**[Perspectives on Current and Past Issues]**  
  
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**Key Information About the Study:**  
  
You are being asked to participate in a research study. The purpose of the research study is to examine topics that are either highly polarized or non-polarized, and how that affects assessment of issues and decision-making around those issues. You are being asked for this study to read a few short essays detailing positions in favor or opposition for various topics. Possible benefits include an improved understanding of how belief can change over time, as well as how this can interact with perceptions of each of these topics. Some possible risks may include discomfort from the participant if they feel strongly about and agree or disagree with the arguments either opposing or favoring the four topics we will cover.  
  
Please read this form carefully and take your time. Let us know if you have any questions before participating. The research team can explain words or information that you do not understand. Research is voluntary and you can choose not to participate. If you do not want to participate or choose to start then stop later, there will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.  
  
**Purpose of the Research**  
You are being asked to participate in this study because we believe that assessing how moral conviction and the saliency of that moral conviction can affect perception and decision-making for topics varying in polarization has great value. The purpose of the study is to determine if we are able to directly affect the saliency of moral conviction, especially across various topics that are generally considered to have differing levels of polarization. You are being asked to participate in a online survey. Specifically, we will ask you to read several short essays. We will also assess individual differences, including moral beliefs, dogmatism, and demographic information.  
  
Your participation is expected to last less than 30 minutes.  
  
**What are the expected benefits of the study?**  
We believe the main direct benefit to an individual will be the educational benefit of having accurate understanding of how moral conviction affects decision making for topics differing in polarization. Furthermore, we believe that there will be indirect benefits to society as a whole by gleaning a greater understanding of what level of inherent moral conviction our four topics contain.  
  
**What are the possible risks of participating in this study?**  
  
There are minimal risks expected when taking part in this study. The most likely risk will be discomfort if our participant strongly disagrees with the information on the three topics that we have presented. To help lower these possible risks, we will ensure that the information we portray on our topics is as accurate as possible. We will tell you about any new information we learn that may affect your decision to continue to participate in this study.  
  
**What other choices do I have if I don’t want to be in this study?**  
  
You are not required to be in this study. You can simply choose not to participate. You can look for other research projects you may be interested in instead of this study. You can obtain any number of required Psychology 1000 research credits by instead writing an essay and submitting it to your primary instructor, for each research credit you would like to replace.  
  
**Will I receive compensation for taking part in this study?**  
  
You will be compensated for taking part in this study. For your time and effort, you will receive one research credit for participating in the study. If you choose not to participate in this study, you can still receive the credits by writing an essay on a pre-determined selection of topics (please see your instructor for details).  
  
**Will information about me be kept private?**  
  
The research team is committed to respecting your privacy and keeping your personal information anonymous. We will make every effort to protect your information to the extent allowed by law. When the results of this research are shared, since there is no identifying information it will not be known who provided the information. Your information will be kept as secure as possible to prevent your identity from being disclosed. What we collected from you as part of this research will not be used or shared for future research studies. It will only be used for purposes of this study.  
  
**Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?**  
  
If you have questions about this study or experience a research-related injury, you can contact the Primary Investigator at sxdff5@mail.missouri.edu, or at 573-882-6860. If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Missouri Institutional Review Board (IRB) at 573-882-3181 or muresearchirb@missouri.edu. The IRB is a group of people who review research studies to make sure the rights and welfare of participants are protected. If you want to talk privately about any concerns or issues related to your participation, you may contact the Research Participant Advocacy at 888-280-5002 (a free call) or email muresearchrpa@missouri.edu.  
  
**Do I get a copy of this consent?**  
  
You can ask the researcher to provide you with a copy of this consent for your records, or you can save a copy of this consent if it has already been provided to you. We appreciate your consideration to participate in this study.