

## Consent Form

### Consent Form

You are being asked to complete a survey that will take approximately 15 minutes. The researchers are interested in seeing how many people know and don't know various things about politics, government policies, and government. The data collected will be stored at a secure location, and no identifying information about you will be shared or made public. The results will be presented in scholarly journals and/or at academic conferences, in the form of statistical summaries, describing how many people, not who, said what.

Your participation is voluntary. You will receive \$0.75 for completing the survey, paid through Amazon Mechanical Turk. There are no known risks associated with participating in this study. Doing so will not benefit you personally beyond the \$0.75, but the research is likely to add to scientific knowledge.

To be eligible to participate, you must be at least 18 years old and be a U.S. citizen. If you have any questions, please contact Gaurav Sood at gs00d07 (at) gmail (dot) com. If you agree to take the survey, please click "I agree" below.

- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I do not agree

### Browser Meta Info

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Browser: **Chrome**

Version: **56.0.2924.87**

Operating System: **Windows NT 10.0**

Screen Resolution: **1920x1080**

Flash Version: **25.0.0**

Java Support: **0**

User Agent: **Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/56.0.2924.87 Safari/537.36**

### Don't cheat randomization

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Before we begin, we'd like to ask your help. In answering surveys, people sometimes look up things they don't know or can't recall. But we are trying to measure what people already know and can recall on their own—and are just as interested in what people don't know as in what they do know.

So will you answer all the following questions—just saying “don't know” if you don't know—without looking anything up or talking with anyone about them?

☐ Yes

☐ No

## **open\_issues**

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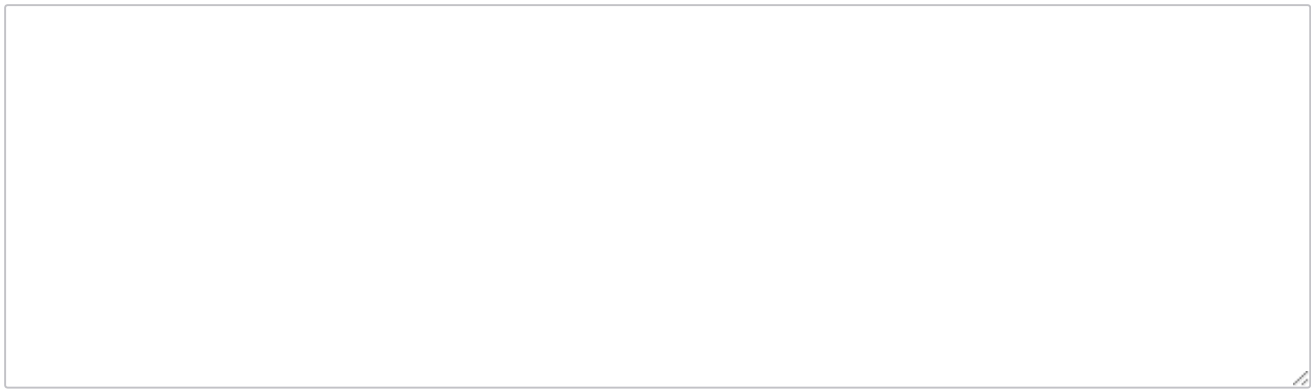
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**Ok, let's get a sense what you know about each of a couple of issues.**

The first issue is immigration. Could you take a minute or so to list what you know about immigration - anything at all that relates to the issue. If you don't know anything about the issue, just say so and move on to the next issue.



