Debate Bingo

As the candidates (only the candidates, not the moderator) use the rhetorical strategies, logical fallacies, or predictable talking points featured below, mark the corresponding boxes until you have five in a row (can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal).

"Mile High"	Logical Fallacy: False Dichotomy	"The White House"	Use of Anecdotal Evidence: Senior Citizen	Evasion: "No Hypothetical Questions"
Logical Fallacy: Slippery Slope	"47%"	Use of Anecdotal Evidence: Small Business Owner	"Founding Fathers"	"Out of Touch"
"Freedom"	Platitude: Unity / End of Divisiveness (As a Nation)	free space "America"	"Main Street"	"Outsource"
Platitude: Personal Responsibility	"21st Century"	Evasion: "They Have a Right to Their Opinion"	"Americans want..."	Logical Fallacy: Straw Man
"Simpson-Bowles"	Platitude: America's Promise / American Dream	"Tax Reform"	"Gun Control"	Empathy Anecdote: Parents' Humble Beginnings

Once you've hit BINGO, be sure to upload a picture of your winning card to Twitter using **#DUDebateBingo** for the chance to win a prize from DU's Writing Program.

*** see reverse side for definitions and examples of rhetorical strategies ***

Logical Fallacies:

Ad Hominem
Attacking the person making the argument instead of the argument itself.

> Example: *You can't believe anything Rush Limbaugh says because he is addicted to pain medication.*

Slippery Slope
Claiming that a small step will lead to bigger and bigger consequences.

> Example: *If you legalize gay marriage, next thing you know people will be marrying animals.*

Bandwagon
Claiming something is valuable or true because everyone likes/believes it.

> Example: *The novel* Twilight *is a best seller; therefore, it must be a good novel.*

Straw Man
Misrepresenting your opponent's view, then attacking the misrepresentation instead of the real argument.

> Example: *Geoff: Having children is fulfilling.*
> *Geoff's childless friend: Hey, just because I don't have kids doesn't mean I'm a worthless person.*

False Dichotomy
Reducing a complicated issue to only two choices.

> Example: *America: Love it or leave it*

False Analogy
Comparing two things that are not necessarily related.

> Example: *I can't believe this new non-smoking policy at DU. It's like Nazi Germany all over again!*

Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc
Assuming a cause–and–effect relationship for two events just because they are temporally related
(the latin translates to "after this, therefore because of this").

> Example: *Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, and the economy has been terrible since 2008; the President is responsible for the country's economic turmoil.*

Evasion Tactics:

Reframing the Question
Skewing or rewording the original question in order to address a different matter.

> Example: *What I think you mean by that...* or *The real question here is...*

"Not My (or government's) Decision to Make"
Pointing out that a matter is someone else's responsibility to avoid giving your opinion on that matter.

> Example: *Regardless of what I believe, this is an issue for each state/voter to decide.*

"No Hypothetical Questions"
Refusing to answer hypothetical questions that may reveal your positions or opinions.

> Example: *I can't say how I would vote on a bill like that because one doesn't exist yet.*

"They Have a Right to Their Opinion"
Using freedom of speech or freedom of belief to avoid having to reveal your own position on a matter.

> Example: *Question: "A member of your party has made a controversial statement. Do you agree with what he said, or are you going to denounce what he said?"*
> *Answer: "Well, he has a right to his opinion and to expressing that opinion."*