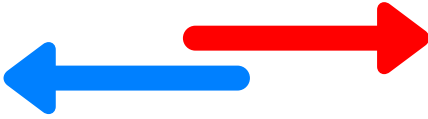


POLITICAL POLARIZATION SELF ASSESSMENTS

How do I experience or participate in different forms of polarization?



Adapted from Pew Research Center

OPPOSING POLITICAL PARTY POLARIZATION

Take a moment to think about your political party identification. Reflect on your feelings about members of your party, as well as feelings toward members of the opposing party.

RATING

On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extremely cold, and "10" is extremely warm, how would you rate your feelings toward members of the opposite party?

On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extreme distrust, and "10" is extreme trust, how would you rate your level of trust toward members of the opposite party?

On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extreme discomfort, and "10" is extreme comfort, how would you rate your comfort with having a conversation with a member of the opposite party?

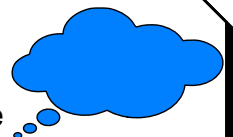
On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extremely cold, and "10" is extremely warm, how would you rate your feelings toward members of your party?

On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extreme distrust, and "10" is extreme trust, how would you rate your level of trust toward members of your party?

On a scale of 1-to-10, where "1" is extreme discomfort, and "10" is extreme comfort, how would you rate your comfort with having a conversation with a member of your party?

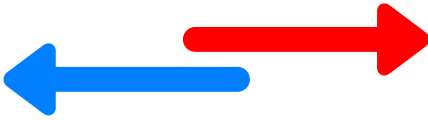
REFLECT

- How extremely cold, untrusting, and negative were your feelings toward members of the opposite party? How extremely warm, trusting, and positive were your feelings toward members of your party?
- How do you think these feelings impact who you are willing to engage with in your day-to-day life?
- How do you think these feelings impact how you respond when you engage with members of the opposite party? Members of the same party?
- Did any of your answers surprise you?



POLITICAL POLARIZATION SELF ASSESSMENTS

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Adapted from Pew Research Center

IDEOLOGICAL POLARIZATION

On a scale of 1-to-10, where “1” is not that strong/ not that important to me, and “10 is extremely strong/extremely important to me, how strong are your views on the following topics and issues?

RATING

Social programs/social welfare

Immigration

Abortion

Race

Criminal Justice

Capitalism

Business Regulation

RATING

Taxation

The American Dream

Marriage Equality

Foreign Policy

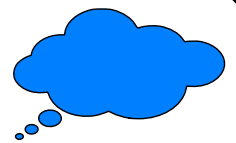
Gender

Climate Change/Global Warming

Environmental Regulation

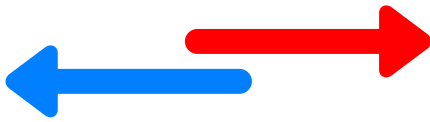
REFLECT

- Looking at your ratings, does the strength of opinions on these issues surprise you at all? Why or why not?
- Look at your ratings, and pick out a couple of issues that you feel most strongly about. How would you feel engaging in a conversation with someone who had opposing views to you on these issues? Why?
- Look at your ratings, and pick out a couple of issues that you have less strong views on. How might a conversation with someone with an opposing view from you on these issues go? How might a conversation on this issue look different than a conversation on an issue that is most important to you? Why?



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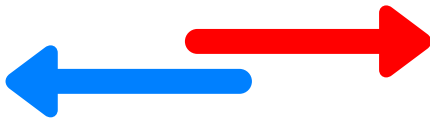
POLITICAL POLARIZATION