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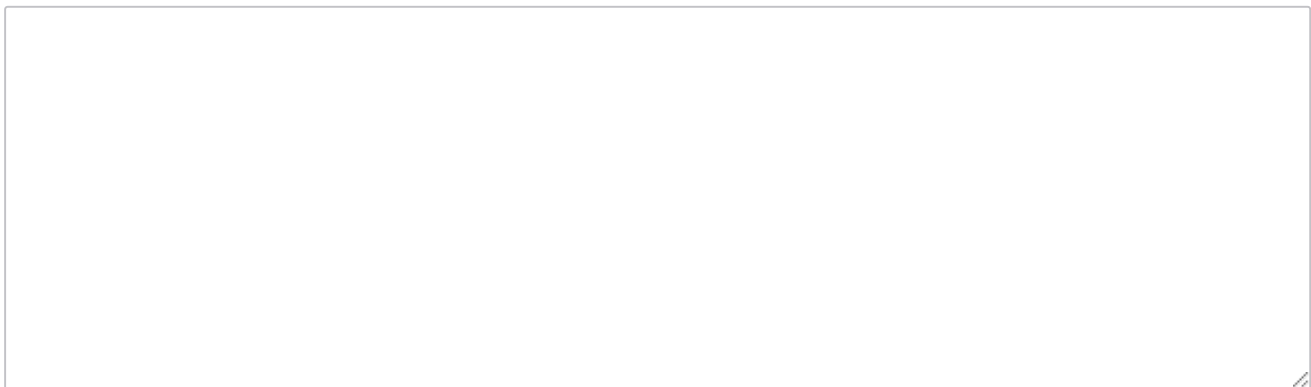
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The second issue is climate change. Could you take a minute or so to list what you know about climate change - anything at all that relates to the issue. If you don't know anything about the issue, just say so and move on to the next question.



## **visual\_text**

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**Here's a list of names. For each name, can you tell me what position that person holds?**

**If you don't know, don't worry about it. Just leave the space blank, and move on to the next person.**

Mitch McConnell

Chuck Schumer

Angela Merkel

Vladimir Putin

John Roberts

Nancy Pelosi

**visual\_photo**

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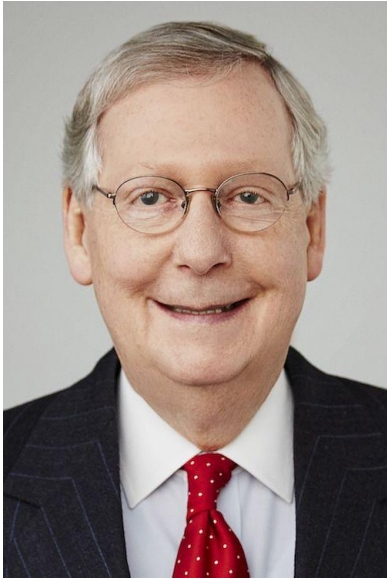
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**Here's a set of photos. For each photo, can you tell me what position he or she holds?**

**If you don't know, don't worry about it. Just leave the space blank, and move on to the next person.**

What position does this person hold?



What position does this person hold?



What position does this person hold?



What position does this person hold?



What position does this person hold?



What position does this person hold?



**reticence\_guessing\_closed\_openprobe**

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**Here are a few questions about policies and issues in the news. Each asks which one of several statements is true. If you don't know, don't worry about it. Just mark "don't know" and move on to the next question.**

Does the Affordable Care Act ...?

- ☐ Provide coverage for people who are currently in the country illegally
- ☐ Replace private health insurance with a "single payer system"
- ☐ Increase the Medicare payroll tax for upper-income Americans
- ☐ Reimburse routine mammograms only for women older than 50
- ☐ Don't know

Are greenhouse gases ....?

- ☐ A cause of respiratory problems
- ☐ A cause of for lung cancer
- ☐ Damaging the ozone layer
- ☐ A cause of rising sea levels
- ☐ Don't know

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And does the Affordable Care Act ...?

- ☐ Create government panels to make end-of-life decisions for people on Medicare
- ☐ Replace Medicare with a "public option"
- ☐ Limit future increases in payments to Medicare providers
- ☐ Cut benefits to existing Medicare patients
- ☐ Don't know



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What made you choose that response?

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Are greenhouse gases ....?

- ☐ Unconnected to burning natural gas
- ☐ Produced more by burning clean coal than by burning other fossil fuels
- ☐ Produced by nuclear power plants
- ☐ Reduced by trees and other plants
- ☐ Don't know

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Does President Trump's most recent executive order on immigration ...?

- ☐ Subject immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to deportation
- ☐ Strip immigrants from countries supporting terrorism of their green cards
- ☐ Strip immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries of their green cards
- ☐ Temporarily ban immigrants from several majority-Muslim countries
- ☐ Don't know

What made you choose that response?

**reticence\_guessing\_closed\_closedprobe**

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What made you choose that response?

