

Original Questionnaire

Background Questions:

1. What year were you born in?
 - a. (drop down with 1930-2000 or four digit open answer)
1. Please specify your race/ ethnicity (check all that apply):
 - a. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - e. White
 - f. Hispanic and/or Latino
 - g. Other _____
1. What is your religious affiliation?
 - a. open answer
1. What is your gender?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other
1. What is your primary major/ department?
 - a. (Drop down list of possibilities with "other" to write in)
1. What is your current status at CMU?
 - a. 1st year undergraduate student (freshman)
 - b. 2nd year (sophomore)
 - c. 3rd year (junior)
 - d. 4th year (senior)
 - e. 5th + year
 - f. Master's Student
 - g. PhD Student
 - h. post doctoral student
 - i. Faculty/teaching
 - j. Staff/administration
1. What is your approximate GPA? (drop down with 2 digits)(Only students)
2. Are you a US Citizen?
 - a. Yes/No
1. In which state did you spend the majority of your life? (drop down with US states, and a choice of outside the US)
2. How much do you have to worry about financial issues?

☐ Daily

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Occasionally

☐ ☐ Never
11. How much do you have to worry about employment issues?

☐ Daily

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Occasionally

☐ ☐ Never

Political Questions:

12. Are you eligible to vote in the US?

a. Yes/No

13. Have you previously voted in a US presidential election?

a. Yes/No

14. Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election?

a. Nobody

b. Barack Obama

c. John McCain

d. Ralph Nader

e. Other_____

15. What political party do you most strongly associate with?

a. Democrat

b. Republican

c. Independent

d. Green Party

e. Other_____

16. Where on the following scale would you place your political views?

o o o o o o o

Very Moderate Very

liberal conservative

17. Where on the following scale would you place your religious views?

o o o o o o o

Not Moderate Very

religious religious

18. Where on the following scale would you place your economic views?

o o o o o o o

Very Moderate Very

pro-government pro-private

19. Where on the following scale would you place your social views?

o o o o o o o

Very Moderate Very

liberal conservative

20. Have you been following the republican primaries?

o o o o

Not at all A little Some A lot

(randomize order of and names contained in the following four anchoring vignettes). Answer choices are:

o o o o

Not at all A little Some A lot

21. Tom has watched the majority of the republican debates and actively follows election news by reading articles every day. How would you rank the amount that Tom has been following the republican primaries?
22. Betty reads articles about the candidates about once a week, knows the major issues, and has watched one or two of the republican debates. How would you rank the amount that Betty has been following the republican primaries?
23. Bob know the candidates' names, and has heard a little bit about the issues, but hasn't watched any debates and does not keep up to date with the political news. How would you rank the amount that Bob has been following the republican primaries?
24. Suzy doesn't know who's running for the Republican Party or what the major issues are. How would you rank the amount that Suzy has been following the republican primaries?
25. List the candidates who are currently in the running for republican nomination.
(open answer)
26. Rank the following candidates in the order you would vote for them in the 2012 presidential elections if given the chance: If you are not planning on voting, do not rank any.(order randomized for each survey)
- a) Barack Obama
 - b) Rick Santorum
 - c) Mitt Romney
 - d) Newt Gingrich
 - e) Ron Paul
 - f) Other_____

27. How do you feel about the state of the US Education System?

☐ Very Ineffective
 ☐ Moderately Effective
 ☐ Very Effective
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐

28. How do you feel about the state of alternative energy research (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal, biofuel)?

☐ Sub-par
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐ Adequate
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐ Excellent

29. How representative of the average person do you think Congress is?

☐ Not Very Representative
 ☐ Moderately Representative
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐ Very Representative

30. How representative of the average person are the interests of Congress?

☐ Not Very Representative
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐ Moderately Representative
 ☐
 ☐
 ☐ Very Representative

31. Rank the following issues in order of importance, with 1 being the most important. If you do not feel an issue is important, do not rank it. If you think issues are of equal importance, assign them the same value. (order randomized in survey)

a. Abortion law

- b. Health care policy
- c. Same-sex marriage
- d. War in the Middle East
- e. Immigration policy
- f. Web Censorship policy
- g. Education Reform
- h. Separation of church and state
- i. Alternative energy research
- j. Environmental policy
- k. Drug law (decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana)
- l. Employment/Unemployment issues

Results of Pretest

Pavan-

I pretested 3 individuals:

Male, 21, Computer Science

Male, 20, Computer Science

Male, 20, CIT

All were full-time CMU students. One change I wanted to make was to differentiate between those people who didn't vote in the last election due to age constraints and those that didn't because they simply chose not to. My respondents thought most questions were very clear, but were confused about the differences between questions 28 and 29. For question 27, they were confused how to answer since they didn't know much about the state of alternative energy research and thus couldn't form an opinion. Besides that, the respondents had no trouble answering the questions.

