

The Newsroom S01E01 2013 US Jeff Daniels c.5 min. 3:10 - 8:00

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- **grammar points:** let's, can, superlative, used to be, whom, should, able to, passive, ordinal numbers
 - **phrasal verbs:** move on, hold to, go back, get, stand up for, strike down, care about, reach for, act like
 - **idioms:** run by, sophomore, all three of you, mean, The New York Jets, gonna, let/make, well, look, what about, NEA, how come, straight face, like, just in case, per capita, nonetheless, what the fuck, money where your mouth is, beat your chest, belittle
-

WILL:

...I've voted for candidates **run by** both major parties.

TV HOST:

Let's move on to the next question. Go ahead.

SORORITY GIRL:

Hi. My name is Jenny.

I'm a **sophomore**, and this is for **all three of you**.

Can you say in one sentence or less...

Um, you know what I **mean**.

Can you say why America is the **greatest** country **in** the world?

Diversity and opportunity.

TV HOST:

Lewis

Freedom and freedom.

So **let's** keep it that way.

TV HOST:

Will.

WILL:

The New York Jets.

TV HOST:

No, I'm **gonna hold** you **to** an answer on that.

What **makes** America **the greatest** country **in** the world?

WILL:

Well, Lewis and Sharon said it, diversity and opportunity and freedom and freedom.

TV HOST:

I'm not **letting** you **go back** to the airport without answering the question.

WILL:

Well, our Constitution is a masterpiece.

James Madison was a genius.

The Declaration of Independence is, for me,
the single greatest piece of American writing.

You don't look satisfied.

TV HOST:

One's a set of laws and the other's a declaration of war.

I want a human moment from you. What about the people?

Why is America...

WILL:

It's not the greatest country in the world, Professor. That's my answer.

TV HOST:

You're saying...

WILL:

Yes.

TV HOST:

Let's talk about...

WILL:

Fine. Sharon, the NEA is a loser.

Yeah, it accounts for a penny out of our paycheck,
but he gets to hit you with it any time he wants.

It doesn't cost money, it costs votes.

It costs airtime and column inches.

You know why people don't like liberals? Because they lose.

If liberals are so fucking smart,

how come they lose so goddamn always?

SHARON:

Hey...

WILL:

And with a straight face you're gonna tell students that America is so star -
spangled awesome that we're the only ones in the world who have freedom?
Canada has freedom. Japan has freedom.

The U.K., France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Australia. Belgium has freedom!
207 sovereign states in the world, like 180 of them have freedom.

TV HOST:

All right...

WILL:

And, yeah, you, sorority girl.

Just in case you accidentally wander into a voting booth one day, there are some things you should know, and one of them is - there is absolutely no evidence to support the statement that we're the greatest country in the world...

We're 7th in literacy, 27th in math, 22nd in science, 49th in life expectancy, 178th in infant mortality, 3rd in median household income, number 4 in labor force, and number 4 in exports.

We lead the world in only 3 categories:

Number of incarcerated citizens per capita, number of adults who believe angels are real, and defense spending, where we spend more than the next 26 countries combined,

25 of whom are allies.

Now, none of this is the fault of a 20-year-old college student, but you nonetheless are, without a doubt, a member of the worst period generation period ever period.

So when you ask - what makes us the greatest country in the world? I don't know what the fuck you're talking about. - Yosemite?

We sure used to be.

We stood up for what was right.

We fought for moral reasons.

We passed laws, struck down laws for moral reasons.

We waged wars on poverty, not poor people.

We sacrificed.

We cared about our neighbors.

We put our money where our mouths were and we never beat our chest.

We built great big things, made ungodly technological advances, explored the universe, cured diseases, and we cultivated the world's greatest artists and the world's greatest economy.

We reached for the stars, acted like men.

We aspired to intelligence, we didn't belittle it.

It didn't make us feel inferior.

We didn't identify ourselves by who we voted for in the last election, and we didn't...we didn't scare so easy.

We were able to be all these things and do all these things because we were informed...by great men, men who were revered.

The first step in solving any problem is recognizing there is one.

America is not the greatest country in the world anymore.

Enough?