PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2017 SCIENCE NEWS & INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE MAY 30 – JUNE 12, 2017

ASK ALL:

LIFE

In general, would you say life in America today is better, worse or about the same as it was 50 years ago for people like you?

- 1 Better today
- 2 Worse today
- 3 About the same as it was 50 years ago

ASK FORM1:

GREATPAST_OE

What would you say was the biggest improvement to life in America over the past 50 years or so?

[OPEN-END]

ASK FORM2:

GREATFUTURE_OE

Now thinking ahead, what do you expect will be the biggest improvement to life in America over the next 50 years or so?

[OPEN-END]

ASK ALL:

MUSEUM

Which, if any, of the following have you done within the PAST 12 months? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; J always last]

Select all answers that apply

- a. Visited a zoo or aquarium
- b. Visited an art museum or gallery
- c. Visited a natural history museum
- d. Visited a science and technology center or museum
- e. Visited a national, state or county park
- f. Visited a public library
- g. Attended an event with live music
- h. Attended a sporting event
- i. Attended a lecture or talk about science

[SPACE]

j. None of these [ANCHOR]

ASK ALL:

TOPICINT

How interested are you in news about each of the following topics? [RANDOMIZE]

- a. Government and politics news
 - 1 Very interested
 - 2 Somewhat interested
 - 3 Not too interested
 - 4 Not at all interested

- b. News about your local community
 - 1 Very interested
 - Somewhat interested
 - 3 Not too interested
 - 4 Not at all interested
- c. Sports news

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- 1 Very interested
- 2. Somewhat interested
- 3. Not too interested
- 4. Not at all interested
- d. Business and finance news
 - 1 Very interested
 - 2 Somewhat interested
 - 3 Not too interested
 - 4 Not at all interested
- e. Science news
 - 1 Very interested
 - 2. Somewhat interested
 - 3. Not too interested
 - 4. Not at all interested
- f. Entertainment news
 - 1 Very interested
 - 2 Somewhat interested
 - 3 Not too interested
 - 4 Not at all interested

ASK ALL: SCIOFTEN

Thinking just about science news...

How often do you read, watch or listen to news about science? {new}

- 1 Nearly every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times a month
- 4 Less often

ASK ALL:

TOPICS1

Which statement best describes how you get science news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I get science news on just a couple of topics
- 2 I get science news on a lot of different topics

ASK ALL:

TOPICS2

Which, if any, of these science-related topics are you interested in? [RANDOMIZE items A to G; with H and I always last]

Select all answers that apply

- a. Health and medicine
- b. Technology
- c. Energy and environment

- d. Food and nutrition
- e. Space and astronomy
- f. Evolution of humans and animals
- g. The mind and brain
- h. Other [ANCHOR]

[SPACE]

i. None of these [ANCHOR]

ASK IF SELECTED TWO OR MORE TOPICS (TOPICS2a-h=1): TOPICMOST

And, among those, which are you MOST interested in? [SHOW ONLY THOSE SELECTED IN TOPICS2; KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS TOPICS2]

- 1 Health and medicine
- 2 Technology
- 3 Energy and environment
- 4 Food and nutrition
- 5 Space and astronomy
- 6 Evolution of humans and animals
- 7 The mind and brain
- 8 Other

ASK ALL:

SOURCE1

Which statement best describes how you get science news? [RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I get most of my science news from a couple of specific sources
- 2 I get science news from many different sources

ASK ALL: SOURCE2

Which statement best describes how you get science news? [RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I get most of my science news from sources that specialize in science topics
- 2 I get most of my science news from sources that cover all sorts of general news topics

ASK ALL:

ENJOY

How much would you say you enjoy following news about science compared with other kinds of news?

- 1 A lot more than other news
- 2 More than other news
- 3 Less than other news
- 4 A lot less than other news

ASK ALL:

KNOWLEDGE

How much would you say you know about science?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 Nothing at all

ASK ALL:

SEEK

Which statement best describes how you get science news? [RANDOMIZE]

- I mostly get science news because I'm looking for it
- 2 I mostly get science news because I happen to come across it

ASK ALL:

SOURCE3

Which of the following, if any, do you regularly get your science news from? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS, WITH J AND K ALWAYS LAST]

Select all answers that apply

- a. News outlets that cover a range of topics
- b. Documentaries or other science video programs
- c. Science magazines in print or online
- d. Online discussion forums about science
- e. Science podcasts or radio programs
- f. Family, friends and acquaintances
- g. Government agenciesh. Advocacy organizations
- Science and technology centers or museums
- j. Other websites and blogs focused on science

[SPACE]

k. None of these

ASK ALL: SOURCEALT

Do you regularly get science news from sources that provide alternative perspectives to conventional science or medical research, or don't you do this?

