

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 9-12, 2007 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,017

Q.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	34	37	16	13	*=100
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1=100
Feb 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*=100
Feb 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1=100
Feb 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*=100
Feb 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*=100
Jan 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*=100
Jan 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1=100
Jan 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1=100
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1=100
Jan 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0=100
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*=100
Nov 30-Dec 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 ¹	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ²	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002 ³	48	29	15	6	2=100
b. The verdict in the trial of former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby					
Feb. 2-5, 2007⁴	8	20	29	42	1=100
Jan 26-29, 2007	6	15	24	54	1=100
November, 2005 ⁵	24	29	23	23	1=100
July, 2005 ⁶	23	25	26	25	1=100
October, 2003	16	32	24	27	1=100
c. Conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where many soldiers are treated after returning from Iraq					
Feb 23-26, 2007	19	24	24	32	1=100
d. News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election					
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1=100
Feb 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*=100
Feb 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1=100
Feb 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1=100
Feb 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*=100
Jan 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*=100
Jan 19-22, 2007⁷	24	27	22	26	1=100
2004 Presidential Election⁸					
November, 2004 (RVs)	52	36	8	4	*=100

¹ From March 20-24, 2003 to to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."
² From October, 2002, to March 13-16, 2003, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq."
³ In Early September, 2002, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."
⁴ From January 26-29, 2007 to February 2-5, 2007, the story was listed as, "The trial of former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby who is accused of perjury and obstruction of justice."
⁵ In November 2005 the story was listed as, "The indictment of Vice President Cheney's Chief of Staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby."
⁶ In July 2005 the story was listed as "Reports that White House adviser Karl Rove may have leaked classified information about a CIA gent." In October 2003, the story was listed as Reports that a White House official may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent."
⁷ January 19-22, 2007, asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."
⁸ In previous election years, the question wording of stories varies because of factors such as timing within the election cycle (primaries or general election) and the nature of the race (incumbent candidate or open field of candidates).

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1=100
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*=100
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1=100
June, 2004	28	34	19	18	1=100
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*=100
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1=100
Early February, 2004	29	37	20	13	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1=100
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1=100
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1=100
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1=100
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1=100
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1=100
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1=100
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1=100
2000 Presidential Election					
Early November, 2000 (RVs)	39	44	12	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	8=100
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1=100
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*=100
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1=100
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1=100
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*=100
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1=100
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1=100
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*=100
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1=100
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1=100
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1=100
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
1996 Presidential Election					
November, 1996 (RVs)	34	45	15	6	*=100
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*=100
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*=100
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1=100
April, 1996	23	35	25	17	*=100
March, 1996	26	41	20	13	*=100
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1=100
September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*=100
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*=100
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1=100
1992 Presidential Election					
October, 1992 (RVs)	55	36	7	2	0=100
September, 1992 (RVs)	47	36	11	6	*=100
August, 1992 (RVs)	36	51	11	2	0=100
July, 1992	20	45	26	9	*=100
May, 1992	32	44	16	8	*=100
March, 1992	35	40	16	9	*=100
January, 1992	11	25	36	27	1=100

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*=100
1988 Presidential Election					
October, 1988 (RVs)	43	44	11	2	*=100
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*=100
May, 1988	22	46	23	6	3=100
November, 1987	15	28	35	21	1=100
September, 1987	14	34	37	14	1=100
e. The firing of eight federal prosecutors by the Justice Department	9	17	22	52	*=100
f. The record \$390 million lottery jackpot drawing	9	14	27	49	1=100

Q.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? (**DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**)

- 27 News about the current situation in Iraq
- Conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where many soldiers are treated after returning from Iraq
- 20 from Iraq
- 13 News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election
- 6 The verdict in the trial of former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby
- 3 The record \$390 million lottery jackpot drawing
- 1 The firing of eight federal prosecutors by the Justice Department
- 11 Some other story (**SPECIFY**)
- 19 Don't know/Refused
- 100

ROTATE Q.3 AND Q.4

IF DON'T KNOW/REFUSED IN Q.2, SKIP Q.3/4 [N=827]:

Q.3 Of all the stories I just mentioned, which of them, if any, received TOO MUCH coverage? [**DO NOT READ; DISPLAY PRE-CODES; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE**]

- 16 News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election
- 16 The verdict in the trial of former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby
- 13 The record \$390 million lottery jackpot drawing
- 9 News about the current situation in Iraq
- Conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where many soldiers are treated after returning from Iraq
- 4 from Iraq
- 3 The firing of eight federal prosecutors by the Justice Department
- 33 No/None of these
- 16 Don't know/Refused

Q.4 Of all the stories I just mentioned, which of them, if any received too little coverage? **[DO NOT READ; DISPLAY PRE-CODES; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE]**

24	Conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where many soldiers are treated after returning from Iraq
16	The firing of eight federal prosecutors by the Justice Department
13	News about the current situation in Iraq
8	The verdict in the trial of former vice presidential aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby
7	News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election
3	The record \$390 million lottery jackpot drawing
27	No/None of these
16	Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Now a few questions about the recent trial involving former vice presidential aide Lewis Libby...

ROTATE QUESTIONS 5 THROUGH 7

Q.5 Did you find this story hard to follow or easy to follow?

34	Hard to follow
49	Easy to follow
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.6 Do you think this story was important for the country or not important for the country?

59	Important for the country
30	Not important for the country
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.7 Was this story interesting to you or was it boring?

37	Interesting
51	Boring
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	