Now, we’d like you to read a short description about some current events. Afterwards, you’ll be asked a few questions regarding your impressions of these events.

[page break]

Resignation\_treatment = random draw from [placebo, mass polarization, elite polarization, democratic rot, democratic promise]

[if Resignation\_treatment = placebo]

[mass polarization] Ordinary Americans appear sharply divided on policy matters, from abortion to gun control. Democrats and Republicans are increasingly unlikely to be friends with or date one another. People now even consider politics when deciding what cars to buy, the sports they enjoy, and places they like to visit.

[if Resignation\_treatment = elite polarization] Republican and Democratic legislators appear sharply divided on policy matters, from abortion to gun control. Legislators are increasingly unlikely to compromise and engage in bipartisanship. In Washington DC, this polarization has created a gridlock that grinds policymaking to a halt.

[if Resignation\_treatment = democratic rot] Democracy faces several challenges. From the closure of polling locations in urban and rural areas to removing eligible voters from registration lists, respect and trust for electoral rules is low. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court threatens voting rights by permitting gerrymandering and allowing billions of dollars of unaccountable “dark money” to flood campaigns - which hurts candidates from both parties. Even First Amendment guarantees like the freedoms of religious expression and speech are fragile.

[if Resignation\_treatment = democratic promise] Political engagement in the United States seems to be turning a corner. Experts predict that Americans will turn out in record numbers for the 2022 midterm elections, just as they did in the 2020 presidential election. Polling from several firms suggests that people are united in their desire to protect the integrity of elections. Congress has passed laws protecting voting rights, and the Supreme Court has demonstrated firm commitments to individual rights.

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Next, we’d like to ask you a few questions about your perception of democracy today.

Resignation1: Do you agree or disagree with the following: America is heading toward the end of democracy, where free and fair elections will no longer occur.

* Strongly Agree
* Agree
* Neither agree, nor disagree
* Disagree
* Disagree Strongly

Resignation2: Do you agree or disagree with the following: Very little can be done to stop American democracy from ending in the next decade.

* Strongly Agree
* Agree
* Neither agree, nor disagree
* Disagree
* Disagree Strongly