- Yes [please specify which source(s)]
- 2 No

ASK ALL: SCIWHY

Here are some reasons people follow news about science. Is each a reason you follow news about science, or not? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- a. I enjoy talking with others about what's happening in science
 - Yes, a major reason 1
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- b. It is related to the things I need to know or do for my job
 - Yes, a major reason 1
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- c. It helps me make decisions about everyday life for me and my family
 - Yes, a major reason 1
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- d. I feel I have a social or civic obligation to stay informed about science
 - Yes, a major reason

- 2 Yes, a minor reason
- 3 No, not a reason
- e. I am curious about what's happening in science
 - Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- f. It is related to my children's activities, interests, or education [ASK IF PARENT OF CHILD UNDER 18]
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- g. It is related to my activities, hobbies or interests outside of work
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason

ASK ALL: WHYNOT

Here are some reasons people DO NOT follow news about science more often. Is each a reason that you don't follow science news more often, or not? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Science news is boring
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- b. Science news is hard to understand
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- c. I often disagree with the news I see about science
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- d. Science news is less important to keep up with than other topics
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- e. I'm too busy to keep up with science news more often
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- f. I already get enough science news
 - Yes, a major reason Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- g. The sources I regularly get news from do not cover a lot of science news
 - 1 Yes, a major reason
 - 2 Yes, a minor reason
 - 3 No, not a reason
- h. The science topics I am most interested in are not covered often

- 1 Yes, a major reason
- 2 Yes, a minor reason
- 3 No, not a reason

ASK ALL: NEWSJOB

Overall, how would you rate the job news media do in covering science? {mod W17}

- 1 Very good job
- 2 Somewhat good job
- 3 Somewhat bad job
- 4 Very bad job

ASK ALL: NEWSFACTS

How often, if ever, do each of the following sources GET THE FACTS RIGHT when it comes to science? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS SOURCE3]**

- a. News outlets that cover a range of topics
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- b. Documentaries or other science video programs
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- c. Science magazines in print or online
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- d. Online discussion forums about science
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- e. Science podcasts or radio programs
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time

- 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
- 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- f. Family, friends and acquaintances
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- g. Government agencies
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- h. Advocacy organizations
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate
- i. Science and technology centers or museums
 - 1 Almost all of the time
 - 2 More than half of the time
 - 3 About half of the time
 - 4 Less than half of the time
 - 5 Hardly ever
 - [SPACE]
 - 6 I don't know enough about this type of source to rate

ASK ALL: STORIES

Do you ever read, watch or listen to news stories that report... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ITEM H always last]**

Select all answers that apply

- a. A new scientific discovery
- b. Scientific information that helps you make decisions about everyday life for you and your family
- c. Disagreement among scientific experts
- d. Scientific research findings that conflict with earlier research findings on the same topic
- e. Strange or weird scientific research findings
- f. Scientific research findings that seem completely made up
- g. Stories about a science researcher's misconduct

[SPACE]

h. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK IF GETS NEWS THAT HELPS MAKE DECISION (STORIES_B=1):

DECIS_OE

What was the most recent science news story you read, watched or listened to that helped you make a decision about everyday life for you or your family?

[OPEN-END]

ASK IF GETS NEWS ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS (STORIES_C=1) DISAG_OE

What was the most recent news story you read, watched or listened to about a disagreement among scientific experts?

[OPEN-END]

ASK IF GETS NEWS ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS (STORIES_C=1) FAKE_OE

What was the most recent scientific research finding you saw that seemed completely made up?

[OPEN-END]

ASK ALL:

SNSUSE

Do you ever use social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

ASK ALL: SNSFREQ

And do you use social media...

- 1 Several times a day
- 2 About once a day
- 3 A few times a week
- 4 Every few weeks
- 5 Less often

ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1):

FOLLOW

On social media, do you follow any organizations, people or pages that are focused on science?

