

Was Joe Biden the victim of an ageist attack at the Democratic debate?

The problem with ageism is that it's ingrained in society

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Democratic candidate Joe Biden was the victim of what some people call an ageist attack during the third Democratic debate on Thursday.

Ageism was prevalent during the third Democratic debate.

During a discussion about health care [Thursday night](#), Julian Castro, the former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, took a jab at former vice president Joe Biden's age. Castro and Biden were clashing over how

Americans would become insured under various health-care proposals, and Castro argued Biden was contradicting what he said. "Are you forgetting already what you said two minutes ago?" he asked Biden.

See: [Is Trump making older people look bad?](#)

Castro, 44, later said he was not referring to 76-year-old Biden's age. "That was not a personal attack," Castro said on [CNN](#) Friday morning.

Some viewers, however, believed it was ageist. David Axelrod, a former Obama adviser, said the former U.S. secretary "overreached." "It was such an overt kind of sort," he [said](#). Jack Kupferman, president of the Gray Panthers, a New York City-based anti-aging group, said the comment was ageist, and that this is a recurring theme — not just on the political stage, but in society. "You have to look at the individual, not at the age," he said. "How many people do you know who are 40 years old that are forgetful and yet competent?"

Cory Booker, a New Jersey Senator running for president, said to CNN after the debate that Biden did make references that could age him, such as people listening to record players. "I don't remember the last time I saw a record player," he [said](#). "But there are definitely moments where you listen to Joe Biden and you don't wonder..." He followed up that these instances don't make Biden unqualified to be president.

Fellow candidate Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota senator, told CNN the dig was "not cool." "I thought that was so personal and so unnecessary," she said.

The Thursday debate featured the top 10 Democratic presidential candidates: Biden, Booker, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, Beto O'Rourke, Amy Klobucher, Andrew Yang and Julian Castro. Three of the frontrunners are 70 or older (Warren turned 70 this year, and Sanders' 78th birthday was last week). President Donald Trump is 73.