**Social News Survey**

**Section A: Demographics**

A1 How old are you?

A2 What is your gender? (Male/Female/Another gender (please specify):)

A3 How would you describe your race or ethnicity? (American Indian or Alaska Native/Asian/Black or African American/Hispanic or Latino/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/White/Multiple races and ethnicities (please specify:)/Other (please specify:))

A4 What is the highest level of education you have attained? (Some high school/High school diploma/Some college/Associate’s degree or trade school diploma/College degree/Some post-graduate education/Post-graduate degree)

A5 Which of the following best describes your annual household income? (Less than $15,000/$15,001 to $30,000/$30,001 to $45,000/$45,001 to $60,000/$60,001 to $75,000/$75,001 to $100,000/$100,001 to $150,000/More than $150,000)

**Section B: Baseline Variables**

B6 Following are a number of statements that reflect various ways in which we view ourselves. Rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement using the following scale (1 = Strongly Disagree and 6 = Strongly Agree). There are no right or wrong answers. Do not spend too much time with any one statement and do not leave any unanswered. \*Scoring = reversed.

a. I feel comfortable in the presence of strangers when I’m on Facebook.

b. I am in tune with the Facebook world.

c. ∗Even among my Facebook friends, there is no sense of brother/sisterhood.

d. I fit in well in new Facebook situations.

e. I feel close to people on Facebook.

f. ∗I feel disconnected from the Facebook world around me.

g. ∗Even around Facebook friends I know, I don’t feel that I really belong.

h. I see Facebook friends as friendly and approachable.

i. ∗I feel like an outsider when I’m on Facebook.

j. I feel understood by the people I know when I’m on Facebook.

k. ∗I feel distant from Facebook friends.

l. I am able to relate to my Facebook friends.

m. ∗I have little sense of togetherness with my Facebook friends.

n. I find myself actively involved in Facebook friend’s lives.

o. ∗I catch myself losing a sense of connectedness with society when I am on Facebook.

p. I am able to connect with other people on Facebook.

q. ∗I see myself as a loner when I am on Facebook.

r. ∗I don’t feel related to most people on Facebook.

s. My Facebook friends feel like family.

t. ∗I don’t feel I participate with anyone or any group on Facebook.

B7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) \*Scoring = reversed.

a. I am in tune with members of my Facebook network.

b. No sense of camaraderie exists among my Facebook friends.\*

c. I fit in well in new situations on Facebook.

d. I feel close with people on Facebook.

e. I feel disconnected from my Facebook friends.\*

f. Even when interacting with people on Facebook, I don't feel that I really belong.\*

g. I see Facebook friends as friendly and approachable.

h. I feel understood by people on Facebook.

i. I can relate with my Facebook friends.

j. I have little sense of togetherness with members of my Facebook network.\*

k. I find myself actively involved in my Facebook network members' lives.

l. I am able to connect with other people on Facebook.

m. I don't feel related to most people on Facebook.\*

n. My Facebook friends feel like family.

B8 Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people? (1 = You can’t be too careful/ 2 = Most people can be trusted/ 3 = Don’t know)

B9 Could you tell me how much you trust people that you meet for the first time? (1 = A lot/ 5 = Not at all)

B10 Generally speaking, how often can you trust other people? (1 = Always/ 5 = Never)

B11 Please rate your feelings of trust towards the following people and organizations (1 = Do not trust at all/ 5 = Trust very much)

a. Your friends

b. National government

c. Local government

d. The media

e. Universities

f. Your religious group

g. Your immediate family

h. Your extended family

i. Local businesses

j. Multinational corporations

k. People in your neighborhood

l. The Judiciary (courts)

m. Other citizens of your country

n. Industry scientists

o. University scientists

p. The news

B12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree/ 5 = Strongly Agree) \*reversed

a. The news media get in the way of society solving its problems more than they help society solve its problems.\*

b. The news media often do not tell the whole story. \*

c. I trust the news media to report the news accurately.

