1. Identify the subject of the Poll. The title of the poll might be biased, or not accurately describe the actual poll.

Gay people, human being attracted to the same gender. The poll uses the phrase "gays and lesbians".

a. Does the title of the poll seem biased? Explain

N/A - No title

b. Does the title accurately describe the subject of the poll? Explain

N/A - No Title

2. Identify the source of the Poll. Polls can be biased.

Suffolk University and USA Today.

a. What is the source of the poll? Give a basic background/explanation/bio of the source.

Suffolk University is a research university in Boston, it has no religious affiliation. USA Today is a widely printed newspaper.

b. Might this source be biased? Explain.

It is possible that the source is biased. Suffolk is a high-class, high-cost university; such universities tend to attract rich people; rich people tend to lean to the right. In addition, USA Today is a newspaper, which has to make money to stay in business. USA Today may be incentivesed to provide biased or shocking answers to make a more interesting story.

c. If you don't recognize the name of the polling source, how might you find out more about it?

Checking the university's online webpage, or checking online encyclopedias for them.

3. Determine the Sampling Method. To achieve accuracy by representing the entire target population of a poll, sample must be random. Non-random samples will "skew" the results. For example, "mail-in" and "click in" polls are notoriously unreliable since only people who feel strongly about the subject are likely to respond.

N/A - Poll method not given

a. How was the sample selected?

N/A - Poll method not given

b. Can you see any problems with the sampling method?

N/A - Poll method not given

4. Identify the Sample Size. Larger samples do not mean more accurate polls. They can reduce the margin of error, however. In general, national polls sample size are larger than 500 people.

1000 people, nationwide

a. What is the sample size of this poll?

1000 people

b. Do you judge it as sufficient? Why or Why not?

Yes, one-thousand people is a large amount of people which is likely to have a wide range of views. Statistically; fifty of those people are gay themself, and three-hundred other people would

prevent the aforementioned group from marrying. Half of the surveyed group would have less than $15000 in assets, five people would be billionaires.

5. Consider the margin of error. This is important. The margin of error is the range of results a pollster could expect if the sample size were infinite. Suppose a poll indicates that the Republican candidate has 52% of the votes and the Democrat has 48%. With a margin of error of +/- 4% the results could be opposite the expected result.

a. What is the margin of error of the poll? Is the poll valid and reliable?
3%, a low margin of error. The poll is valid and reliable.

6. Examine the wording of the Questions. Questions that are confusing or not neutral will skew the poll results.

a. Are the questions clear? Explain.
Yes. The questions are easily parsable.

b. Are the questions neutral? Explain.
No. Take the following question, "Which of the following two statements comes closest to the way you feel? It is no longer practical for the Supreme Court to ban same-sex marriage because so many states have legalized such marriages. OR, It doesn't matter how many same-sex marriages have taken place, the Supreme Court can still ban them." The question implies that the person being asked feels that the Supreme Court can, will, or should ban same-sex marriage. The question fails to consider the possibility that the person asked does not want to see same-sex marriage banned.

7. Examine the Answer Categories. Polls rarely allow for respondents to supply their own answers. Wording of the set of answers must be clear and unbiased.

a. Are the answer choices comprehensive? Do they include all possible answers to the question?
Yes, technically. Given that the questions involve selecting from a predetermined list of answers, they, by definition, include all possible answers to the questions. However, the given answers and collected data is not entirely comprehensive. Take the following question, "Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?"

The question has few flaws in its terminology, and provides a wide range of answers. At first glance, the question appears good. However, the data collected looks like this:

Favor	Unsure	Oppose
31%	14%	35%

The data displayed ignores the severity of responses collected, which detracts from the data. This is especially unusual, given that the survey explicitly allowed more and less severe responses.

b. Is the wording of the answers clear and unbiased? Explain
Ignoring the aforementioned examples, the wording is clear and unbiased. Most answers consist of a simple support/oppose choice.

8. Evaluate the results. Pollsters usually provide written generalizations about poll results.

The results are interesting. Two results in particular stand out, the questions about whether the SCOTUS can ban gay marriage and whether people should be allowed to marry a partner of the same gender. The results were the same: 51% of people support gay marriage, 51% of people don't think it's practical to ban gay marriage; 35% of people oppose gay marriage, 35% of people think it is possible to ban gay marriage; 14% of people were undecided in both polls. This is interesting, as it suggests the people surveyed may have been interpreting the two questions as being the same – as both asking whether or not people should be allowed to marry a partner of the same gender.

a. Are the summary statements supported by the actual poll results? Explain.

