

Survey ID Number (below, type the *first 2 letters of your last name*, and *last 4 digits of your student ID #*):

(*first 2 letters of last name*)

(*last 4 digits of your student ID #*)

1. Following are some feelings about politics and politicians. For each statement, **please circle** indicating whether you:

strongly agree, agree somewhat, have no opinion, disagree somewhat, disagree strongly.

a. Whether I vote or not has no influence on what politicians do.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

b. One never knows what politicians really think.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

c. People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

d. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

e. One can be confident that politicians will always do the right thing.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

f. Politicians often quickly forget their election promises after a political campaign is over.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

g. Politicians are more interested in power than in what the people think.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

h. One cannot always trust what politicians say.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

2. What do you think are the most important issues facing the country today? (*type up to 5 responses*)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

3. Different people use different sources to get information about politics. Listed below are several sources from which people may gather political information. Please indicate please circle just how much you use **each** of the sources below to obtain political information:

local television news	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
national television news (e.g., <i>Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, CNN Headline News</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
television talk shows (e.g., <i>Meet the Press, Face the Nation, Crossfire</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
television late-night shows (e.g.: <i>Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
morning television shows (e.g.: <i>Good Morning America, Today, Fox and Friends</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
campus newspaper (e.g.: <i>your campus newspaper</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
newspapers (e.g.: <i>state or local newspaper, Wall Street Journal, USA Today</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
news magazines (e.g.: <i>Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
internet (e.g.: <i>candidate Websites, political Websites, news Websites</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
radio news (e.g.: <i>local news on the radio, national news briefs given on the hour or half hour</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
political radio talk shows (e.g.: <i>Rush Limbaugh, Al Franken, NPR</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)
speaking with others (e.g.: <i>family, friends, co-workers</i>)	5 (a lot)	4	3	2	1 (rarely)	0 (never)

4. For each of the statements below **circle the response** indicating whether you:
strongly agree, agree somewhat, have no opinion, disagree somewhat, disagree strongly.
- a. I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
- b. I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
- c. I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
- d. I try to keep track of the opinions my friends have about political candidates and issues.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
- e. If a friend asked me about current political issues, I feel I would have enough information to help my friend become informed.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
- f. People who are not familiar with the candidates and issues should not vote in an election.
Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly
5. Beyond voting in an election, there are a variety of political, civic, and community activities that one might take part in. Which, if any, of the following have you done – **at least once** – during the current semester? (**place an X in the blank space for any activity you have participated in this semester**)
Within the past year, I have:
- _____ Served as an officer of some campus or community club or organization
- _____ Volunteered for a political candidate or party
- _____ Served on a committee for some campus or community organization
- _____ Attended a public meeting regarding community or school affairs
- _____ Attended a political rally or speech
- _____ Made a public speech (*not a speech as a class assignment*)
- _____ Wrote or e-mailed a letter to a senator or congressperson
- _____ Wrote or e-mailed a letter to a newspaper
- _____ Wrote an article or opinion column for a magazine or newspaper (*community or campus paper*)
- _____ Signed a petition
- _____ Ran for or held a political office
- _____ Volunteered for a community organization (*not affiliated with a school organization or project*)
- _____ Held a job while attending school

24. How informed do you think you are about political issues/politics?

Very well informed 5: _____:_____:_____:_____:_____:1 Very uninformed

25. How interested would you say you are about political issues/politics?

Very interested 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 **Not interested at all**

26. How often have you talked with other people about political issues/politics? (*mark one*)

A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 **Rarely** OR ___ **Never**

Now I'd like to get a little information about you:

6. Please mark (with an **X**) one of the following:

_____ male

_____ female

7. Age _____

8. Which of the following best represents your political beliefs? Place an **X** next to **ONLY ONE** of the following choices.

(1) ___ Democrat

(2) ___ Republican

(3) ___ Independent

(4) ___ Other (*name*): _____

Thinking of the party affiliation that you have just identified, what is the **strength of your affiliation** (*place an X in the appropriate space*)?

strong: ___:___:___:___:___:weak

9. Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint? (*place an X in front of the viewpoint that best describes your political views*)

Very Liberal

Liberal

Moderate

Conservative

Very Conservative

Not Sure

10. Which of the following best represents your ethnic background (*place an X in the appropriate space*):

___ Asian or Pacific Islander

___ Non-Hispanic White (Caucasian)

___ African-American

___ Spanish or Hispanic origin

___ Multi-racial or mixed race

___ Native American

___ Other (*name*): _____

11. Below is a list of television programs or channels that you may have a chance to watch. For each one, please mark how often you watch this program or channel (*place an X in the appropriate space*).

a. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 Rarely OR ___ Never

b. MTV Channel A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 Rarely OR ___ Never

c. 60 Minutes A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 Rarely OR ___ Never

d. Saturday Night Live A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 Rarely OR ___ Never

e. C-SPAN A lot 5: ___:___:___:___:___:1 Rarely OR ___ Never

12. The next series of statements deal with specific political or media reporting issues. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by **circling the response** that best reflects your opinion toward the statement. Again, the abbreviations stand for the following:

SA=Strongly Agree, **A**=Agree, **NO**=No Opinion/Neutral, **D**=Disagree, **SD**=Strongly Disagree

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. Politicians do not care about the 18 to 25-year-old voting age population. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| b. Voting is an important symbolic gesture of my patriotism. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| c. I've become more politically interested since the war with Iraq started. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| d. News organizations, such as newspapers and television news, try to manipulate public opinion. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| e. News organizations often fail to get all of the facts straight. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| f. News organizations often don't deal fairly with all sides of a political or social issue. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| g. News organizations do a poor job of separating facts from opinions. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| h. News organizations are concerned with the community's well-being. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| i. News organizations watch out for my interests. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |
| j. News organizations are concerned mainly about the public welfare. | SA | A | NO | D | SD |

13. How much of the time do you think you can trust the media to report the news fairly?

Just About Always

Most of the Time

Some of the time

Almost Never

14. How many **days a week** do you **read a newspaper**? _____

15. How many **days a week** do you watch the **NATIONAL** network news on television? _____

16. How many **days a week** do you watch the **LOCAL** news on television? _____

17. In a typical day, how many **hours a day** do you spend on the **Internet**? _____

18. How many **hours a day** do you spend **looking at or seeking out political information** on the **Internet**?

16. How likely are you to consider running for office someday?

Very likely 5:____:____:____:____:____:1 Not likely at all

17. More specifically, how likely are you to run for the following offices?

School Board	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
City Commissioner	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
Mayor	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
State Senate/House	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
Governor	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
U.S. House of Representatives	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
U.S. Senate	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all
President of the United States	Very likely	5: ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ : ___ :1	Not likely at all

21. Please indicate your agreement for the following:

a. I would like to see a major political party nominate a female candidate for president someday.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

b. I think one of the major parties will nominate a female candidate for President of the United States in 2008.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

c. I am comfortable voting for a female candidate to be President of the United States.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

d. I don't think members of my family or my friends would vote for a female candidate to be President.

Strongly Agree Agree Somewhat Have no Opinion Disagree Somewhat Disagree Strongly

33. Which of the two major parties do you think will be the first to nominate a female candidate for President?

_____ Democratic Party _____ Republican Party