**Section C: Interpersonal Evaluations**

From time to time, people post information and opinions about government, elections, and politics on Facebook. We'd like to know the first names or just the initials of people in your Facebook network who post about these matters. These people might be from your family, from work, from the neighborhood, from some other organization you belong to, or they might be from somewhere else.

C13 Who is the person in your Facebook network who posts the most about politics?

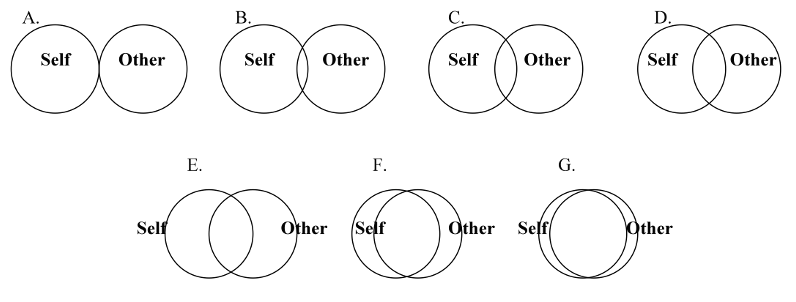
C14 Which category best applies to [pipe in C13]? (1 = Family member, 2 = Friend, 3 = Coworker or classmate, 4 = Acquaintance, 5 = Neighbor, 6 = Other \_\_\_)

C15 Compared with [pipe in C13], would you say that your political views are much the same, somewhat different, or very different? (1 = Much the same, 5 = Very different)

C16 Aside from politics, how much do you think you have in common with [pipe in C13]? (1 = Nothing or almost nothing, 5 = A great deal)

C17 How much do you like [pipe in C13]? (1 = Not at all, 5 = A great deal)

C18 Please indicate the picture that best describes your current relationship with [pipe in C13].



C19 Aside from [pipe in C13], who is the person in your Facebook network who posts the next most about politics?

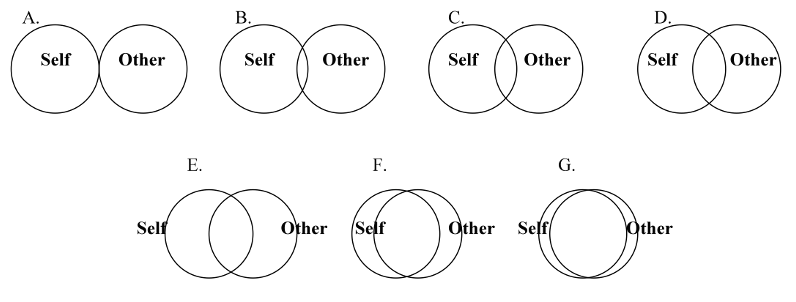
C20 Which category best applies to [pipe in C14]? (1 = Family member, 2 = Friend, 3 = Coworker or classmate, 4 = Acquaintance, 5 = Neighbor, 6 = Other \_\_\_)

C21 Compared with [pipe in C14], would you say that your political views are much the same, somewhat different, or very different? (1 = Much the same, 5 = Very different)

C22 Aside from politics, how much do you think you have in common with [pipe in C14]? (1 = Nothing or almost nothing, 5 = A great deal)

C23 How much do you like [pipe in C14]? (1 = Not at all, 5 = A great deal)

C24 Please indicate the picture that best describes your current relationship with [pipe in C14].



C25 We’d like to ask you about one final person. Aside from [pipe in C13 and C19], who is the person in your Facebook network who posts the most about politics?

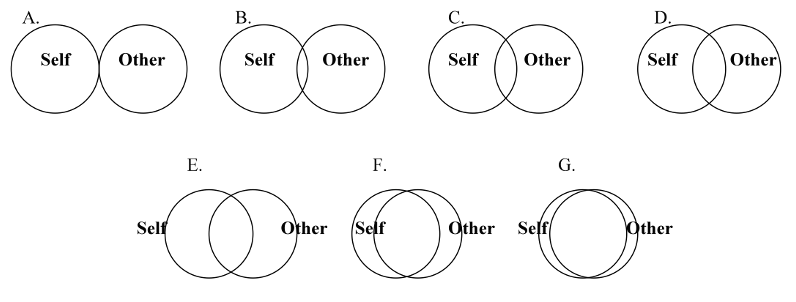
C26 Which category best applies to [pipe in C25]? (1 = Family member, 2 = Friend, 3 = Coworker or classmate, 4 = Acquaintance, 5 = Neighbor, 6 = Other \_\_\_)

