**PAGE 1**

PRESENT TO ALL

Welcome! Thank you for participating 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.

**PAGE 2**

We are also interested in what issues people see covered in the news. On the next page, you’ll see a randomly chosen news story. The story covers one or more issues. Please read the story carefully, as we will ask you questions about it later.

EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT — CONDITIONAL RANDOMIZATION

SELF-IDENTIFIED DEMOCRATS (INCLUDING LEANING DEMOCRATS) RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THREE CONDITIONS: (1) CONTROL, (2) DEMOCRATS – BIASED, (3) REPUBLICANS – UNBIASED

SELF-IDENTIFIED REPUBLICANS (INCLUDING LEANING REPUBLICANS) RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THREE CONDITIONS: (1) CONTROL, (2) REPUBLICANS – BIASED, (3) DEMOCRATS – UNBIASED

SELF-IDENTIFIED PURE INDEPENDENTS RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE CONDITIONS: (1) CONTROL, (2) REPUBLICANS – BIASED, (3) REPUBLICANS – UNBIASED

**[EACH VIGNETTE APPEARS ON ITS OWN PAGE 3]**

CONTROL ARTICLE

DEMOCRATS - BIASED ARTICLE

DEMOCRATS – UNBIASED ARTICLE

REPUBLICANS – BIASED ARTICLE

REPUBICANS – UNBIASED 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 learn a little about how you would describe Democrats and Republicans.

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

**[gop\_ignorant, gop\_sincere, etc]** How well would you say the following traits 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 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hypocritical |  |  |  |  |  |

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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

**[fttrump]** Donald Trump

**[ftclinton]** Hillary Clinton

**[ftobama]** Barack Obama

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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 **DEMOCRATS – BIASED or DEMOCRATS – UNBIASED** groups:

**[dem\_check]** Based on the information in the article you read earlier, were Democrats more biased about the economy, less biased about the economy, or about as biased about the economy as you previously expected?

* Democrats were more biased than I expected
* Democrats were less biased than I expected
* Democrats were about as biased as I expected
* Don’t know

To those assigned to the **REPUBLICANS – BIASED or REPUBLICANS – UNBIASED** groups:

**[rep\_check]** Based on the information provided in the article you read earlier, were Republicans more biased about the economy, less biased about the economy, or about as biased about the economy as you previously expected?

* Republicans were more biased than I expected
* Republicans were less biased than I expected
* Republicans were about as biased as I expected
* Don’t know

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To those assigned to the **CONTROL** group: **(ALL OTHER GROUPS PROCEED TO PAGE 15)**

**RANDOM ASSIGNMENT TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS:**

**[dems\_guess\_16]** Right before the election of Donald Trump, 16% of Democrats thought that the economy was getting worse.

If you had to take a guess, what percentage of Democrats thought the economy was getting worse after Trump’s election?

[TEXT BOX]

**[reps\_guess\_16]** Right before the election of Donald Trump, 16% of Republicans thought the economy was getting better.

If you had to take a guess, what percentage of Republicans thought the economy was getting better after Trump’s election?

[TEXT BOX]

**[dems\_guess\_51]** Right before the election of Donald Trump, 51% of Democrats rated the economy as “good” or “excellent.”

If you had to take a guess, what percentage of Democrats rated the economy as “good” or “excellent” after Trump’s election?

[TEXT BOX]

**[reps\_guess\_51]** Right before the election of Donald Trump, 51% of Republicans rated the economy as “good” or “excellent.”

If you had to take a guess, what percentage of Republicans rated the economy as “good” or “excellent” after Trump’s election?

[TEXT BOX]

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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 based on real news articles published at *The Hill* and using real data from CBS News and Gallup. These articles have been modified extensively 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, and Florida State University. If you have questions about the survey, please feel free to contact Dr. Carolyn Roush at [carolyn\_roush@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:carolyn_roush@hks.harvard.edu).