent of these (and why): Serena Williams, Donald Trump or J.K. Rowling.

Role D – J.K. Rowling

You think J.K. Rowling is the biggest genius. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there people are not geniuses. Also, tell the others which is the least intelligent of these (and why): Serena Williams, Hayao Miyazaki or Donald Trump.

Speaking – Genius

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest geniuses at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| • Paul McCartney | • Donald Trump |
| • J.K. Rowling | • Mark Zuckerberg |
| • Oprah Winfrey | • Lionel Messi |
| • Hayao Miyazaki | • Serena Williams |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | T | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.