Introduction
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Validating the Measure
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Validating the Measure
o

Conclusion
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Women Also Know Stuff

Challenging the Gender Gap in Political Sophistication

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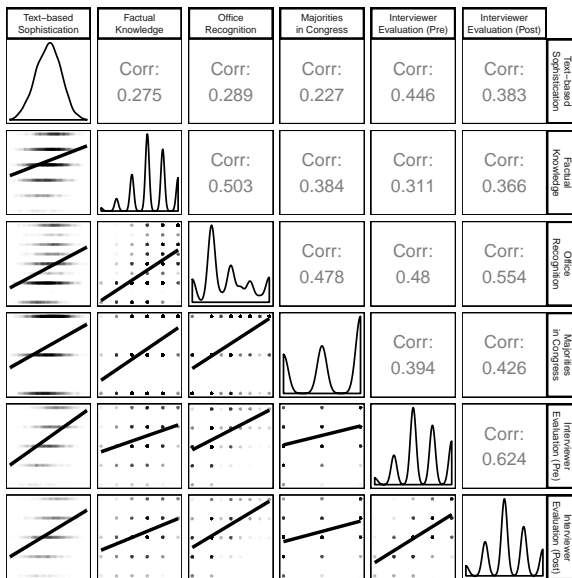
Quiz: Who scores higher on political knowledge?

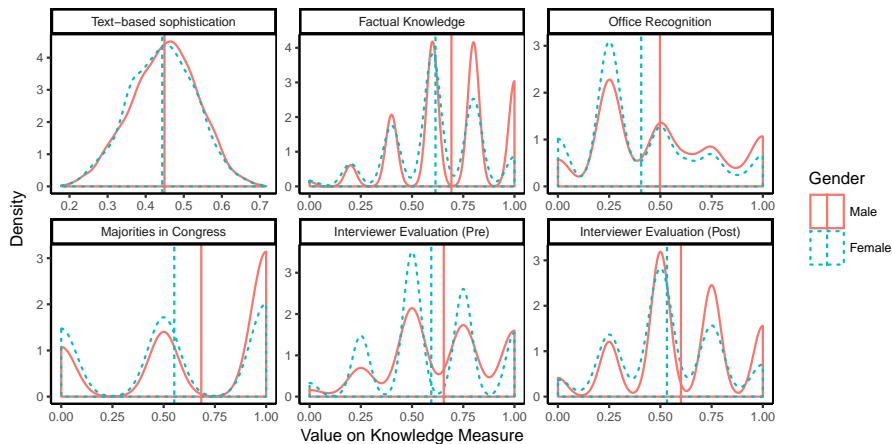|	**Respondent A**	**Respondent B**
Obama (+)	The healthcare, keeping that and the financial aid, helping students.	I think he is honest, has good intentions.
Obama (-)		I don't feel he is up for the job, he doesn't really know how to get things accomplished from idea to actual reality.
Romney (+)		He comes across as an honest person and I feel that financially he would be better for the country.
Romney (-)	By taking financial aid away from students, taking family type planing, healthcare type of help away.	I am a moderate conservative and there are some things about anti-gay rights that I don't support.
Democrats (+)	Mostly the healthcare, mostly people do need healthcare and can't afford to pay insurance. Financial aid most people cant afford to go college. Main two things that I like is the help with education and to pay for insurance to go to doctor.	They do seem to be generally concerned with everyone, taking care of the country as a whole.
Democrats (-)		They fight too much among themselves and I disagree with wealth redistribution.
Republicans (+)		I agree with a lot of the conservative values and taking responsibility for one's own actions.
Republicans (-)		They argue too much among themselves and don't accomplish very much.

Introduction

Both respondents scored equally on the conventional political knowledge measure in the 2012 ANES!

Data Overview

► 2012 ANES

Introduction
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Validating the Measure
○

Validating the Measure
●

Conclusion
○○○

Topic Proportions

Introduction
000

Validating the Measure
O

Validating the Measure
O

Conclusion
●○○

Conclusion

- ▶ Something about political knowledge
- ▶ We can measure interesting stuff when looking at open-ended items...
- ▶ This is kind of consistent with Lupia's competence argument but now we do not assume what individuals have to know.

Introduction
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Validating the Measure
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Validating the Measure
O

Conclusion
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Thank you very much for your attention!

Manuscript and code available at:
https://github.com/pwkraft/knowledge

Comments, questions?
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Introduction
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Validating the Measure
0

Validating the Measure
0

Conclusion
00●

References