**QUESTIONNAIRE DATE: FEB 28, 2018**

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PRESENT TO ALL

Thank you for your interest in our survey. We are interested in what people learn about current events from the news and other media sources, as well as their thoughts about colleges, universities, and the value of higher education.

This survey should take about 15 minutes. You will be asked to read some short news stories and answer questions about them.

The data that we collect will be stored at a secure location. No identifying information about you will be made public. Only statistical summaries of the responses will be presented in research journals or academic conferences.

To participate in the study, you must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. resident.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Carolyn Roush at [carolyn\_roush@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:carolyn_roush@hks.harvard.edu).

Your participation is voluntary.

If you agree to take the survey, please click “I agree” below.

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ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

**[polinterest]** How often do you pay attention to politics and elections?

* Always
* Most of the time
* About half the time
* Some of the time
* Never

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PRESENT TO ALL

We are interested in what people learn from television, newspapers, and the like. To measure that, we have a set of factual questions about politics. If you come to one and don’t know the answer, just mark “can’t say” and move on to the next question.

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

**[know1]** What job or political office does Paul Ryan now hold?

* Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
* Prime Minister of Canada
* Speaker of the House of Representatives
* U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
* Can’t say

**[know2]** What job or political office does Angela Merkel now hold?

* Chancellor of Germany
* Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
* Prime Minister of Poland
* Majority Leader in the U.S. Senate
* Can’t say

**[know3]** For how many years is a United States Senator elected –- that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

* 2 years
* 4 years
* 6 years
* 10 years
* Can’t say

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PRESENT TO ALL

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

**[know4]** Which of the following best describes party control in the U.S. Congress?

* Democrats control the House of Representatives and Republicans control the Senate
* Republicans control the House of Representatives and Democrats control the Senate
* Republicans control both the House of Representatives and the Senate
* Democrats control both the House of Representatives and the Senate
* Can’t say

**[know5]** In August 2017, alt-right protestors staged a rally on a university campus that resulted in counter-protests and one death. In which U.S. city did this occur?

* Charlottesville, Virginia
* Phoenix, Arizona
* Miami, Florida
* Raleigh, North Carolina
* Can’t say

**[know6]** Which of the following was a central issue in the federal government shutdown in January 2017?

* Immigration and border security
* Race relations and police brutality
* The corporate tax rate
* Gun control
* Can’t say

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PRESENT TO ALL

We are also interested in what issues people see covered in the news. Here’s a randomly chosen news story. The story covers one or more issues. Please read the story carefully and let us know if you have heard about any of the issues covered in this news story.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of four conditions: (1) CONTROL, (2) DEMOCRATIC HYPOCRISY, (3) REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY, (6) BIPARTISAN HYPOCRISY **[EACH VIGNETTE APPEARS ON ITS OWN PAGE 4]**

CONTROL ARTICLE

DEMOCRATIC HYPOCRISY ARTICLE

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY ARTICLE

BIPARTISAN HYPOCRISY ARTICLE

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PRESENT TO ALL

**[aware]** Had you heard this story before?

* Yes
* No

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PRESENT TO ALL

We’d like to get your feelings toward some of our political leaders and groups in society these days. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward that person or group. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable toward that person or group and that you don't care too much for that person or group. You would rate the person or group at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward the person or group.

How would you rate: [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

THERMOMETER WIDGET (with labels if possible; see attached for reference)

**[ftdems]** Democrats

**[ftreps]** Republicans

**[ftind]** Independents

**[ftgov]** The federal government

**[ftpoor]** Poor people

**[ftnews]** The news media

**[fttech]** Corporations

**[fttrump]** Donald Trump

**[ftclinton]** Hillary Clinton

**[ftobama]** Barack Obama

**[ftteachers]** Teachers

**[ftconstruction]** Construction workers

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PRESENT TO ALL

We’d like to know a little more about how you would describe some of these same groups and political leaders.

**[dem\_trait]** How well would you say the following describe **Democrats**?

**[gop\_trait]** How well would you say the following describe **Republicans**?

PRESENT DYNAMIC GRID AS RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ITEM

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very poorly | Somewhat poorly | Neither well nor poorly | Somewhat well | Very well |
| Ignorant |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sincere |  |  |  |  |  |
| Open to reason |  |  |  |  |  |
| Smug |  |  |  |  |  |
| Selfish |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patriotic |  |  |  |  |  |
| Compassionate |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hypocritical |  |  |  |  |  |

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PRESENT TO ALL

**[trump\_trait]** How well would you say the following describe **Donald Trump**?

**[clinton\_trait]** How well would you say the following describe **Hillary Clinton**?

**[obama\_trait]** How well would you say the following describe **Barack Obama**?

PRESENT DYNAMIC GRID AS RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ITEM

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very poorly | Somewhat poorly | Neither well nor poorly | Somewhat well | Very well |
| Ignorant |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sincere |  |  |  |  |  |
| Open to reason |  |  |  |  |  |
| Smug |  |  |  |  |  |
| Selfish |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patriotic |  |  |  |  |  |
| Compassionate |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hypocritical |  |  |  |  |  |

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To those assigned to the **CONTROL** group:

**[control\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, which best describes Americans’ views on the economy?

* About 70% of Americans think the economy is doing well
* About 50% of Americans think the economy is doing well
* About 70% of Americans think the economy is doing poorly
* About 50% of Americans don’t have an opinion on the economy
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **DEMOCRATIC HYPOCRISY** group:

**[demhyp\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, which best describes Democrats’ views on the economy before and after Election Day 2016?