I believe...(check all boxes that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The government should do more to provide assistance to those in need. | <input type="checkbox"/> The government should not spend any more on welfare programs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racial discrimination significantly impacts the ability of people of color to get ahead in this country. | <input type="checkbox"/> Whether people succeed or fail has little or nothing to do with their race. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being a welcoming place for immigrants is an important part of our national identity. | <input type="checkbox"/> We need to put American needs and interests first, and this means seriously restricting immigration into our nation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants bring needed skills, talents, and labor to our economy. | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants are often a drain on our country, they take jobs, and cost a lot in housing, education, and healthcare. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants benefit our society by bringing their rich cultural heritages to our country. | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants should assimilate into American culture. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining peace with other nations abroad depends on the quality of our diplomatic relationships. | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining peace with other nations abroad depends on the strength of our military. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The strength of the American experiment lies in our ability to adapt and change over time, and to grow into our founding values. | <input type="checkbox"/> The Founding Fathers articulated a near perfect vision for this country, and we should do our best to follow exactly what they laid out in our laws. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love is love. Regardless of your sexual orientation, you deserve the right to love and marry whoever you love. | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage is a sacred and age-old tradition and should remain limited to one man and one woman. |

POLITICAL POLARIZATION SELF ASSESSMENTS

How do I experience or participate in different forms of polarization?



Adapted from Pew Research Center

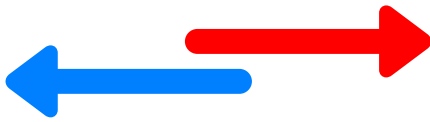
POLITICAL POLARIZATION

I believe...(check all boxes that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-based discrimination in the workplace is real—it is harder for women to get ahead in workplaces. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender-based discrimination in the workplace no longer exists—women can get ahead just as easily as men in the workplace if they work hard. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belief in God has little to do with whether or not a person is moral. | <input type="checkbox"/> Believing in God is an important and necessary part of being a moral person. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion should be wholly separate from our government—the separation of church and state is core to America. | <input type="checkbox"/> American is a Christian nation, and religious values should be part of shaping government policy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A woman's body is her own—she has the right to choose whether to carry a pregnancy to term, or to terminate the pregnancy. | <input type="checkbox"/> A fetus is a person, and no one has the right to take that life away. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There are certain circumstances in which abortions are medically necessary to protect the life and well-being of the mother. | <input type="checkbox"/> There is absolutely no circumstance in which it is ever acceptable to terminate the life of a fetus. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The economic system in America is fundamentally unfair. | <input type="checkbox"/> The economic system in America is fair to all. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic inequality in America is a critical problem. | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic inequality is not a big problem in America. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> America is not a meritocracy—hard work is not a guarantee of success. | <input type="checkbox"/> America is a meritocracy—anyone can get ahead through hard work. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate profits are way out of hand. | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporations deserve all the profits they earn. |

POLITICAL POLARIZATION SELF ASSESSMENTS

How do I experience or participate in different forms of polarization?



Adapted from Pew Research Center

POLITICAL POLARIZATION

I believe...(check all boxes that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations should be taxed at much higher rates.	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations should not be taxed any higher than they already are.
<input type="checkbox"/> The top income-earners in America should be taxed at higher rates.	<input type="checkbox"/> The top-income earners in America should not be taxes any higher than they already are.
<input type="checkbox"/> It is clear that climate change is happening and it is a problem.	<input type="checkbox"/> It is not clear that climate change is happening, or that it is a problem.
<input type="checkbox"/> It is clear that climate change is the direct result of human activity.	<input type="checkbox"/> It is not clear that climate change is impacted by human activity.
<input type="checkbox"/> We need to implement much stricter environmental regulations to protect the earth.	<input type="checkbox"/> Stricter environmental regulations are not worth the cost in jobs and the economy.
<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 is a major threat to public health that we need to respond to swiftly and powerfully.	<input type="checkbox"/> We cannot let COVID-19 disrupt our lives and economy—we need to resume life as normal as quickly as possible.

REFLECT

- How much did your check-boxes go straight down one column in the table above? How much did you check boxes across the two columns?
- To what extent do you think your positions on issues are shaped by the opinions of your political party? Or by other factors in your life?
- If the vast majority or all of your check-boxes were in one column, you would be considered “ideologically consistent” with either Democrats or Republicans (you probably figured that out a long time ago). It is well documented that “ideological consistency,” one way of measuring political polarization, has increased dramatically over the last half
- century—it used to be more common to hold views associated with different party positions on different issues (i.e. immigration, race, economy, social programs, the role of government, abortion, etc.). Why do you think we have become more “ideologically consistent” as a nation?