PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
September 1-12, 1999
N=1,205

Q.1   Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER
        AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH:** Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill
        Clinton is handling his job as President? **IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
September, 1999	56	36	8=100
July, 1999	58	31	11=100
June, 1999	55	35	10=100
May, 1999	56	34	10=100
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2   Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH:** Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

AND NOW FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF QUESTION ...

Q.2a   Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Al Gore. Tell me just the ONE best word
that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW".
ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.
RECORD EXACT WORD(S) RESPONDENT GIVES).**

Sept 1999	Frequency*	March 1999	Frequency*	Sept 1997	Frequency*	Early Sept 1996	Frequency*
Boring	61	Boring	66	Okay	59	Intelligent	20
Good	46	Quiet	38	Good	52	Good	16
Okay	36	Good	38	Boring	42	Environmentalist	15
Quiet	20	Okay	33	Stiff	30	Honest	14
Dull	18	Weak	29	Intelligent	27	Leadership	14
Stiff	18	Honest	27	Honest	27	Smart	14
Nice	16	Dull	27	Fair	25	Quiet	13
Alright	14	Wimp	22	Quiet	24	Stiff	13
Fair	14	Competent	21	Wimp	24	Fair	12
Intelligent	11	Incompetent	20	Environmentalist	21	Boring	11
Honest	10	Stiff	19	Competent	21	Follower	11
Idiot	10	Unknown	18	Nice	20	Nice	11
Likable	10	Intelligent	18	Invisible	19	Alright	9
Weak	10	Follower	17	Dull	18	Dull	9
Competent	9	Environmentalist	17	Unknown	15	Personable	9
Dislike	9	Idiot	16	Phony	14	Sincere	9
Follower	9	Alright	14	Alright	13	Wimp	8
Incompetent	9	Bland	13	Fine	13	OK	7
Unimpressed	9	Puppet	11	Follower	13	Politician	6
Bad	7	Stupid	11	Adequate	13	Puppet	5
(N=1205)		**(N=1786)**		**(N=2000)**		**(N=750)**	

* Q.2a The "Frequency" column is the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers <u>are</u>
<u>not</u> percentages.

Q.2b   Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

Sept 1999	Frequency*	March 1999	Frequency*
Good	63	Good	42
Okay	37	Okay	25
Alright	27	Unknown	24
Likable	27	Leader	20
Honest	22	Honest	16
Unknown	20	Great	15
Dislike	15	Conservative	14
Intelligent	13	Fair	13
Rich	12	Old	11
Conservative	11	Alright	11
Fair	10	Intelligent	10
Impressive	10	Excellent	9
Interesting	10	Republican	8
Politician	10	Potential	7
Aggressive	9	Interesting	7
Arrogant	9	Confident	6
Leader	9	Fine	6
Smart	8	Nice	6
Young	8	Strong	6
Confident	7	Competent	6
(N=1205)		**(N=893)**	

* Q.2b The "Frequency" column is the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers <u>are</u> <u>not</u> percentages.

Q.3   Do you happen to know in what year President Clinton's impeachment trial in the Senate ENDED?
IF ANSWER "1 YES" IN QUESTION 3, ASK:
Q.4   Which year? **(OPEN-ENDED; DO NOT READ RESPONSES)**

43	Yes, 1999	
57	Incorrect/Don't know	
	28	Yes, 1998
	2	Earlier than 1998
	27	No/Don't know/Refused
100		

ASK ALL:

Q.5   Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS]**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK (VOL)
a.	The earthquake in Turkey	27	37	23	12	1=100
b.	News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election	15	31	33	20	1=100
	July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
	June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100
c.	Political instability in Russia	9	23	34	33	1=100
	September, 1998[1]	18	30	28	24	*=100
	Late August, 1998[2]	8	22	29	41	*=100
d.	The debate and discussion in Washington over how much to cut taxes	18	30	28	23	1=100
	July, 1999	14	34	21	31	*=100
e.	The shootings in a Jewish community center in Los Angeles	29	34	22	14	1=100
f.	The situation in Kosovo	26	35	23	15	1=100
	July, 1999	32	42	16	10	*=100
	June, 1999[3]	32	42	15	10	1=100
	May, 1999	32	38	19	10	1=100
	Late April, 1999	41	39	13	7	*=100
	April, 1999	41	37	16	6	0=100
	March, 1999[4]	43	32	15	9	1=100
	February, 1999[5]	11	30	28	30	1=100
	Mid-January, 1999[6]	9	21	24	44	2=100
	March, 1998[7]	5	12	26	55	2=100

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[1]   In September 1998, the story was listed as "Economic and political instability in Russia."