* Democrats’ views on the economy stayed mostly the same after Trump was elected
* Democrats became more pessimistic about the economy after Trump was elected
* Democrats became more optimistic about the economy after Trump was elected
* Democrats found the economy to be less important after Trump was elected
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY** group:

**[rephyp\_check]** Based on the information provided in the story, which best describes Republicans’ views on the economy before and after Election Day 2016?

* Republicans’ views on the economy stayed mostly the same after Trump was elected
* Republicans became more pessimistic about the economy after Trump was elected
* Republicans became more optimistic about the economy after Trump was elected
* Republicans found the economy to be less important after Trump was elected
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **BIPARTISAN HYPOCRISY** group:

**[bipart\_check]** Based on the information provided in the story, which best describes Democrats’ and Republicans’ views on the economy before and after Election Day 2016?

* Both Democrats and Republicans became more optimistic about the economy after Trump was elected
* Democrats became more optimistic about the economy after Trump was elected; Republicans became more pessimistic
* Democrats became more pessimistic about the economy after Trump was elected; Republicans became more optimistic
* Both Democrats and Republicans found the economy to be more important after Trump was elected
* Can’t recall

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PRESENT TO ALL

We’d also like to get your opinions on some current political issues.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

**[gov\_spend]** Some people think the government should provide fewer services, even in areas such as health and education, in order to reduce spending. Other people feel that it is important for the government to provide many more services even if it means an increase in spending.

On a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 being “cut services” and 7 being “provide more services,” where would you put yourself on this space?

* 1 – Cut services and reduce spending
* 2
* 3
* 4 – Keep services and spending about the same
* 5
* 6
* 7 – Provide more services and increase spending

**[abortion]** There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of the opinions below best describes your view?

* By law, abortion should never be permitted
* The law should permit abortion only in the cases of rape, incest, or when the woman’s life is in danger
* The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest or danger to the woman’s life but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established
* By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice

**[immigration]** Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be toward unauthorized immigrants living in the United States?

* Make all unauthorized immigrants felons and send them back to their home country
* Have a guest worker program that allowed unauthorized immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work, but only for a limited amount of time
* Allow unauthorized immigrants to remain in the United States and eventually qualify for U.S. citizenship, but only if they meet certain requirements like paying back taxes and fines, learning English, and passing background checks
* Allow unauthorized immigrants to remain in the United States and eventually qualify for U.S. citizenship, without penalties

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[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

**[health\_care]** There is much concern about the rapid rise in medical and hospital costs. Some people feel there should be a government insurance plan which would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone. Others feel that all medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private insurance plans or other company paid plans.

On a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 favoring a government insurance plan and 7 favoring private insurance plans, where would you put yourself on this space?

* 1 – Government insurance plan
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5
* 6
* 7 – Private insurance plans

**[climate]** From what you know about global climate change or global warming, which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?

* Global climate change has been established as a serious problem, and immediate action is necessary
* There is enough evidence that climate change is taking place and some action should be taken
* We don’t know enough about global climate change, and more research is necessary before we take any actions
* Concern about global climate change is exaggerated. No action is necessary
* Global climate change is not occurring; this is not a real issue

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PRESENT TO ALL

Finally, as part of our effort to understand what Americans believe about higher education, we’d like you to read this brief profile and answer the questions that follow.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of two conditions: (1) **CONSERVATIVE LINDA**, or (2) **LIBERAL LINDA. BOTH GROUPS RECEIVE THE SAME FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS.**

CONSERVATIVE LINDA CONDITION

Linda is 31 years old, single, outspoken, and very bright. She majored in philosophy in college. As a student, she was deeply concerned with issues of moral values and religious liberty, and also participated in anti-tax demonstrations.

LIBERAL LINDA CONDITION

Linda is 31 years old, single, outspoken, and very bright. She majored in philosophy in college. As a student, she was deeply concerned with issues of discrimination and social justice, and also participated in anti-nuclear demonstrations.

PRESENT TO ALL

**[linda\_gpa]** What do you think was Linda’s GPA in college?

* 3.80-4.00
* 3.50-3.79
* 3.00-3.49
* 2.50-2.99
* 2.49 or below

**[linda\_job]** Which of the following do you think is more likely?

* Linda is a bank teller
* Linda is a bank teller and active in the feminist movement

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Thank you for participating in this survey and helping us with our research. This study is designed to learn more about how people react to news that other citizens are either open-minded or closed-minded when it comes to leaders from their political parties.    
    
As such, the news story you read in the middle of the survey was designed by the researchers based on real news articles published at *The Hill* and *Business Insider* and using real data from CBS News and Gallup polls. These articles have been modified slightly from their original text.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts and opinions! This survey is being conducted in conjunction with researchers at Harvard University, Florida State University, and Vanderbilt University. If you have questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Dr. Carolyn Roush at carolyn\_roush@hks.harvard.edu. Have a nice rest of the day.