- ☐ I asked someone I know
- ☐ I looked it up
- ☐ I've read, seen, or heard that
- ☐ It makes me feel good to think that
- ☐ It makes sense, in view of other things I know
- ☐ I just thought I'd take a shot

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**reticence\_guessing\_scale**

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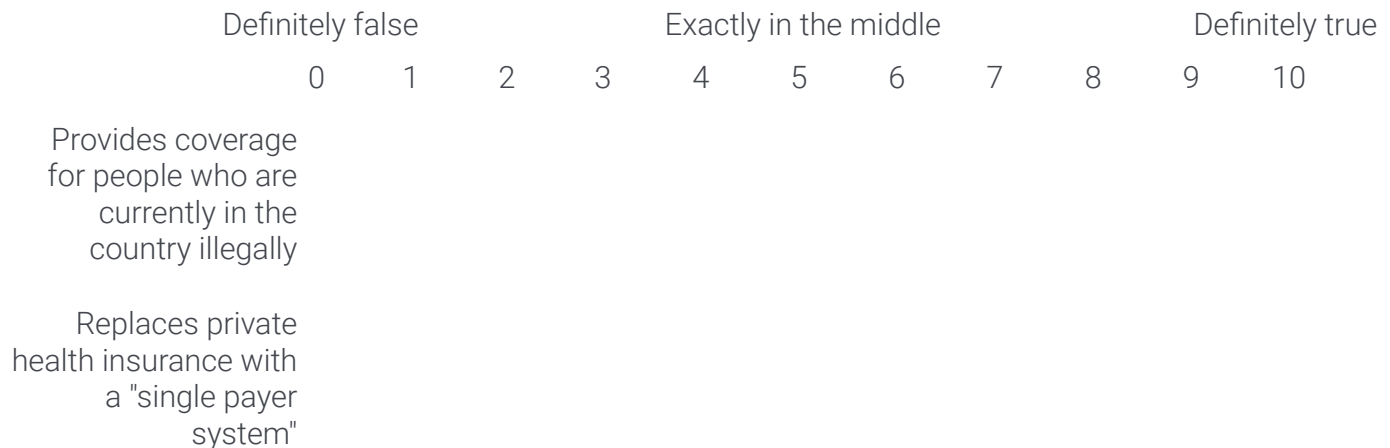