[2]   In Late August 1998, the story was listed as "Economic problems in Russia."

[3]   In April, May and June, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces."

[4]   In March 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo."

[5]   In February 1999, the story was listed as "NATO efforts to end ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

[6]   In Mid-January 1999, the story was listed as "The massacre of 45 people in Kosovo, Serbia."

[7]   In March 1998, the story was listed as "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

Q.5 CONTINUED ...

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK (VOL)
g.	New charges about the FBI's actions at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas	22	28	29	20	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=592]:

Q.6F1 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 2000 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		July 1999	March 1996	Oct 1995	Sept 1992	Feb 1992	Oct 1991	May 1988	Nov 1987
28	Too much	18	29	18	22	19	12	24	21
14	Too little	13	10	18	11	15	22	7	16
49	Right amount	59	58	60	62	62	58	62	58
9	Don't know/Refused	10	3	4	5	4	8	7	5
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=613]:

Q.7F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to Hillary Clinton's possible Senate campaign in New York, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		July 1999
48	Too Much	40
6	Too little	7
39	Right amount	45
7	Don't know/Refused	8
100		100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...

Y1. How do you feel about the coming of the year 2000? Do you think this has any special significance or do you think it will be just another year on the calendar?

		April 1999
29	Special significance	33
68	Just another year on the calendar	64
3	Don't know/Refused	3
100		100

Y2.   Now I'm going to read a list. Please tell me if each item describes how you feel about the coming of the year 2000. (First,) (**READ; ROTATE**), does this describe how you feel about the coming of the year 2000, or not? What about ...

		Yes	No	DK/Ref
a.	Hopeful	81	18	1=100
	April, 1999	79	20	1=100
b.	Curious	64	35	1=100
	April, 1999	68	31	1=100
c.	Excited	42	57	1=100
	April, 1999	43	56	1=100
d.	Worried	16	83	1=100
	April, 1999	25	74	1=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...
ROTATE Q.7a AND Q.7b

Q.7a   Do you happen to know the names of any of the Republicans running for their party's presidential nomination? Who are they? (**OPEN-END; DO NOT READ RESPONSES; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES: "CAN YOU NAME ANY OTHERS?"**)

		Republican/ Lean Rep
7	Dan Quayle	9
54	George W. Bush	60
16	Elizabeth Dole	22
11	Steve Forbes	13
7	Patrick Buchanan	10
7	John McCain	10
2	Gary Bauer	3
2	Orrin Hatch	3
4	Alan Keyes	4
2	Other	2
8	Could not recall names	6
29	Don't know/Refused	24
		(N=491)

Q.7b   Do you happen to know the names of any of the Democrats running for their party's presidential nomination? Who are they? (**OPEN-END; DO NOT READ RESPONSES; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR MULTIPLE RESPONSES: "CAN YOU NAME ANY OTHERS?"**)

		Democrat/ Lean Dem
46	Al Gore	47
16	Bill Bradley	15
2	Other	3
48	Don't know/Refused	47
		(N=531)

NOW A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE ...
ROTATE BLOCK Q.7c THROUGH Q.7e WITH BLOCK Q.7f THROUGH Q.7g; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NAMES:

Q.7c   Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? **(PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.) (READ AND ROTATE)**

Q.7d   And who would be your SECOND choice? **(READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) — IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.7e.**

Q.7e   Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=369]:

	Sept 1999	July 1999	Dec 1998
Dan Quayle			
First Choice/Lean Quayle	5	9	8
Second Choice	8	14	15
George W. Bush			
First Choice/Lean Bush	56	60	57
Second Choice	21	19	17
Elizabeth Dole			
First Choice/Lean Dole	15	13	N/A
Second Choice	28	27	N/A
Steve Forbes			
First Choice/Lean Forbes	5	3	9
Second Choice	8	11	14
Patrick Buchanan			
First Choice/Lean Buchanan	3	4	5
Second Choice	8	6	11
John McCain			
First Choice/Lean McCain	6	4	4
Second Choice	6	8	6
Gary Bauer			
First Choice/Lean Bauer	1	2	1
Second Choice	1	2	3
Orrin Hatch			
First Choice/Lean Hatch	3	1	N/A
Second Choice	2	4	N/A
Alan Keyes			
First Choice/Lean Keyes	2	N/A	N/A
Second Choice	2	N/A	N/A
None of them **(VOL)**			
First Choice	3	1	5
Second Choice	4	5	15
Don't know/Refused **(VOL)**			
First Choice	4	2	5
Second Choice	3	2	8

Q.7c2   Would you say you are a strong supporter of **(CHOICE FROM Q.7c)** or aren't you strongly committed to this candidate for the Republican nomination?

BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN:
George W. Bush (N=197)
53   Strong supporter
45   Are not strongly committed
 2   Other/Don't know/Refused
100

All other possible candidates (N=144)
49   Strong supporter
50   Are not strongly committed
 1   Other/Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:
Q.7f   There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President?
Q.7g   Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=388]:

		July 1999
58	Al Gore/Lean Gore	65
32	Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley	29
5	None of them **(VOL)**	2
5	Don't know/Refused **(VOL)**	4
100		100

Q.7f2   Would you say you are a strong supporter of **(CHOICE FROM Q.7f)** or aren't you strongly committed to this candidate for the Democratic party?

BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT:
Al Gore (N=208)
55   Strong supporter
43   Are not strongly committed
 2   Other/Don't know/Refused
100

Bill Bradley (N=120)
37   Strong supporter
60   Are not strongly committed
 3   Other/Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK:

Q.8a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=867]:

		July 1999	March 1999[8]	Jan 1999	Early Sept 1998
39	Gore/Lean Gore	42	41	44	40
54	Bush/Lean Bush	53	54	50	53
7	Undecided/Other/DK	5	5	6	7
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, George W. Bush, the Republican, and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party. Who would you vote for?

IF '4' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK:

Q.9a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat, Bush, the Republican, or Buchanan of the Reform Party?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=867]:

35	Gore/Lean Gore
49	Bush/Lean Bush
10	Buchanan/Lean Buchanan
6	Other/Don't Know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Now I'd like to ask you some questions about how good a job the news media are doing these days. How good a job are news organizations doing at reporting about... **(INSERT ITEM: READ AND ROTATE)** an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job. And how good of a job are they doing at reporting **(NEXT ITEM)**...

		Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	DK/Ref
a.	The activities of Congress	5	32	38	17	8=100
	September, 1995	7	38	38	12	5=100
b.	The race for the Republican presidential nomination	6	40	34	11	9=100
	September, 1995	6	39	38	9	8=100
c.	The race for the Democratic presidential nomination	6	36	37	12	9=100
d.	The situation in Kosovo	15	42	26	9	7=100

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8   In previous months, the question asked: "Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Texas governor George W. Bush, the Republican..."

NO QUESTION 11

Q.12　Now I am going to read you a series of statements. For each, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. (The first one is...) **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)**

		Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree	DK/ Refused
a.	I am tired of all the problems associated with the Clinton administration	48	26	14	10	2=100
	March, 1999	46	28	15	8	3=100
b.	I wish Bill Clinton could run for a third term	17	14	19	48	2=100
	March, 1999	16	13	19	50	2=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...

Q.13　As you may know, there has been discussion in Washington recently about a major tax cut that would take place over the next 10 years. If this bill becomes law, do you think the tax cuts will generally be fair to everyone, OR will the tax cuts mainly benefit some people much more than others?

12　Will be fair
82　Benefit some people much more than others
2　Other **(VOL)**
4　Don't know/Refused
100

IF '2' BENEFIT SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS" IN Q.13, ASK [N=984]:

Q.13a　Who will mainly benefit from the tax cuts: the wealthy, the middle class, or the poor?

80　Wealthy
9　Middle class
6　Poor
1　Other **(VOL)**
4　Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.14　If taxes are cut by as much as proposed, how much do you think YOUR OWN federal taxes will go down per year: by less than $100, $100 to $500, $500 to $1,000, or more than $1,000?

40　Less than $100
26　$100 to $500
9　$500 to $1,000
5　More than $1,000
3　Taxes will stay the same **(VOL)**
*　Taxes will increase **(VOL)**
17　Don't know/Refused
100

NO QUESTION 15

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.15a   Which one of the following groups plays the most influential role in determining which issues and events are considered important these days? **(READ LIST)**

		Jan 1994
19	Business leaders	11
24	Political leaders in Washington	22
36	The press	43
6	Religious leaders	7
9	Hollywood	10
6	Don't know/Refused	7
100		100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.16   In deciding which stories to cover during an election, do you think news editors care more about the opinions of their audience, or do news editors care more about the opinions of politicians and political insiders?