C27 Compared with [pipe in C25], would you say that your political views are much the same, somewhat different, or very different? (1 = Much the same, 5 = Very different)

C28 Aside from politics, how much do you think you have in common with [pipe in C25]? (1 = Nothing or almost nothing, 5 = A great deal)

C29 How much do you like [pipe in C25]? (1 = Not at all, 5 = A great deal)

C30 Please indicate the picture that best describes your current relationship with [pipe in C25].



**Section C: Social Networks**

C31 About how many people or accounts are you “friends with” or do you “follow” on Facebook? (1 = None/ 2 = 50 or fewer/ 3 = Between 51 and 150/ 4 = Between 151 and 500/ 5 = Between 501 and 1,000/ 6 = Between 1,001 and 2,000/ 7 = More than 2,000)

C32 People have many different kinds of “friends” on Facebook. Looking at the categories below, please tell us about how many people in your friend list could be described as: (1 = None/ 2 = A few/ 3 = A lot/ 4 = Many/ 5 = All)

a. People you know from your current work or school

b. People you know from schools you've attended in the past or jobs you've held in the past

c. Family members or people you know through your family

d. People you know socially

e. People you have never met in person

f. People in your city/town or immediate locality

g. People in other cities or towns

h. People who live in other countries

C33 Do you know any of the people in your Facebook network have the following occupations? (Yes/No)

a. Nurse

b. Farmer

c. Lawyer

d. Middle-School Teacher

e. Full-Time Babysitter

f. Janitor

g. Personnel Manager

h. Hair Dresser

i. Bookkeeper

j. Production Manager

k. Operator in a Factory

l. Computer Programmer

m. Taxi Driver

n. Professor

o. Police Officer

p. Chief Executive Officer of a large company

q. Writer

r. Administrative Assistant

s. Security Guard

t. Receptionist

u. Congressperson

v. Hotel Bell Hop

C34 Next we'd like you to respond to some statements about your Facebook News Feed - the series of status updates and posts from your friends. Please use the scales below to indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the people whose posts might show up in your news feed on any given day. (1 = Strongly disagree/ 2 = Somewhat disagree/ 3 = Neither agree nor disagree/ 4 = Somewhat agree/ 5 = Strong agree)

a. In my news feed, there are people who are extremely interested in politics, people who couldn't care less, and people in between

b. People in my news feed have political opinions that are very similar to mine

c. People in my news feed have political opinions that are very different from mine

d. In my Facebook news feed there are a number of political types, including liberals, conservatives, and moderates

e. In my news feed there are people who have different levels of education (i.e high school or less, college or some college, people with advanced degrees)

f. In my Facebook news feed there are people from a diverse mix of racial and ethnic groups

**Section D: News**

D35 In the past week, on average, approximately how much time PER DAY have you spent actively using Facebook? (1= Less than 10 minutes per day/ 2=10-30 minutes per day/ 3=31-60 minutes per day/ 4=1-2 hours per day/ 5=2-3 hours per day/ 6=More than 3 hours per day)

D36 How often would you say you get news or public affairs information from Facebook? (1=Never/ 2=Rarely/ 3=Several Times a Month/ 4=Several Times a Week/ 5=Once or Twice a Day/ 6=Several Times a Day)

D37 How often would you say you get news from: (1=Never/ 2=Rarely/ 3=Several Times a Month/ 4=Several Times a Week/ 5=Once or Twice a Day/ 6=Several Times a Day)

a. Online websites for mainstream news (e.g., nytimes.com, foxnews.com, cnn.com)

b. Online-only news websites (e.g., Politico, BuzzFeed, HuffPo, Breitbart News Network)

c. Print versions of newspapers (e.g., USA Today, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, local daily paper)

d. Broadcasts for television news (e.g., ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News, CNN, local news)

e. Radio news (e.g., NPR or Rush Limbaugh)

f. News apps (e.g., Apple News, Google News)