Emily Gehrels-

I pretested 3 individuals

Female, 21, Physics

Male, 21, Physics

Male, 21, Physics

All were full-time CMU students. Mostly my respondents thought the questions were alright, but that some were confusing or did not have logical rankings attached.

I wanted to make it easier to perform the last task since my respondents found it difficult to order all of the issues without losing track. Ranking each allows them to rank each as they come up instead of trying to consider all at once.

I rephrased questions 15 and 16 to more accurately get at the information that we were seeking with those questions while removing some of the interpretation and guess work on the part of the respondent.

I reworded questions 28 and 29 to try to clarify the difference between the two questions.

I reworded questions 5, and 9-11 to address issues raised by Professor Junker.

I changed the response type for question 3 to help with the coding of the responses.

Crystal

I pretested three people

Female 19 Business

Male 21 Chem E

Male 25 Physics/ History

They noted that some of the questions were grammatically confusing and long. One said that we should reword the questions about Congress so that they are not redundant. The other didn't understand what "social views" meant. Also, they felt that one of the choices for some of them should be "no opinion". Lastly one noted that that he feels differently about alternative energy research for solar / wind / geothermal compared to biofuel. I reworded questions 16, 18 and 28 for clarity and 13, 26, 27 and 28 to provide more options.

Dev

- I gave this to 5 people.
 - M 21 Music/Psychology
 - M 22 Business
 - M 19 CS
 - F 20 ECE
 - F 21 CS
 - O just kidding
- General comments:
 - some terms require definition, e.g. liberal vs conservative,
 - some should have a neutral answer
 - how will we do some of these questions on surveymonkey/gdocs?
 - some people weren't sure what the 2 digit GPA would consist of
 - business major had issues with the initial ranking scheme. psych, cs, and eces were fine
 - all thought that more questions would better characterize their stance, because these questions are kind of general. more ranking questions would be more informative
 - e.g. where should our tax money be allocated? rank the following choices...
 - rank the following sources in order of reliability
 - ... bias
 - they liked the questions about representativeness/representation

Will

- Pretested with 3 People
 - M 20 Music Composition
 - F 21 Economics
 - M 21 Architecture
- There were general issues with some definitions on the scales, especially for one of my takers who was no very familiar with politics.
 - Questions about economic and social views felt too vague.

- Felt unsure what effectiveness meant in terms of education, suggested to either define in terms of college preparedness or job readiness.
- Felt unsure by what was meant by the state of energy research
- Two of the three had difficulty with the final (ordering question). felt like it required too much effort.
- I reworded the questions 26 and 27 to clarify

Revised Questionnaire

L. Questionnaire

Background Questions:

1. In what year were you born?
 - a) (drop down with 1930-2000 or four digit open answer)
- 2) Please specify your race/ ethnicity (check all that apply):
 - a) American Indian or Alaska Native
 - b) Asian
 - c) Black or African American
 - d) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - e) White
 - f) Hispanic and/or Latino
 - g) Other _____
- 3) What is your religious affiliation?

