



**“How wonderful it is
that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.”**

— Anne Frank

**“The nation which can prefer disgrace
to danger is prepared for a master
and deserves one”**

— Alexander Hamilton

“Yes, we can.”

— Barack Obama

What Are Your Feelings About 2016 and Your Outlook for 2017?

(Your responses to the writing challenge: 30 words or less)

Of the fifty-some people who read *ConVivio's* [“2016” post](#), ten of you responded to its 30-word writing challenge. I admire the variety of approaches: some with a broad national perspective; others with observations focused on their own lives; some optimistic, others not so much; some were quite poetic. Thanks to everyone who sent a response. Here they are:

Overcome the recentness bias this year? I think not.
The election's outcome could affect us for decades.
Color me cynical and sad for this fine country.

— **Katie Walter, Stockton, CA**

2016: The rotting corpse of the Democratic Party hopefully saw the error of moving to the right.

2017: As Daniel said on the series finale of *Rectify*, “I’m cautiously optimistic.”

— **Steve Rubio, Berkeley, CA** (begonias.typepad.com)

I’m ready to fight against climate change and Trump’s agenda.

— **Sonia Faletti, Washington D.C.**

Working on myself as an active participant — How can I be more present?

How can I be more aware? How can I be a consistent critical thinker engaging with others?

— **Matthew D. Sapone, Aptos CA**

Incredible year, many “ups,” one YUGE “down.”

Ups: Changed from large stable company to a startup. Excellent decision!

Loving husband, strong family life, great friendships.

Downer: Won’t say his name.

— **Nouanepheng Sapone, Aptos, CA**

If you want someone to understand (and adopt) your viewpoint, you must first listen to and understand theirs. No more preaching to the choir.

— **Lauren de Vore, Livermore, CA**

The elections were like a pollution cloud, darkening everything. Now, every day brings new confirmations of how bad 2017 can be, for our country and the world. We're worried.

— **Megan Taylor, Bellingham, WA**

Unexpected atheism explodes into confidence as the rush of information restores limbic, and age of majority is reached. Zen heart at 80 beats per minute while ruffian's words exile paralysis.

— **Jody Tims, Morgan Hill, CA**

Daughter Srijana: Nepal, 1998, Scott College August;
her new boyfriend Haaron: wants medical school;
Me: working CDC with fabulous Director Dr. Frieden;
2 dogs, 2 cats;
Me: nervous re. prez.

— **Jean Smith, Atlanta, GA**

After the events of the last year, I don't know how anyone can mount a compelling defense for the theory of evolution. Are we really getting smarter and better? Show me.

— **Jeannette Gosnell, Livermore, CA**

Men often oppose a thing merely because they have had no agency in planning it, or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike.

— **Alexander Hamilton, New York, NY**

Looking ahead, we always think we are smart enough to predict the surprises. My hope is that we are wrong; and the surprises will not be the ones we expect.

— **PapaDan Sapone, Pleasanton, CA**