34	Audience
59	Politicians and political insiders
7	Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTION 17

ASK ALL:

Q.18   How much influence do you think news organizations have on which candidates become presidential nominees: too much, too little or about the right amount?

		Feb 1992	Jan 1992[9]	May 1988	Jan 1988	Nov 1987[10]
64	Too much	58	53	47	51	59
4	Too little	5	4	4	4	5
30	About the right amount	33	40	41	37	31
2	Don't know/Refused	4	3	8	8	5
100		100	100	100	100	100

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[9]   In January 1988, May 1988 and January 1992, the question was asked: "How much influence do you feel news organizations have on which candidates become presidential nominees?"

[10]   In November 1987, the question asked: "How much influence do you feel news organizations have on which candidates become their parties' presidential nominees?"

ROTATE Q. 19, Q.20, AND Q.21

Q.19   How much influence do you think large political donors have on which candidates become presidential nominees: too much, too little, or about the right amount?

    74   Too much
    6   Too little
    16   About the right amount
    4   Don't know/Refused
    100

Q.20   How much influence do you think the average voter has on which candidates become presidential nominees: too much, too little, or about the right amount?

    8   Too much
    62   Too little
    28   About the right amount
    2   Don't know/Refused
    100

Q.21   How much influence do you think party leaders have on which candidates become presidential nominees: too much, too little, or about the right amount?

    46   Too much
    12   Too little
    38   About the right amount
    4   Don't know/Refused
    100

NO QUESTION 22

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=592]:

Q.23F1 In the way they have been covering the Presidential race so far, do you think that news organizations are biased in favor of the Democrats, biased in favor of the Republicans, or don't you think news organizations have shown any bias one way or the other?

		April 1996	Aug 1988	Jan 1988	Nov 1987
19	Democratic bias	20	22	9	16
14	Republican bias	14	7	10	11
52	No bias	53	58	58	62
15	Don't know/Refused	13	13	23	11
100		100	100	100	100

Q.23F2   In the way they have been covering the Presidential race so far, do you think that news organizations are biased in favor of Al Gore, or biased in favor of George W. Bush, or don't you think news organizations have shown any bias one way or the other?

14	Biased in favor of Gore
26	Biased in favor in Bush
45	No bias
4	Other (**VOL**)
11	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:
Q.24   All in all, do you think that news organizations are too easy, too tough, or are they generally fair in their coverage of the following types of presidential candidates: **[ROTATE ITEMS]**

		Too Easy	Too Tough	Fair	DK/ Refused
a.	A candidate who is the frontrunner	30	22	41	7=100
	November, 1987	15	24	55	6=100
b.	A female candidate	10	45	40	5=100
	November, 1987	5	48	40	7=100
c.	A candidate who is far behind in the race	15	40	37	8=100
	November, 1987	12	31	48	9=100
d.	A candidate with liberal views	24	28	42	6=100
	November, 1987	15	22	55	8=100
e.	A candidate who is associated with a religious group	12	39	42	7=100
	November, 1987	10	36	46	8=100
f.	An African-American candidate	9	39	44	8=100
	November, 1987[11]	9	30	55	6=100
g.	A candidate with conservative views	17	30	46	7=100
	November, 1987	10	23	60	7=100

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[11]   In November 1987, the category was listed as "A black candidate."

Q.25   Some say that close scrutiny of political candidates by news organizations is not worth it because it discourages too many good people from running for President. Others say that press scrutiny is worth it because it lets voters really know who is and is not personally qualified to be President. Which comes closer to your view?

		Nov 1987
42	Not worth it	32
53	Worth it	59
5	Don't know/Refused	9
100		100

Q.26   For each of the following stories about presidential candidates, please tell me whether you feel it should almost always be reported, whether it should sometimes be reported depending on the particular circumstances, or whether it should almost never be reported?