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**Here are some statements about the Affordable Care Act. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means definitely false, 10 means definitely true, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how definitely true or false is each statement?**

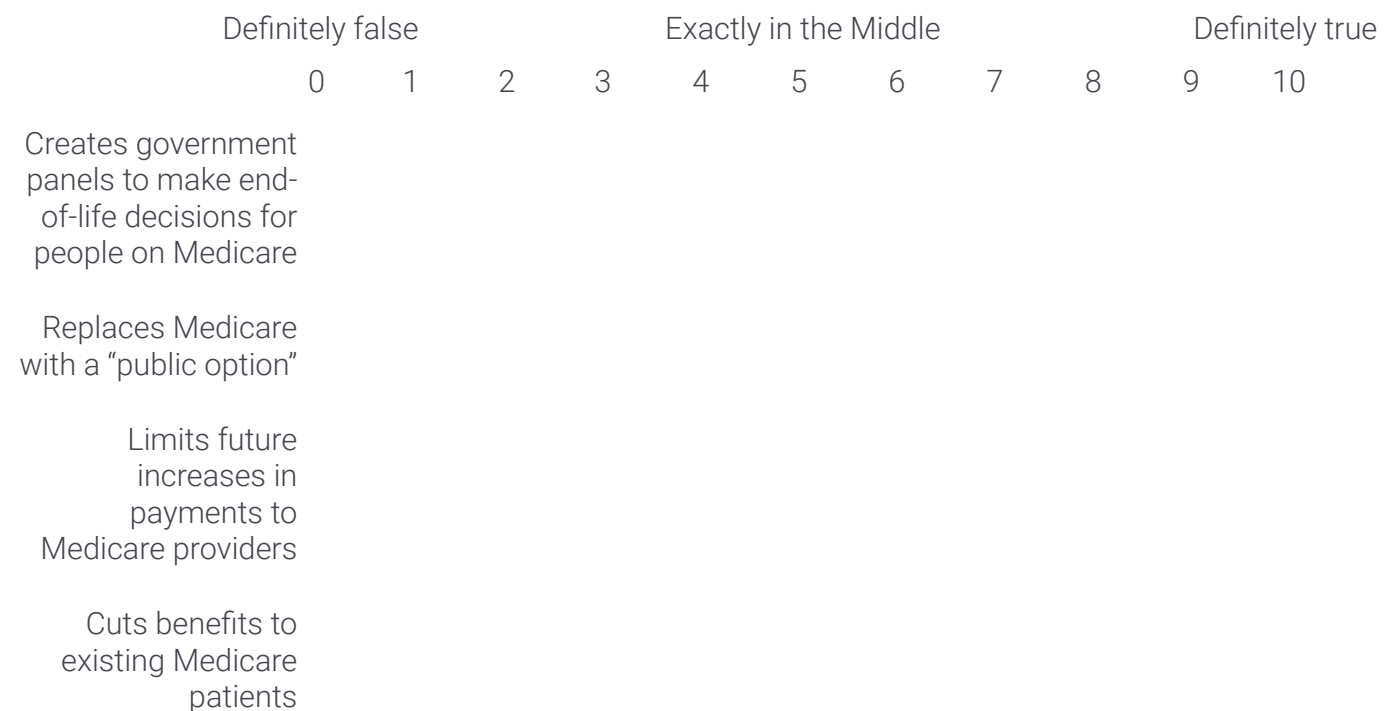
## The Affordable Healthcare Act ...