- 1 Yes, at least one
- 2 No, none

ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1):

FOLLOWANTI

On social media, do you follow any organizations, people or pages that provide alternative perspectives to conventional science or medical research?

- 1 Yes, at least one
- 2 No, none

ASK IF USES SNS (SNSUSE=1): SNSSCI

Of the posts you see on social media, how many are about science?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not many
- 4 None

ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3): SNSCLICK

When you see science news posts on social media, how often do you click on a link to a news story?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3): SNSSCIIMP

Which of the following statements best describes you?

- 1 Social media are the most important way I get science news
- 2 Social media are an important way I get science news, but not the most important
- 3 Social media are not a very important way I get science news

ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3): SNSPOST

Thinking about social media posts you see about science, do you ever see posts about ...

[RANDOMIZE, WITH ITEM J NONE OF THESE ALWAYS AT THE BOTTOM]

Select all answers that apply

- a. A new scientific discovery
- b. Scientific information that helps you make decisions about everyday life for you and your family
- c. Disagreement among scientific experts
- d. Scientific research findings that conflict with earlier research findings on the same topic
- e. Strange or weird scientific research findings
- f. Scientific research findings that seem completely made up
- q. Stories about a science researcher's misconduct
- h. Stories that you disagree with
- i. Celebrities providing health or medical advice

[SPACE]

j. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK IF SNSPOST_f=1 "SEE SCIENCE NEWS ON SNS THAT SEEM COMPLETELY MADE UP": SNSCHECK1 [M]

Have you ever done any of the following in response to a social media post about scientific research findings that seemed completely made up? [RANDOMIZE, WITH NONE OF THESE ALWAYS AT THE BOTTOM]

Select all answers that apply

- a. Commented on the story
- b. Searched for more information
- c. Shared the story in order to show it's wrong
- d. Ignored or hid the story

- e. Unfollowed or blocked the person or organization the story came from **[SPACE]**
- f. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK IF ASK IF SNSPOST_h=1 SEE SCIENCE NEWS ON SNS YOU DISAGREE WITH: SNSCHECK2

Have you ever done any of the following in response to a social media post about science news that you disagreed with?

Select all answers that apply

- a. Commented on the story
- b. Searched for more information
- c. Shared the story in order to show it's wrong
- d. Ignored or hid the story
- e. Unfollowed or blocked the person or organization the story came from **[SPACE]**
- f. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3): SNSNEW

How often would you say the science news you see on social media are stories that you wouldn't have seen elsewhere?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

ASK IF EVER SEES SCIENCE POSTS ON SNS (SNSSCI=1,2,3): SNSTRUST

Thinking about all of the posts you see on social media about science, would you say you...

- 1 Mostly trust them
- 2 Mostly distrust them

ASK ALL: PROBSET

Thinking in general about science news today...

Do you think each of the following is a big problem, a small problem or not a problem when it comes to news about scientific research findings? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. The news media are too quick to report research findings that may not hold up
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- b. The news media cover too many research findings that are not really important
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- c. There are so many research studies out there it's hard to distinguish between high and low quality studies
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem

- 3 Not a problem
- d. The public jumps to conclusions about how to apply new research findings to their lives
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- e. The public doesn't know enough about science to really understand research findings covered in the news
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- f. The news media oversimplify scientific research findings (mod of AAAS swy)
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- g. Science researchers overstate the implications of their research findings
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem
- h. The news media are too quick to report on disagreement about science research findings
 - 1 A big problem
 - 2 A small problem
 - 3 Not a problem

ASK ALL:

BLAME

Which of these do you think is the BIGGER problem when it comes to news about scientific research findings? [RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

- 1 The way news reporters cover scientific research findings
- 2 The way science researchers publish or share their new research findings

ASK ALL:

DISCUSS

Thinking about the people you talk with, whether in person, over the phone, or online...

How often do you discuss science news with others?

- 1 Nearly every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times a month
- 4 Less often

ASK IF DISCUSSES SCIENCE NEWS AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A MONTH (DISCUSS=1-3): LEAD

When you talk to people about science news, do you tend to... **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 Listen to the conversation more than lead
- 2 Lead the conversation more than listen

ASK IF DISCUSSES SCIENCE NEWS AT LEAST A FEW TIMES A MONTH (DISCUSS=1-3): TURN

Do you typically turn to others for science news, or do people typically turn to you?