D38 How often would you say you encounter news or public affairs information on Facebook that: (1=Never/ 2=Rarely/ 3=Several Times a Month/ 4=Several Times a Week/ 5=Once or Twice a Day/ 6=Several Times a Day)

a. Disagrees with your political views

b. Agrees with your political views

D39 How often do you follow a social media account specifically because you’re interested in what they post about: (1 = Never, 5 = Very Frequently)

a. News or current affairs

b. Politics

c. Social or community events

D40 In the past week, how often have you engaged in the following activities when you see a news story online? (1 = Never, 6 = Several Times a Day)

a. Click on the story

b. Scan the headline of the story

c. Read or watch the entire story

d. Seek out additional information about the topic in the story

D41 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a. I find myself actively trying to avoid the news these days.

b. I believe it is my civic duty to stay informed.

c. Society will be just fine even if I don’t pay attention to news.

d. It takes too much time and effort to keep up with the news.

e. I feel emotionally drained after reading, watching, or listening to the news.

f. Most people in my social groups keep up with the news.

g. People in my social networks rarely post news.

D42 In the past month, have you blocked, unfriended, or otherwise changed the settings on your Facebook account to see less of someone for the following reasons?

D43 I have taken action on my Facebook account over the past month to reduce the amount of posts I see from specific people because … (1 = Yes, 2 = No)

a. They post too much political content.

b. They post political content that I disagree with.

c. They post political content that I find offensive, abusive, or harassing.

**Section E: Talk**

E44 From time to time, people talk with others about government, elections, politics, or the news. In the last 12 months, how often have you talked about those subjects on Facebook? (1=Never/ 2=Very Rarely/ 3=Rarely/ 4=Occasionally/ 5=Frequently/ 6=Very Frequently)

E45 In the last 12 months, about how many people have you talked about these subjects on Facebook? (1=None/ 2=One or two/ 3=Several/ 4=Quite a few/ 5=Many)

E46 How often would you say you talked about those subjects on Facebook with people who: (1=Never/ 2=Very Rarely/ 3=Rarely/ 4=Occasionally/ 5=Frequently/ 6=Very Frequently)

a. Disagree with your political views

b. Agree with your political views

E47 Some people like to express their political opinions using Facebook, whereas others do not. In the past month, how often have you engaged in the following forms of political expression using online or mobile media? (1 = Never, 6 = Very Frequently)

a. Post about news, current events, or politics

b. Share others’ posts about news, current events, or politics

c. “Like” or comment on others’ posts about news, current events, or politics

d. Post an image to support a political or social cause

e. Use a “hashtag” to support a political or social cause

**Section F: Political Antecedents**

F48 Some people believe that they can have influence on political and community issues, while others believe that they don't really have much influence. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (1 = Strongly Disagree, 4 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 7 = Strongly Agree)

a. I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.

b. I don’t think public officials care much what people like me think.

F49 How interested, if at all, would you say you are in: (1 = Not at all interested, 5 = Very interested)

a. News

b. Politics

c. Local community

F50 Generally speaking, where would you place yourself on a scale of 0-10, where 0 = "Very Liberal," 5 = "Neither Liberal nor Conservative," and 10 = "Very Conservative"?

F51 Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or what? (1=Democrat/ 2=Republican/ 3=Independent/ 4=Other party (please specify:))

F52 How strong would you say your identification with that party is? (1=Strong/ 2=Not that strong)

F53 Even though you don't identify with either major party, do you typically think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or to the Republican Party? (1=Closer to the Democratic Party/ 2=Closer to the Republican Party/ 3=Neither)

F54 Will you tell me who the Vice President of the United States is? (Joe Biden/ Steven Bannon/ Mitch McConnell/ Mike Pence/ Don’t Know)

F55 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? (Republican/Democrat/Don’t know)

F56 Whose responsibility is it to determine if a law is constitutional or not? (Legislative branch/ Executive branch/ Judicial branch/ Don’t know)