Increases the  
Medicare payroll tax  
for upper-income  
Americans

Reimburse routine  
mammograms only  
for women older than  
50

The Affordable Healthcare Act ...



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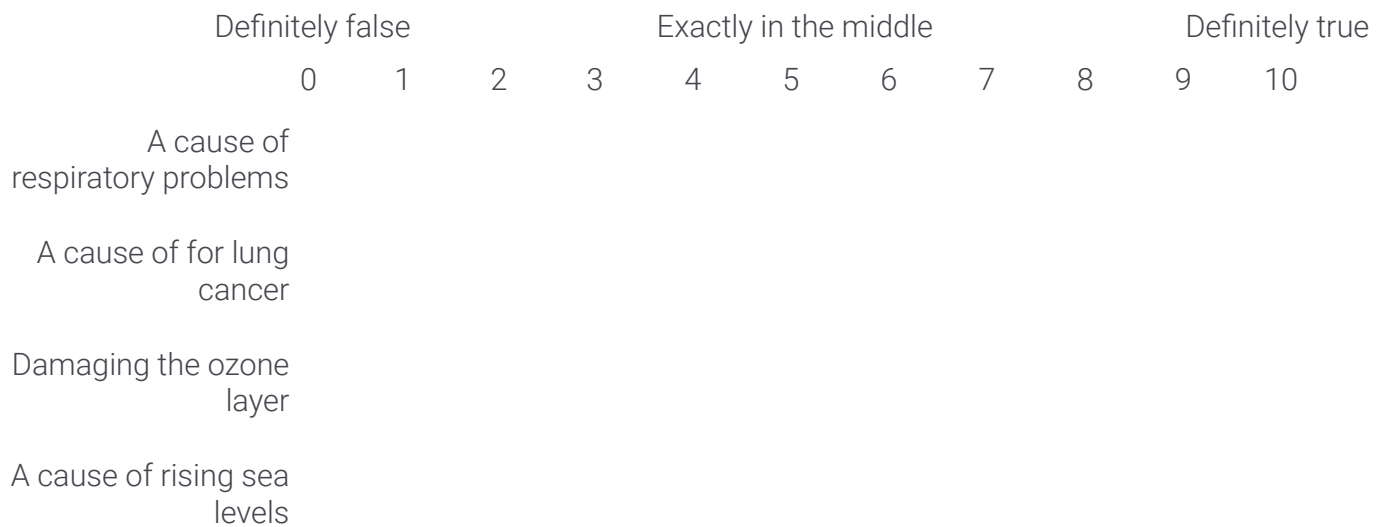
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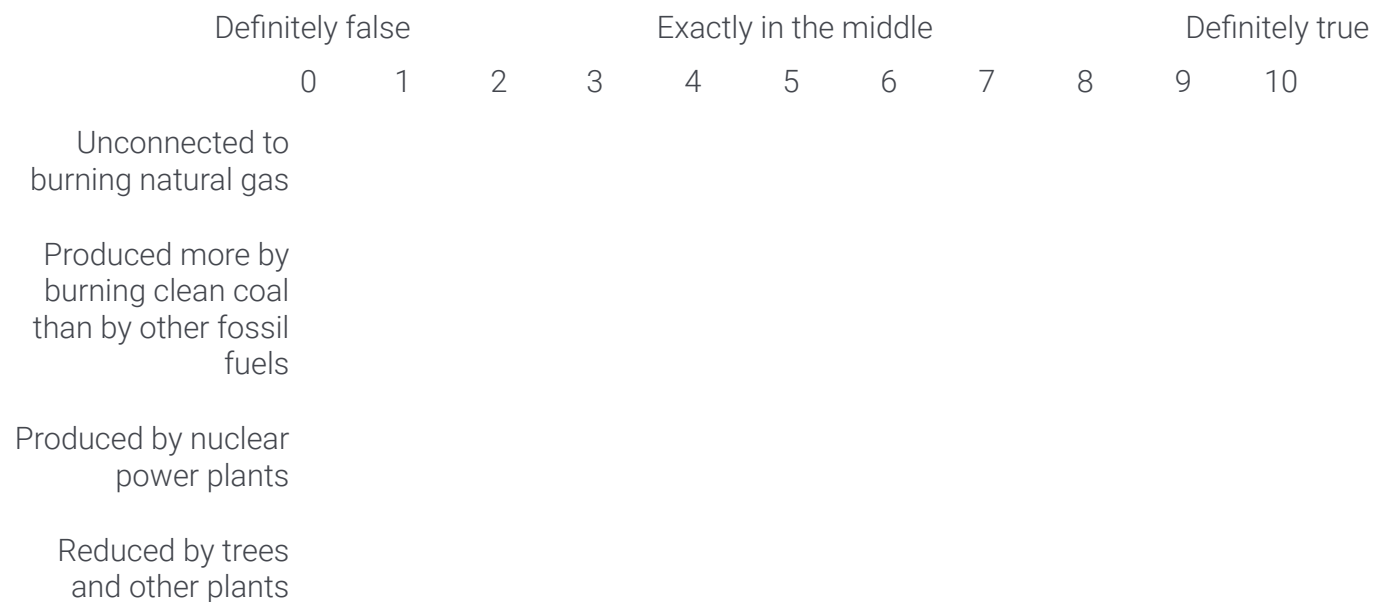
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**Next some statements about greenhouse gases. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means definitely false, 10 means definitely true, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how definitely true or false is each statement?**