		Almost always	Sometimes	Almost never	DK/ Refused
ASK ALL:					
a.	A candidate is found to have used cocaine as a young adult	35	24	40	1=100
(ROTATE ITEMS b THROUGH g)					
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=592]:					
b.F1	A candidate is having an extramarital affair	43	20	36	1=100
	November, 1987	41	25	32	2=100
c.F1	A candidate is found to have been treated by a psychiatrist in the past	28	29	41	2=100
d.F1	A candidate is a homosexual	38	15	44	3=100
	November, 1987	55	17	26	2=100
e.F1	A candidate is known to have physically abused a spouse	71	17	10	2=100
f.F1	A candidate is found to have exaggerated his or her academic record	61	23	14	2=100
	November, 1987[12]	64	25	9	2=100
g.F1	A candidate is found to have had a drinking problem in the past	36	30	33	1=100
(ROTATE ITEMS h THROUGH m)					
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=613]:					
h.F2	A candidate is found to have used marijuana as a young adult	23	19	57	1=100

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[12]   In November 1987, the category was listed as "A candidate is found to have exaggerated his academic record."

16

Q.26 CONTINUED ...

		Almost always	Sometimes	Almost never	DK/ Refused
i.F2	A female candidate is found to have had an abortion	17	11	70	2=100
j.F2	A candidate is found to have exaggerated his or her record of military service	61	23	14	2=100
	November, 1987[13]	68	22	8	2=100
k.F2	A candidate is found to have not paid federal income tax once in the past	65	21	12	2=100
	November, 1987[14]	65	22	11	2=100
l.F2	A candidate is found to have had an extramarital affair in the past	23	21	55	1=100
m.F2	A candidate is found to have taken anti-depressants	20	23	55	2=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...

Q.27   I'm going to read you a list of environmental problems. As I read each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all? First, how much do you personally worry about... **[INSERT ITEM. ROTATE]** . . a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**

	Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not At All	DK/ Refused
a. The "greenhouse effect" or global warming	30	29	25	14	2=100
November, 1997	24	30	26	15	5=100
Gallup: October, 1997	24	26	29	17	4=100
Gallup: April, 1990	30	27	20	16	6=100
Gallup: May, 1989	35	28	18	12	7=100
b. Damage to the earth's ozone layer	39	30	19	11	1=100
November, 1997	40	28	21	9	2=100
Gallup: October, 1997	33	27	25	13	2=100
Gallup: April, 1990	43	28	15	10	4=100
Gallup: May, 1989	51	26	13	8	2=100
c. Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste	57	27	11	4	1=100
November, 1997	59	24	13	4	*=100
Gallup: April, 1990	63	22	10	5	*=100
Gallup: May, 1989	69	21	7	3	*=100

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[13]   In November 1987, the category was listed as "A candidate is found to have exaggerated his record of military service."

[14]   In November 1987, the category was listed as "A candidate is found to have not paid federal income tax once in his past."

Q.27 CONTINUED ...

	Great Deal	Fair Amount	Only a Little	Not At All	DK/ Refused
d. Air pollution	49	32	14	5	*=100
November, 1997	47	34	14	4	1=100
Gallup: October, 1997	42	34	18	5	1=100
Gallup: April, 1990	58	29	9	4	*=100
Gallup: May, 1989	63	25	8	4	*=100
e. Pollution of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs	59	27	9	4	1=100
November, 1997	61	27	9	3	*=100
Gallup: April, 1990	64	23	9	4	*=100
Gallup: May, 1989	72	19	5	3	1=100

NO QUESTION 28

AND ON ANOTHER MATTER ...
ASK ALL:
Q.29   Would you favor or oppose a law that banned the sale of handguns?

		May 1999	Dec 1993
46	Favor	44	45
50	Oppose	50	51
4	Don't know/Refused	6	4
100		100	100

Q.30   Now I am going to read you a list of some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it. The first one is... **(READ AND ROTATE)**.

		Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	DK/ Refused
a.	The death penalty for persons convicted of murder	41	33	15	7	4=100
	June, 1996	43	35	11	7	4=100
b.	Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children	10	28	27	30	5=100
c.	Requiring that women under 18 years get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion	42	27	18	10	3=100
	May, 1992		73		23	4=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.31   Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.31, ASK:

Q.32   Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

		July 1999	June 1999	May 1999	April 1999	March 1999	Feb 1999	Jan 1999	Dec 1998	Nov 1998	Early Sept 1998	Early Aug 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	Early June 1995[15]
53	Goes online	49	50	48	51	49	49	47	42	37	42	43	36	23	14
47	Does not go online	51	50	52	49	51	51	53	58	63	58	57	63	77	86
0	DK/Refused	0	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	1	0	*
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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[15]   The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:
(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)
(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?