

# Style Invitational Week 1188: Just short words

Explain a concept with only 1-syllable words; plus the winning nominations for alternative presidential candidates



RUNNER-UP The Washington Post THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Announcing the latest Style Invitational Grossery Bag for runners-up; the slogan, by Tom Witte, got ink in the 2012 contest that also provided the ideas for our first two Grossery Bags. Third- and fourth- (and first-) place Losers can choose between this bag and one of the Loser mugs until the mugs run out; we'll get more of them in 2017. (Design by Bob Staake for The Washington Post )

By Pat Myers • Entertainment August 11

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning nominations for alternative presidential candidates)

**God told us, “Thou shalt not kill.”**

**We say sure, but it’s fine to kill folks who don’t like our God.**

**God says, “No, thou shalt not kill.”**

**We say sure, but it’s cool so long as it’s just those guys who dress in rags and have beards.**

**God says, “No, write this down. Thou shalt not kill.”**

**We say, “Sure. Now who is this “thou” guy you mean? — Robert Carlisle, Week 495**

These days, at least among tens of millions of U.S. citizens, the best way to impress people is to speak to them on a first-grade level, no matter how complicated the subject. Loser Matt Monitto recently reminded the Empress of a contest that her predecessor, the Czar, ran in 2003, and that the Empress had never tried: **This week: Explain some concept or philosophy entirely in words of one syllable**, as in the Week 495 runner-up above. (See the rest of the 2003 results in this week’s Style Conversational column at [bit.ly/conv1188](http://bit.ly/conv1188). (published late Thursday afternoon, Aug. 11). Maximum 100 words, but much shorter is also fine.



For this week’s second-place finisher, two essential looks for maximum Loserosity.

**Submit entries at this website: [bit.ly/enter-invite-1188](http://bit.ly/enter-invite-1188).**

Winner gets the [Inkin’ Memorial](#), the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a [two-pack of Groucho-type nose/glasses](#), each with a special enhancement: One has a wart-shaped knob on the nose; when you twist it, the attached eyebrows and mustache wiggle. The other is called Snot Nose Glasses and has a plastic blob hanging off it. Donated by Losers Nan Reiner and (long, long ago) Peter Metrinko, respectively.

**Other runners-up** win their choice of the brand-new Grossery Bag we show this week; a yearned-for [Loser Mug](#); the older-model [“This Is Your Brain on Mugs” mug](#); or a vintage Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, [“Magnet Dum Laude”](#) or [“Falling Jest Short.”](#) First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). Deadline is Monday night, Aug. 22; results published, oh boy, Sept. 11 (online

Sept. 8). You may submit up to 25 entries per contest. See contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Tom Witte; the honorable-mentions subhead is by Jesse Frankovich. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

● **The Style Conversational** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

[And the results of the Style Invitational contest from four weeks ago . . .](#)

#### **WRY-IN CANDIDATES: THE WINNING PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS FROM WEEK 1184**

**In Week 1184**, noting the disappointment so many Americans say they feel about the two major-party presidential candidates, to suggest someone — or something — as a better alternative (we also allowed ideas for prez-veep tickets). Many of you power brokers nominated candidates on a common theme, including Ernest and Julio Gallo: **Make America Grape Again**; Tony the Tiger: **Make America Grrreat Again**; a wheel of parmesan cheese: **Make America Grate Again**; Viagra: **Make America Mate Again**; Vladimir and Estragon: **Make America Wait Again**; and Beyoncé: **Make America Gyrate Again**.

#### **4th place**

Vote for **Torquemada**: Law and order *and* religious values — a twofer! (Steve Honley, Washington)

#### **3rd place**

**A wad of cash**: It's been in charge for a while already. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

#### **2nd place and the doorstep that looks like a red splat of goo:**

**Mother Teresa**, who presumably is in Heaven, would surely win — since so many voters say they'd prefer Nun of the Above. (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

#### **And the winner of the Inkin' Memorial:**

Vote for the Cyclops/Stuart the Minion ticket to solve our nation's crisis: [Eye Alone Can Fix It](#). (Annette Green, Lexington, Va.)