Greenhouse gases are...



Greenhouse gases are...



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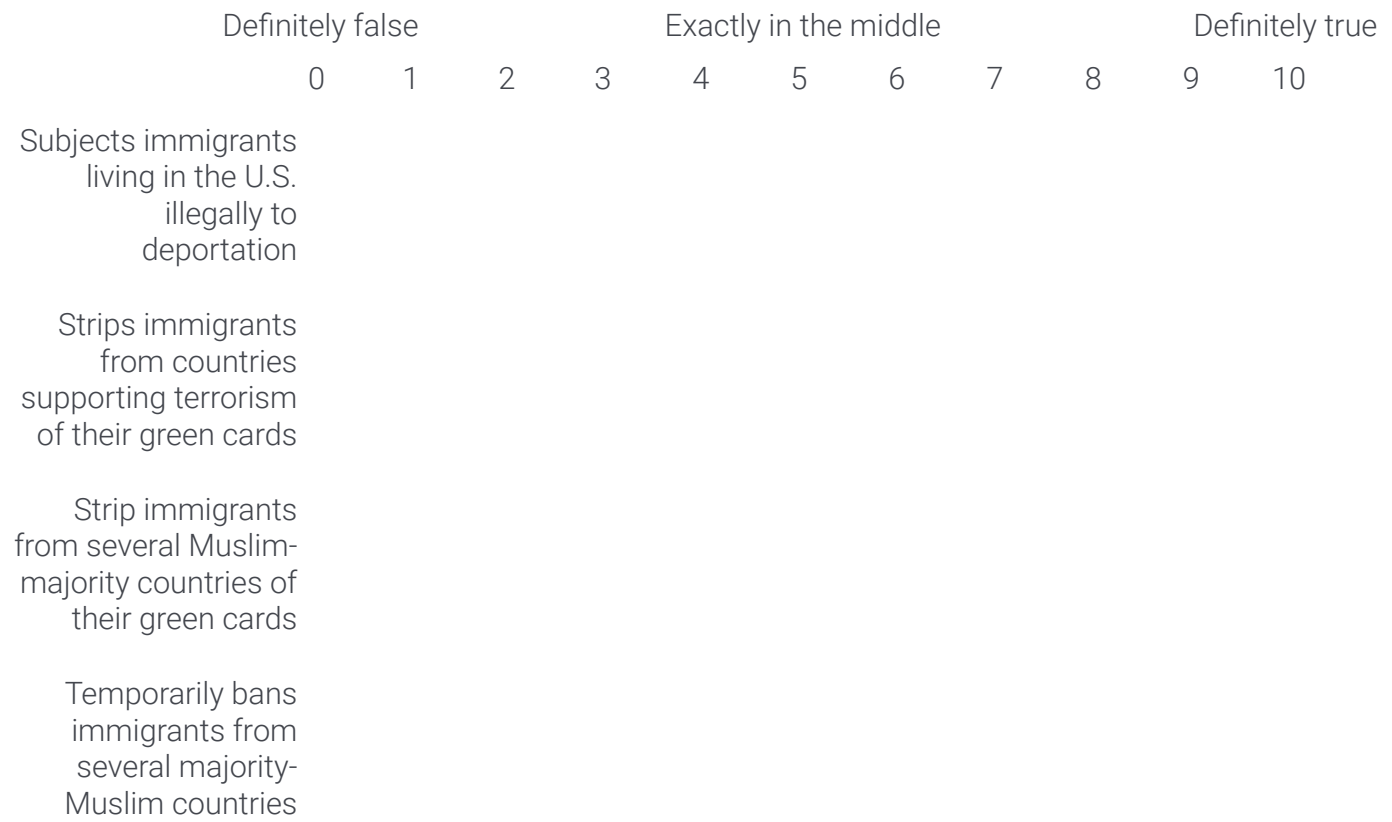
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**And some statements about President Trump's most recent executive order on immigration. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means definitely false, 10 means definitely true, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how definitely true or false is each statement?**

The executive order ...



## Demographics

**Now we would like to ask you some demographic information.**

In what year were you born?

Are you .... ?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

What is the highest level of education you have achieved?



- ☐ No high school diploma
- ☐ High school diploma or equivalent
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ Four year college graduate
- ☐ Post-graduate degree

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What race(s) do you consider yourself to be?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American        | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                               |

**obama\_open**

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**Now we'd like to ask you some questions about tax rates, federal deficits, and budget related issues.**

During the time Barack Obama was president, the federal deficit:

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Remained about the same
- ☐ Decreased

☐ Don't know

What made you choose that response?

**obama\_closed**

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- ☐ Increased
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- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Don't know

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- ☐ I've read, seen, or heard that
- ☐ It makes me feel good to think that
- ☐ It makes sense, in view of other things I know
- ☐ I just thought I'd take a shot

## bush\_open

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During the time George W. Bush was president, the federal deficit:

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Remained about the same
- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Don't Know

What made you choose that response?

## bush\_closed

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During the time George W. Bush was president, the federal deficit:

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Remained about the same
- ☐ Decreased

☐ Don't Know

What made you choose that response?

- ☐ I asked someone I know
- ☐ I looked it up
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- ☐ It makes sense, in view of other things I know
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**fugitive\_text\_closed**

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**Next, we'd like to ask a few questions similar to some we have already asked, but in a different form.**