(write-in)
- 4) What is your gender?
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Other

if you are a student, choose the dept that most closely represents your primary major. If you are faculty or staff, choose the department of your primary appointment.
- 5) What is your home department (~~choose the department in which you work or which represents most closely your primary major~~)?
 - a. (Drop down list of possibilities with "other" to write in)
- 6) What is your current status at CMU?
 - a) 1st year undergraduate student (freshman)
 - b) 2nd year (sophomore)
 - c) 3rd year (junior)
 - d) 4th year (senior)
 - e) 5th + year
 - f) Master's Student
 - g) PhD Student
 - h) post-doctoral student
 - i) Faculty/teaching
 - j) Staff/administration
- 7) What is your approximate GPA? (drop down with 2 digits)(Only students)
- 8) Are you a US Citizen?

a) Yes/No

9) In which state have you spent the majority of your life? (drop down with US states, and a choice of outside the US)

10) How often have you worried about financial issues in the past year (think of tuition, housing costs, travel, etc...)?

o o o o o o o

Daily Occasionally Never

11) How often have you worried about employment issues in the past year (think of post graduate employment, job security, etc...)?

o o o o o o o

Daily Occasionally Never

Political Questions:

12) Are you eligible to vote in the US?

a) Yes/No

13) Have you previously voted in a US presidential election?

a) Yes/No

14) Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election?

- a) Abstained from voting
- b) Barack Obama
- c) John McCain
- d) Ralph Nader
- e) Ineligible to vote
- f) Other_____

15) What political party do you most strongly associate with?

- a) Democrat
- b) Republican
- c) Independent
- d) Green Party
- e) Other_____

16) Where on the following scale would you place your political preferences?

o o o o o o o

Strong Moderate Weak

central- government central-government

17) How much do your religious views impact your everyday life?

o o o o o o o

No
influence

Moderate

Strongly
influential

18) Where on the following scale would you place your economic views?

o o o o o o

Very Moderate Very

pro-government regulation pro-unregulated private

19) Where on the following scale would you place your views on social issues (such as abortion, gay marriage, immigration, gun control etc)?

o o o o o o

Very Moderate Very

liberal conservative

20) Have you been following the Republican primaries?

o o o o

Not at all A little Some A lot

21)
(randomize order of and names contained in the following four anchoring vignettes).
Answer choices are:

o o o o

Not at all A little Some A lot

22) Tom has watched the majority of the Republican debates and actively follows election news by reading articles every day. How would you rank the amount that Tom has been following the Republican primaries?

23) Betty reads articles about the candidates about once a week, knows the major issues, and has watched one or two of the Republican debates. How would you rank the amount that Betty has been following the Republican primaries?

24) Bob knows the candidates' names, and has heard a little bit about the issues, but hasn't watched any debates and does not keep up to date with the political news. How would you rank the amount that Bob has been following the Republican primaries?

25) Suzy doesn't know who's running for the Republican party or what the major issues are. How would you rank the amount that Suzy has been following the Republican primaries?

26) List the candidates who are currently in the running for Republican nomination.

a) open answer

27) Rank the following candidates in the order you would vote for them in the 2012 presidential elections if given the chance: If you are not planning on voting, do not rank any. (order randomized for each survey)

- a) Barack Obama
- b) Rick Santorum
- c) Mitt Romney
- d) Newt Gingrich
- e) Ron Paul
- f) Other _____

28) How effective do you feel the US Public K-12 Education System is at preparing students to attend college?

☐ Not Sure
 ☐ Very Ineffective

 ☐ Moderately Effective

 ☐ Very Effective

29) How do you feel about the amount of progress that is being made in alternative energy research (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal, biofuel)?

☐ Not Sure
 ☐ Poor

 ☐ Adequate

 ☐ Excellent

30) How representative of the average person do you think members of Congress are (with respect to political stance, background, education level, income level)?

☐ Not Sure
 ☐ Not Very Representative

 ☐ Moderately Representative

 ☐ Very Representative

I still don't see a difference here....

31) How representative of the average person's interests are the interests of Congress?

check spacing here and throughout

☐ Not Very Representative
 ☐ Moderately Representative

 ☐ Very Representative

32) How would you rank the importance of each of the following issues on a scale from 1 to 10 with 10 being the most important. If you do not feel an issue is important, mark it as 0.

(order randomized in survey)

- a) Abortion/ contraception policy
- b) Health care policy
- c) Same-sex marriage
- d) War in the Middle East
- e) Immigration policy

- f) Web Censorship policy
- g) Education Reform
- h) Separation of church and state
- i) Military Spending
- j) Alternative energy research
- k) Environmental policy
- l) Drug law (decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana)
- m) Employment/Unemployment issues
- n) Foreign Policy
- o) Government spending/ National Debt
- p) Scientific/ Technical Research