

Self-Questionnaire on Political Opinions and Activities

1. Which best describes your year in college?

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Other
- Not in college

2. What is your major?

- Government, Politics, etc.
 - Other social science
 - Arts, Humanities
 - Business, marketing, accounting, etc
 - Natural sciences
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Nursing
 - Fine arts
 - Other (specify)
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3. How often do you read a newspaper?

- Every day
- 5-6 days per week
- 3-4 days per week
- 1-2 days per week
- Less than 1 day per week
- Never

4. How often do you watch local television news?

- Every day
- 5-6 days per week
- 3-4 days per week
- 1-2 days per week
- Less than 1 day per week
- Never

5. How often do you watch national television news?

- Every day
- 5-6 days per week
- 3-4 days per week
- 1-2 days per week
- Less than 1 day per week
- Never

6. How often do you listen to news on the radio?

- Every day
- 5-6 days per week
- 3-4 days per week
- 1-2 days per week
- Less than 1 day per week
- Never

7. When you follow politics, which of the following media sources are important to you? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Television
 - Newspapers
 - Magazines
 - Radio
 - Internet
 - Word of mouth – other people
 - Other (please specify)
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8. Some people feel the government in Washington should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living. Others think the government should just let each person get ahead on their own. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Government should see to jobs and good standard of living
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. Government should let each person get ahead on own
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know
9. Some people feel there should be a government insurance plan which would cover all medical and hospital expenses for everyone. Others feel that all medical expenses should be paid by individuals through private insurance plans like Blue Cross or other company paid plans. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Government insurance plan
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. Private insurance plan
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know
10. Some people believe that we should spend much less money for defense. Others feel that defense spending should be greatly increased. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Government should spend much less for defense spending
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. Defense spending should be greatly increased
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know
11. Do you think this country would be better off if we just stayed home and did not concern ourselves with problems in other parts of the world, or do you think that this country would be better off trying to solve some problems in other parts of the world?
- Better off if we stayed home
 - Better off trying to solve some problems
 - Don't know

12. Concerning the issue of abortion, which of the following opinions best agrees with your view?
- By law, abortion should never be permitted
 - The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger
 - The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established
 - By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice
 - Don't know
13. Do you think homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the United States Armed Forces or don't you think so? Or haven't you thought much about this?
- I feel strongly that homosexuals should be allowed to serve
 - I feel that homosexuals should be allowed to serve
 - I feel that homosexuals should not be allowed to serve
 - I feel strongly that homosexuals should not be allowed to serve
 - Don't know
14. Some people feel that women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry, and government. Others feel that a woman's place is in the home. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Women and men should have equal role
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. A woman's place is in the home
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know
15. Should companies that have discriminated against blacks have to have an affirmative action program or should companies not have to have an affirmative action program?
- I feel strongly they should have to have an affirmative action program
 - I feel they should have to have an affirmative action program
 - I feel they should not have to have an affirmative action program
 - I feel strongly they should not have to have an affirmative action program
 - Don't know
16. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?
- I strongly favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder
 - I favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder
 - I oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder
 - I strongly oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder
 - Don't know

17. Do you think the government in Washington should see to it that white and black children go to the same schools or stay out of this area as it is not the government's business?
- The government should see to it that white and black children go to the same schools
 - The government should stay out of this area
 - Don't know
18. Should the government in Washington see to it that black people get fair treatment in jobs or is this not the federal government's business?
- I feel strongly that the government should see to fair treatment
 - I feel that the government should see to fair treatment
 - I feel that this is not the government's business
 - I feel strongly that this is not the government's business
 - Don't know
19. Do you favor a law making English the official language of the United States, meaning government business would be conducted in English only, or do you oppose such a law?
- I favor such a law
 - I neither favor nor oppose such a law
 - I oppose such a law
 - Don't know
20. Do you think gay or lesbian couples, in other words, homosexual couples, should be legally permitted to adopt children?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
21. Some people think we need much tougher government regulations on business in order to protect the environment. Others think that current regulations to protect the environment are already too much of a burden on business. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Tougher regulations on business needed to protect the environment
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. Regulations to protect environment already too much a burden on business
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know