**If you don't know an answer, don't worry about it. Just mark "don't know," and move to the next question.**

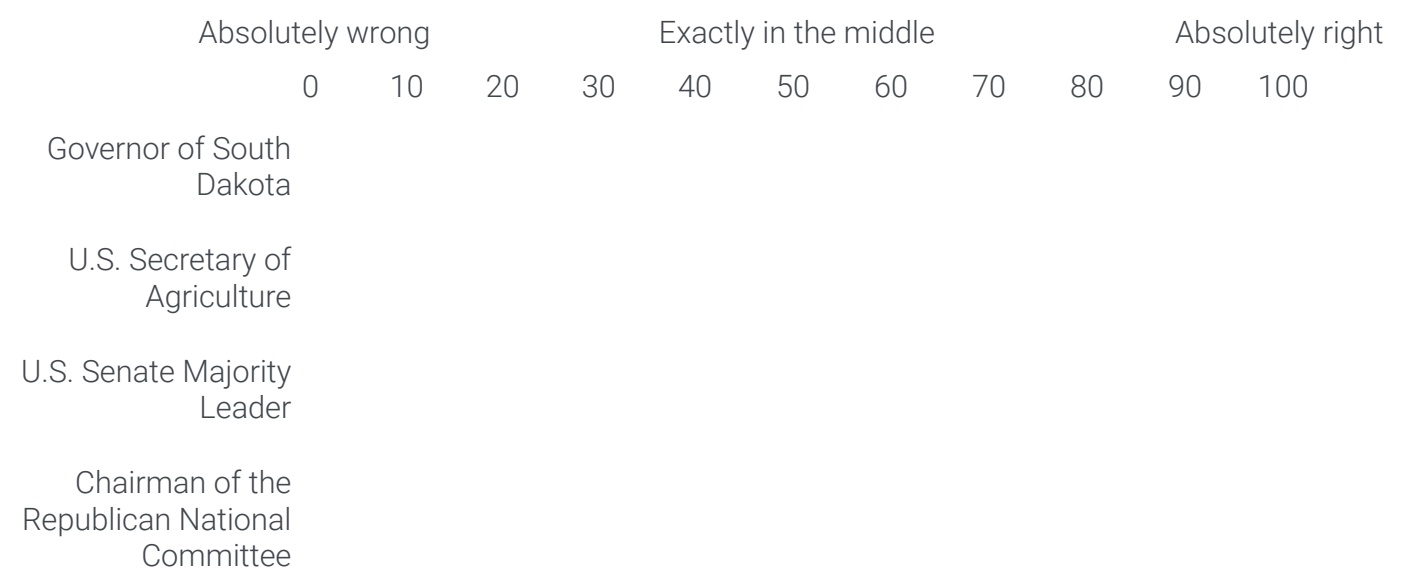
Is Angela Merkel currently the ...?

- ☐ Prime Minister of Sweden
- ☐ High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- ☐ Chancellor of Germany
- ☐ President of Austria
- ☐ Don't know

Is Mitch McConnell currently the ...?



Again on a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 means you are absolutely sure that an answer is wrong, and 100 means you are absolute sure you that it is right, how sure are you that **Mitch McConnell** currently is:



**fugitive\_visual\_scale**

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**Next, we’d like to ask a few questions similar to some we have already asked, but in a different form.**

**Next, we’d like to ask a few questions similar to some we have already asked, but in a different form.**

On a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 means you are absolutely sure that an answer is wrong, and 100 means you are absolute sure you that it is right, how sure are you that the person in the photo is:



Absolutely wrong

Exactly in the middle

Absolutely right

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

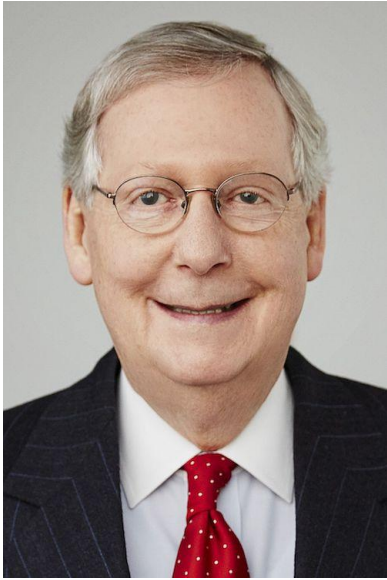
Prime Minister of  
Sweden

High Representative  
of the European  
Union for Foreign  
Affairs and Security  
Policy

Chancellor of  
Germany

President of Austria

Again on a scale of 0 to 100 where 0 means you are absolutely sure that an answer is wrong, and 100 means you are absolute sure you that it is right, how sure are you that the person in the photo is:



Absolutely wrong

Exactly in the middle

Absolutely right

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Governor of South  
Dakota

U.S. Secretary of  
Agriculture

U.S. Senate Majority  
Leader

Chairman of the  
Republican National  
Committee

**fugitive\_visual\_closed**

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**Next, we'd like to ask a few questions similar to some we have already asked, but in a different form.**