#### **The system is rigged!: honorable mentions**

Yes, I know that this potential candidate has fallen out of favor with women voters, and there are worries that a run

would ruin the party. But America needs a leader strong enough to be in control at the top and can lend support to the masses at the bottom. Call me old-fashioned, but I'm going with **President Pantyhose!** (Hildy Zampella, Falls Church, Va.)

**Wayne LaPierre** would make a good president — but why would he want to give up so much power? (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

My fellow Americans, now is the time to elect the **Charles, Romano and Bolger families**. Because we really need to be improving Ray's relations. (Nan Reiner, Boca Raton, Fla.)

America should elect **Sisyphus**: He's been in training for this kind of job all his afterlife. (Jeff Hazle, San Antonio)

Vote for **Penn and Teller!** Wait — which one doesn't talk? Okay, make that Teller and Penn. (Hildy Zampella)

Nominate Bob Staake to draw **two cartoon characters** to run against each other. Oh, wait. (Frank Mann, Washington)

**Siri/Watson 2016**: All the benefits of unreliability and untrustworthiness without that awkward human element. (Ivars Kuskevics, Takoma Park, Md.)

**Melania Trump**: She isn't afraid to stand up and say what Michelle Obama thinks. (Dave Zarrow, Reston)

**Sitophilus granarius** would be preferable to *Anthonomus grandis* for president, being the lesser of the two weevils. (Gary Crockett)

If we're going for a lady who can't reliably use her email, we ought to elect **my grandma**. Lots of people like *her*. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)

**Chris Christie** is someone I think everybody could get behind. Literally. (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

Both of the nominees should reconsider their running mates and choose **Bill Clinton** for veep — after all, he's renowned as a president of vice. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Vote **Vincent Orange/Fiona Apple**: They're incomparable. (David Lang, Olney, Md., who got his only previous ink 13 years ago)

My vote goes to the **Alan Dershowitz/Gloria Allred** celebrity-lawyer ticket: They're both passionate about defending stars in stripes. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

**Homer Simpson/ Ned Flanders**, because nothing says "America" like a narcissistic, ignorant blowhard teamed with a religious zealot. Um . . . (Ed Sobansky, Bowie, Md.)

**John Wall** — and let Mexico pay his salary. (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

Elect the **bigmouth know-it-all from the break room at work**: First, they already know what is wrong with everything and how to fix it. Second, it would get them out of the break room at work. (Robyn Carlson, Keyser, W.Va.)

**Speedy the Alka-Seltzer kid:** Americans need look no further than this tiny titan of the business world, the perfect (over-the) counter-candidate. Loved by millions for his odd combination of fizzy optimism and deflationary policies. And globally respected for his relief work. (Dave McCord, Bel Air, Md., a First Offender)

America needs a guy who understands the need for security — elect [Linus van Pelt!](#) (Jane Auerbach, Los Angeles)

If you put 18 Republicans and some bacon grease in a blender, run it on high and then let it stand for a few minutes, the bacon grease will float to the top and coagulate. So, apparently **bacon grease** would make a good president. (Warren Tanabe)

**Shaquille O'Neal** would make a good president — have you seen the size of his hands? (Rob Wolf, Gaithersburg, Md.)

Let us elect the **D.C. Madam and her staff.** As president, vice president and members of the Cabinet, they will merely be confirming the obvious: Offer politicians enough money, and they'll take any position you want. (Nan Reiner)

**Bozo the Clown** should be president because ... oh wait, you said you wanted an *alternative* candidate. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

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Finally, a candidate that will stand firm, with a long history of supporting senior citizens. **Viagra** for president! (John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)

For president and VP: **writers for "Law and Order,"** because they can solve any problem in 44 minutes. (Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.)

What about **Dan Quayle?** I mean, he was at least harmless. Anybody got his number? (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

Vote for **Chuck Norris** — or else. (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 15: our contest to drop the last letter from a word and describe the result. See [bit.ly/invite1187](http://bit.ly/invite1187).**

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