- 1 I turn to others
- 2 People turn to me

[RANDOMIZE BLOCKS ENTCRIM1 to ENTCRIM4; ENTHOSP1 to ENTHOSP4; ENTSCIFI1 to ENTSCIFI4 note minor differences in question stem]

ASK ALL:

ENTCRIM1

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are focused on CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

ASK ALL:

ENTCRIM2

Which comes closer to your view about CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
- They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right

ASK ALL:

ENTCRIM3

Overall, do you think watching CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies...

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL:

ENTCRIM4

Overall, do you think CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION shows or movies...

- Give a favorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 3 Give a neutral impression of working in science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL:

ENTHOSP1

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

ASK ALL:

ENTHOSP2

Which comes closer to your view about shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS, even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS ENTCRIM2]

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
- They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right

ASK ALL: ENTHOSP3

Overall, do you think watching shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS...

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL: ENTHOSP4

Overall, do you think shows or movies focused on HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL SETTINGS... (new)

- 1 Give a favorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of working in science, technology and medicine
- 3 Give a neutral impression of working in science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL: ENTSCIFI1

How often do you watch entertainment programs or movies that are SCIENCE FICTION?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Hardly ever
- 4 Never

ASK ALL: ENTSCIF2

Which comes closer to your view about SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies, even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS ENTCRIM2]

- 1 They generally portray science, technology and medicine in a realistic way
- They focus on entertainment more than getting the science, technology and medicine in the story right

ASK ALL: ENTSCIFI3

Overall, do you think watching SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies... {new}

- 1 Helps your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 2 Hurts your understanding of science, technology and medicine
- 3 Makes no difference in your understanding of science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL: ENTSCIFI4

Overall, do you think SCIENCE FICTION shows or movies... {new}

- Give a favorable impression of the future for science, technology and medicine
- 2 Give an UNfavorable impression of the future for science, technology and medicine

3 Give a neutral impression of the future for science, technology and medicine

ASK ALL:

HOBBY

Do you have any science-related hobbies, interests or activities outside of work

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

IF YES, HAS HOBBIES (SCIHOB=1): HOBBY2

What kind of hobby, interest or activity is that?

[OPEN-END]

ASK ALL:

LIST1

Which, if any, of the following have you ever done? (Do not count any activities that you did for your job) [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; none of these always last]

Select all answers that apply

- a. Participated in a medical or clinical research study
- b. Made observations or collected data samples as part of a science research project (such as observations about bird, animal and plant life, or weather, air and water quality)
- c. Contributed to a science-related online crowdsourcing activity (such as classifying stars and galaxies or identifying animals)
- d. Helped a child with a science project whether for school or for an outside-school activity
- e. Participated in a maker movement or hack-a-thon event to develop new technologies, devices or software
- f. Donated blood
- g. Donated money to support medical or science research **[SPACE]**
- h. None of these [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK ALL:

POLSOURCE1

[IF POLSOURCE1 is shown first, show this text: You will now be asked a couple of final questions on a completely different topic.

Which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

This includes any way that you get the source.

[IF POLSOURCE1 is shown second, show this text: Again, which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; none of the above always last]

Select all answers that apply

- 1 ABC News
- 2 CBS News
- 3 NBC News
- 4 Business Insider
- 5 Vox
- 6 Independent Journal Review (IJR)
 [SPACE]

ASK ALL:

POLSOURCE2

[IF POLSOURCE2 is shown first, show this text: You will now be asked a couple of final questions on a completely different topic.

Which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS?

This includes any way that you get the source.

[IF POLSOURCE2 is shown second, show this text: Again, which of the following sources do you regularly get news from about GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS? This includes any way that you get the source.]

- 1 PBS
- 2 Politico
- 3 International Business Times
- 4 Slate
- 5 Los Angeles Times

[SPACE]

99 None of the above [EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]

ASK ALL:

PARTY

In politics today, do you consider yourself a...?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something else, please specify

ASK IF NOT REP OR DEM (PARTY=3,4,-1): PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to...

- 1 The Republican Party
- 2 The Democratic Party

ASK ALL:

IDEO

In general, would you describe your political views as...

- 1 Very conservative
- 2 Conservative
- 3 Moderate
- 4 Liberal
- 5 Very liberal