**If you don't know an answer, don't worry about it. Just mark "don't know," and move to the next question.**

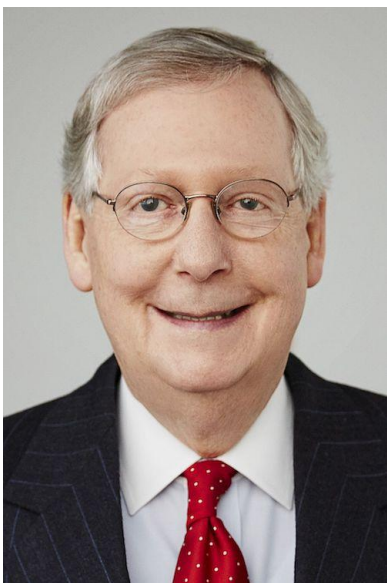


What position does the person in the photo below currently hold?



- ☐ Prime Minister of Sweden
- ☐ High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- ☐ Chancellor of Germany
- ☐ President of Austria
- ☐ Don't know

What position does the person in the photo below currently hold?



- ☐ Governor of South Dakota
- ☐ U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
- ☐ U.S. Senate Majority Leader
- ☐ Chairman of the Republican National Committee
- ☐ Don't know

## Interest and Participation

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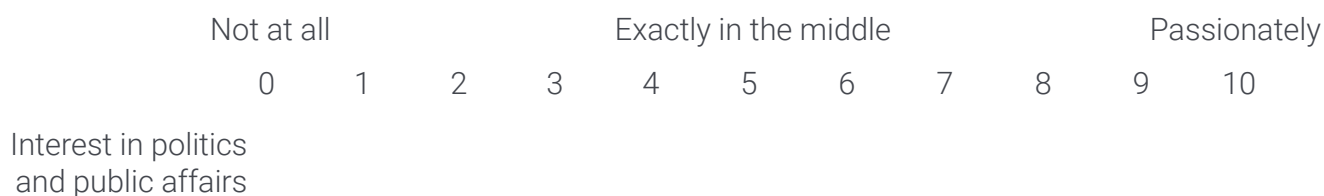
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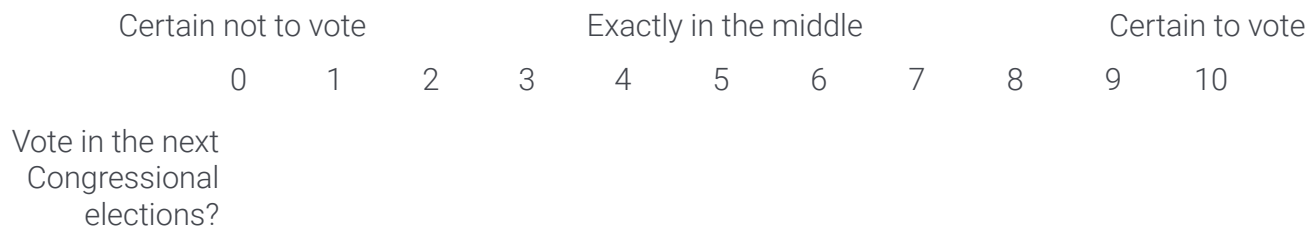
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### Here are some questions about interest and participation in politics:

On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all, 10 is passionately, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how interested would you say you generally are in politics and public affairs?



Again on a scale from 0 to 10, where now 0 means certain not to vote, 10 means certain to vote, and 5 is exactly in the middle, how likely would you say you are to vote in the next Congressional elections?



Which party generally does better at reducing federal deficits?

- ☐ Democratic party is better at that
- ☐ Republican party is better at that
- ☐ Both parties are equally good or bad at that
- ☐ Don't know

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Do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Independent
- ☐  Something else

On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is completely pro-Democratic, 10 is completely pro-Republican, and 5 is neither pro-Democratic or pro-Republican, how pro-Democratic or pro-Republican would you say you are ... ?

completely pro-  
Democratic

Neither

completely pro-  
Republican

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How pro-Democratic  
or pro-Republican are  
you?

thanks

That's our last question. Thank you for your time!  
The next screen will show you your MTurk Code.