22. Do you think the federal government should make it more difficult for people to buy a gun than it is now, make it easier for people to buy a gun, or keep these rules about the same as they are now?
- A lot more difficult
 - Somewhat more difficult
 - Keep rules about the same
 - Somewhat easier
 - A lot easier
 - Don't know
23. Some people think it is important to protect the environment even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living. Other people think that protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?
- 1. Protect the environment, even if it costs jobs and standard of living
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7. Jobs and standard of living are more important than the environment
 - Haven't thought much about it
 - Don't know
24. There has been discussion recently about a proposed law to ban certain types of late-term abortions, sometimes called partial birth abortions. Do you favor or oppose a law that would make these types of abortions illegal?
- I strongly favor such a law
 - I favor such a law
 - I oppose such a law
 - I strongly oppose such a law
 - Don't know
25. Do you favor or oppose a school voucher program that would allow parents to use tax funds to send their children to the school of their choice, even if it were a private school?
- I strongly favor a school voucher program
 - I favor a school voucher program
 - I oppose a school voucher program
 - I strongly oppose a school voucher program
 - Don't know

26. Some people think the government should provide fewer services even in areas such as health and education in order to reduce spending. Other people feel it is important for the government to provide many more services even if it means an increase in spending. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

- 1. Government should provide many fewer services
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7. Government should provide many more services
- Haven't thought much about it
- Don't know

27. Some people say that because of past discrimination, blacks should be given preferences in hiring and promotion. Others say that such preference in hiring and promotion of blacks is wrong because it gives blacks advantages they haven't earned. What is your opinion?

- I strongly favor preferential hiring and promotion of blacks
- I favor preferential hiring and promotion of blacks
- I oppose preferential hiring and promotion of blacks
- I strongly oppose preferential hiring and promotion of blacks
- Don't know

28. Do you favor or oppose laws to protect homosexuals against job discrimination?

- Favor strongly
- Favor not strongly
- Oppose not strongly
- Oppose strongly

29. In general, which of the following statements best represents what you feel about the way political campaigns are financed in this country?

- It needs to be completely overhauled
- It needs major changes
- It needs minor changes
- It is basically fine the way it is

30. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:

I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly

I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly

31. There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For each one mentioned, indicate whether such a person should be allowed to make a speech in your community:

A person wants to make a speech against churches and religion.

- He or she should be allowed
- He or she should not be allowed
- Don't know

A person wants to make a speech claiming that blacks are genetically inferior.

- He or she should be allowed
- He or she should not be allowed
- Don't know

A person wants to make a speech in favor of communism.

- He or she should be allowed
- He or she should not be allowed
- Don't know

A person wants to make a speech to advocate doing away with elections and letting the military run the country.

- He or she should be allowed
- He or she should not be allowed
- Don't know

32. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

- Just about always
- Most of the time
- Only some of the time
- Never

33. On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in the United States?

- Satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not at all satisfied

34. How interested in politics are you now?

- Extremely interested
- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not very interested
- Not at all interested

35. How often do you follow what's going on in government and public affairs?

- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Only now and then
- Hardly at all

36. Compared with when you started college, how has your interest in politics changed?

- I am much more interested now
- I am somewhat more interested now
- I have about the same level of interest now
- I am somewhat less interested now
- I am much less interested now

37. Did you vote in the last Presidential election?

- Yes
- No
- I was not eligible (too young or not a citizen)

38. Did you vote in the last non-Presidential election?

- Yes
- No
- I was not eligible (too young or not a citizen)

39. Please check all the political activities you have been involved with. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Tried to influence vote of others
 - Displayed button, sticker, etc.
 - Went to a meeting or rally
 - Did any other campaign work
 - Gave money to a political candidate
 - Attended community meeting in past year
 - Worked on a community issue in last year
 - Worked with others in neighborhood to solve a common issue or problem in last 12 months
 - Contacted public official in past year
 - Took part in protest or march in last year
 - Other (please specify)
-

40. Which best describes your political beliefs?

- Extremely liberal
- Liberal
- Moderately liberal
- Moderate
- Moderately conservative
- Conservative
- Extremely conservative
- I don't know

41. Which best describes your political party affiliation?

- Strong Democrat
- Democrat
- Independent Democrat
- Independent
- Independent Republican
- Republican
- Strong Republican
- I don't know

42. Which best describes your social class?

- Upper class
- Middle class
- Working class
- Lower class
- I don't know

43. Which of your parents graduated from a college or university?

- Both parents
- My mother only
- My father only
- Neither parent

44. Are you?

- Male
- Female

45. What is your age?

_____ years

46. Which best describes your annual **total family** income?

- Under \$10,000
- \$10,000-\$19,999
- \$20,000-\$29,000
- \$30,000-\$39,999
- \$40,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$59,999
- \$60,000-\$79,999
- \$80,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000 or more
- I don't know

47. Which best describes your ethnic background?

- Black / African American
- White / Caucasian
- Latina / Latino / Hispanic
- Asian American
- Native American
- Other (specify_____)