N/A – No summary given

b. What is your general opinion about the poll? Do you agree with the results? Explain.

This poll is hilarious, and was chosen for one specific statistic, that 2% of people are unsure if they have a family member married to somebody of the same sex. This number, while within the margin of error, is funny for how many questions it raises. Does the person surveyed not want to acknowledge a gay family member? Do they not know their own family? Has somebody declared their marital status to be complicated?

I agree with the general trend of the results, that sexual minorities deserve the same treatment as heterosexual people, for extremely obvious reasons.

1. Identify the subject of the Poll. The title of the poll might be biased, or not accurately describe the actual poll.

Transgender people, with a heavy focus on North Carolina's infamous "bathroom bill".

a. Does the title of the poll seem biased? Explain

N/A – No title

b. Does the title accurately describe the subject of the poll? Explain

N/A – No title

2. Identify the source of the Poll. Polls can be biased.

NBC News, The Wall Street Journal, Hart Research Associates, Public Opinions Strategies

a. What is the source of the poll? Give a basic background/explanation/bio of the source.

NBC News is a national news organization leaning slightly to the left. The Wall Street Journal is a national newspaper leaning slightly to the right. HRA and POS are Democrat and Republican agencies, respectively.

b. Might this source be biased? Explain.

Individually, yes. Together, less so. The combination of liberal and conservative groups is likely to cancel any large bias. Especially given the later-discussed clear questions, it seems unlikely that the poll is biased. Similar to how the presence of factions prevents a takeover of American Government, as stated by Madison, the presence of opposing biases will prevent much bias.

c. If you don't recognize the name of the polling source, how might you find out more about it?

pollingreport.com, the website from which this data was obtained, listed HRA and POS's political affiliations. All four organizations had webpages listing their purpose. Additionally, the online encyclopedia Wikipedia has a wonderful article on media bias in the United States, which categorizes news agencies by leaning.

3. Determine the Sampling Method. To achieve accuracy by representing the entire target population of a poll, sample must be random. Non-random samples will "skew" the results. For example, "mail-in" and "click in" polls are notoriously unreliable since only people who feel strongly about the subject are likely to respond.

N/A – Not given

a. How was the sample selected?

N/A – Not given

b. Can you see any problems with the sampling method?

N/A – Not given

4. Identify the Sample Size. Larger samples do not mean more accurate polls. They can reduce the margin of error, however. In general, national polls sample size are larger than 500 people.

1000 people

a. What is the sample size of this poll?

1000 people

b. Do you judge it as sufficient? Why or Why not?

Yes, 1000 people is enough people to cover a large swath of groups.

5. Consider the margin of error. This is important. The margin of error is the range of results a pollster could expect if the sample size were infinite. Suppose a poll indicates that the Republican candidate has 52% of the votes and the Democrat has 48%. With a margin of error of +/- 4% the results could be opposite the expected result.

a. What is the margin of error of the poll? Is the poll valid and reliable?

3.1%, the poll is valid and reliable. 3.1% is both a low margin of error and an insufficient margin of error to change any poll results.

6. Examine the wording of the Questions. Questions that are confusing or not neutral will skew the poll results.

a. Are the questions clear? Explain.

Yes, extremely. Each question not only provides a comprehensive answer set, but each question provides context surrounding the question. There is little room for misinterpretation of the questions.

b. Are the questions neutral? Explain.

Yes, each question allows the person being surveyed to select from a wide spectrum of answers, or no answer at all.

7. Examine the Answer Categories. Polls rarely allow for respondents to supply their own answers. Wording of the set of answers must be clear and unbiased.

a. Are the answer choices comprehensive? Do they include all possible answers to the question?

Yes, the answers include a wide range of opinions and all possible answers to the question.

b. Is the wording of the answers clear and unbiased? Explain

Yes, extremely. Rather than using a generic “support/oppose” answer, the answers clarify what stance is being taken. The answers would rarely be misinterpreted.

8. Evaluate the results. Pollsters usually provide written generalizations about poll results.

N/A – No summary

a. Are the summary statements supported by the actual poll results? Explain.

N/A – No summary

b. What is your general opinion about the poll? Do you agree with the results? Explain.

