**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**

PRESENT TO ALL

First, we are interested in the 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-auth10. 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

**[auth10]** Which quality do you think is more important for a child to have?

* Forceful
* Empathetic

**PAGE 3**

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 4**

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 5**

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 6**

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 7**

PRESENT TO ALL

We would now like to ask you a few questions about politics. As a reminder, some of these questions may be difficult. We are just as interested in what people don’t know as in what they do know. 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 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 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]** 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 the current makeup of 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, 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 9]**

CONTROL ARTICLE

DEMOCRATS - BIASED ARTICLE

DEMOCRATS – UNBIASED ARTICLE

REPUBLICANS – BIASED ARTICLE

REPUBICANS – UNBIASED ARTICLE

**PAGE 10**

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 |  |  |  |  |  |

**PAGE 12**

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 13**

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

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 |  |  |  |  |  |

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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 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, 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.