**PAGE 1**

PRESENT TO ALL

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. We are interested in how people learn and what they pick up from what they read, listen to, watch, etc. and how that might affect their attitudes toward society and politics. This study will ask variety of questions, some of which are simply about your opinions and others of which are about facts you may or may not know. Some of these questions may be difficult to answer, and you will not be judged by whether you answer correctly. We only ask that you try your best to help us with this academic research.

**PAGE 2**

PRESENT TO ALL

First, we are interested in the kinds of qualities that people think children should have. Although there are many admirable traits that people would like children to have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Below, we are going to show you pairs of desirable qualities. While you may find that you’d like children to have both qualities, please pick the one you think is more important.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF QUESTIONS auth1-auth4; THEN RANDOMIZE ORDER OF auth5-auth9. RANDOMIZED BLOCK OF auth1-auth4 SHOULD ALWAYS APPEAR FIRST]

**[auth1]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Independence
* Respect for elders

**[auth2]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Obedience
* Self-reliance

**[auth3]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Curiosity
* Good manners

**[auth4]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Considerate
* Well-behaved

**[auth5]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Loyal
* Open-minded

**[auth6]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Orderly
* Imaginative

**[auth7]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Adaptable
* Disciplined

**[auth8]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Creative
* Hard-working

**[auth9]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Tough
* Kind

**PAGE 3**

PRESENT TO ALL

On to another topic…

**[threat]** Which of the following statements most accurately describes how you feel about society today? [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS]

* Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and immigrants, and our priority should be to protect ourselves
* It’s a big, beautiful world, mostly full of good people, and we must find a way to embrace each other and not allow ourselves to become isolated

**PAGE 4**

PRESENT TO ALL

**[attack]** How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack?

* Very worried
* Somewhat worried
* Not too worried
* Not worried at all

**PAGE 5**

PRESENT TO ALL

Switching subjects…

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

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

**PAGE 6**

PRESENT TO ALL

**[trust\_gov]** How much do you trust the government in Washington to do what’s right?

* Almost always
* Most of the time
* Some of the time
* Never

**PAGE 6**

PRESENT TO ALL

We would like to ask you a set of factual questions about politics. As a reminder, some of these questions may be difficult. You will not be judged by whether you answer correctly. 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

**PAGE 7**

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

**PAGE 8**

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, as you will be asked questions about it later.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — Respondents randomly assigned to one of five conditions: (1) CONTROL, (2) REPS – LESS BIASED, (3) DEMS – LESS BIASED, (3) REPS – BIASED, and (5) DEMS – BIASED **[EACH VIGNETTE APPEARS ON ITS OWN PAGE 8]**

CONTROL ARTICLE

REPS – LESS BIASED ARTICLE

DEMS – LESS BIASED ARTICLE

REPS – BIASED ARTICLE

DEMS – BIASED ARTICLE

**PAGE 9**

PRESENT TO ALL

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

* Yes
* No

**PAGE 10**

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]** Democratic Party

**[ftreps]** Republican Party

**[ftind]** Independents

**[ftgov]** The federal government

**[ftnews]** The news media

**[fttrump]** Donald Trump

**[ftclinton]** Hillary Clinton

**[ftobama]** Barack Obama

**PAGE 11**

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\_ignorant, dem\_sincere, etc]** How well would you say the following describe **Democrats**?

**[gop\_ignorant, gop\_sincere, etc]** 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 |  |  |  |  |  |

**PAGE 12**

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 in 2017 compared to previous years?

* Americans’ views on the economy stayed mostly the same in 2017
* Americans became more pessimistic about the economy in 2017
* Americans became more optimistic about the economy in 2017
* Americans found the economy to be less important in 2017
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **REPS – LESS BIASED** group:

**[rep\_less\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, which best describes Republicans’ views on the economy in 2016 compared to previous election years?

* Republicans’ views on the economy stayed mostly the same in 2016
* Republicans became more biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Republicans became less biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Republicans found the economy to be less important in 2016
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **DEMS – LESS BIASED** group:

**[dem\_less\_check]** Based on the information provided in the article you read earlier, which best describes Democrats’ views on the economy in 2016 compared to previous election years?

* Democrats’ views on the economy stayed mostly the same in 2016
* Democrats became more biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Democrats became less biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Democrats found the economy to be less important in 2016
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **REPS – BIASED** group:

**[rep\_bias\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, which best describes Republicans’ views on the economy in 2016 compared to previous election years?

* Republicans remained biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Republicans became less biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Republicans found the economy to be less important in 2016
* Republicans and Democrats viewed the economy similarly in 2016
* Can’t recall

To those assigned to the **DEMS – BIASED** group:

**[dem\_bias\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, which best describes Democrats’ views on the economy in 2016 compared to previous election years?

* Democrats remained biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Democrats became less biased in their views of the economy in 2016
* Democrats found the economy to be less important in 2016
* Democrats and Republicans viewed the economy similarly in 2016
* Can’t recall

**PAGE 13**

To those assigned to the **CONTROL** group: **(ALL OTHER GROUPS PROCEED TO PAGE 14)**

Recall from the article you read that Gallup calculates an economic confidence index that ranges from -100 (when all Americans say the economy is doing poorly) to 100 (when all Americans say the economy is doing well). During 2017, Americans rated the economy +6 on Gallup’s economic confidence index.

**[dems\_guess]** Based on your best guess, how do you think **Democrats** rated the economy in 2017? (Please enter a value between -100 and 100.)

[TEXT BOX]

**[reps\_guess]** Based on your best guess, how do you think **Republicans** rated the economy in 2017? (Please enter a value between -100 and 100.)

[TEXT BOX]

**PAGE 14**

PRESENT TO ALL

Finally, we would like to know more about your opinions toward our political system.

How important do you believe each of the following is to the United States maintaining a strong democracy?

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not too important | Somewhat not important | Neither important nor unimportant | Somewhat important | Very important |
| **[dissent]** The rights of people with unpopular view are protected |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[electinteg]** That national elections are open and fair |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[freespeech]** That news organizations are free to criticize political leaders |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[protest]** That people have the right to non-violent protest |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[legtimacy]** That those who lose elections recognize the legitimacy of the winners |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[corruption]** That those elected to office do not use their power to advance their own financial interests |  |  |  |  |  |

PRESENT TO ALL

Now we’re going to describe various types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing this country. For each one, would you say it is a very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad way of governing the United States?

DYNAMIC GRID [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very good | Fairly good | Fairly bad | Very bad |
| **[leader]** Having a strong leader who does not have to bother with Congress and elections |  |  |  |  |
| **[experts]** Having experts, not government, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country |  |  |  |  |
| **[military]** Having the military rule |  |  |  |  |
| **[democracy]** Having a democratic political system |  |  |  |  |

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PRESENT TO ALL

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 politics and leaders from political parties.

As such, the news story you read in the middle of the survey was designed by the researchers to convey information about how Republicans and Democrats view the economy differently. While the specific numbers were fictionalized, they are consistent with past research demonstrating that Republicans and Democrats change their views substantially depending on the party of the president.   
 

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. Marc Hetherington at marc.j.hetherington@vanderbilt.edu. Have a nice rest of the day.