The poll is wonderful. It’s questions and answers are extremely clear, and even provide context to the issue. The terminology used is suboptimal, the phrase “gender assigned at birth” is preferred to “birth gender”, but it serves its purpose and remains clear.

The results are somewhat disheartening, with the non-anti-trans results consistently being a minority. The upshot, however, is that this is due to indecision; consistently, a quarter of the people surveyed took a neutral stance or no stance.

1. Identify the subject of the Poll. The title of the poll might be biased, or not accurately describe the actual poll.

Presidents, specifically what people perceive as the best and the worst.

a. Does the title of the poll seem biased? Explain

N/A – No title

b. Does the title accurately describe the subject of the poll? Explain

N/A – No title

2. Identify the source of the Poll. Polls can be biased.

ABC News

a. What is the source of the poll? Give a basic background/explanation/bio of the source.

ABC News, a left-leaning news agency.

b. Might this source be biased? Explain.

Yes, ABC leans to the left.

c. If you don't recognize the name of the polling source, how might you find out more about it?

N/A – I recognize ABC.

3. Determine the Sampling Method. To achieve accuracy by representing the entire target population of a poll, sample must be random. Non-random samples will "skew" the results. For example, "mail-in" and "click in" polls are notoriously unreliable since only people who feel strongly about the subject are likely to respond.

N/A – Not given

a. How was the sample selected?

N/A – Not given

b. Can you see any problems with the sampling method?

N/A – Not given

4. Identify the Sample Size. Larger samples do not mean more accurate polls. They can reduce the margin of error, however. In general, national polls sample size are larger than 500 people.

1011 people

a. What is the sample size of this poll?

1011 people

b. Do you judge it as sufficient? Why or Why not?

Yes, over one-thousand people is a sufficient number to cover a wide range of groups.

5. Consider the margin of error. This is important. The margin of error is the range of results a pollster could expect if the sample size were infinite. Suppose a poll indicates that the Republican candidate has 52% of the votes and the Democrat has 48%. With a margin of error of +/- 4% the results could be opposite the expected result.

a. What is the margin of error of the poll? Is the poll valid and reliable?

N/A – Not given, there is no way to know if the poll is valid and reliable.

6. Examine the wording of the Questions. Questions that are confusing or not neutral will skew the poll results.

a. Are the questions clear? Explain.

The questions are clear and simple, the question is an open-ended query of who the person being surveyed thinks is the best and worst president.

b. Are the questions neutral? Explain.

The questions are neutral, the questions do not try to guide the person surveyed towards a specific answer.

7. Examine the Answer Categories. Polls rarely allow for respondents to supply their own answers. Wording of the set of answers must be clear and unbiased.

a. Are the answer choices comprehensive? Do they include all possible answers to the question?

Yes, the poll allows the respondent to select from the complete list of American presidents.

b. Is the wording of the answers clear and unbiased? Explain

Yes, the answers consist of the names of all American presidents.

8. Evaluate the results. Pollsters usually provide written generalizations about poll results.

N/A – No summary given

a. Are the summary statements supported by the actual poll results? Explain.

N/A – No summary given

b. What is your general opinion about the poll? Do you agree with the results? Explain.

The poll is interesting for two statistics: Clinton's position in the best rankings, and Reagan's position in both the best and the worst rankings. Clinton placed second in the best president category, with most of his support coming from young voters. This is interesting given the year the poll was taken was 1998, right at the end of Clinton's presidency; it could suggest that people view the current president extremely favorably. The second interesting statistic is Reagan's positions, he shows up first in the best rankings and second in the worst rankings. This is interesting, as it shows the respective opinions of the far right and far left regarding the Reagan presidency.

I neither agree nor disagree with the results, as I have no opinion on who is the best or worst president.

Public opinion polls are neat. They allow us to gauge public opinion on issues, which is important to policymaking. The results specifically listed here are particularly interesting, due to the sometimes contradictory or unintentionally funny answers. Becoming so infatuated with polls is a double-edged sword, and carries its advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of poll mania include better access to more information, without a polling obsession society would have less data and lower-quality data. By having large volumes of high-quality data, policymakers are able to better obey the will of the public. The disadvantage of poll infatuation are that it leads to a reliance and trust of potentially unreliable data. Polls can sometimes return bad data, whether on purpose or not. If this bad data makes its way to policymakers, they can potentially take an incorrect and detrimental action.