# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS MEDIA CONSUMPTION SURVEY

## FINAL TOPLINE

April 24 - May 11, 1998 T = Total Sample (N = 3.3,002) A = Form A (N = 1,499) B = Form B (N = 1,503)

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. [IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]

Q.1 (T) 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	<u>Disapprove</u>	Don't Know
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
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

### Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	Approve	<b>Disapprove</b>	Don't Know
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 (T) Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? (IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. 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 CODE 9.)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	Don't Know
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

### ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.3 (T) Do you happen to read any daily newspaper or newspapers regularly, or not?

Yes	<u>No</u>	Don't Know
68	32	*=100
71	28	1=100
69	34	*=100
71	29	*=100
73	27	*=100
74	26	*=100
70	30	0=100
71	29	*=100
75	25	*=100
73	27	*=100
70	30	*=100
72	27	1=100
74	26	0=100
72	28	0=100
71	29	0=100
71	29	0=100
	68 71 69 71 73 74 70 71 75 73 70 72 74 72 71	68 32 71 28 69 34 71 29 73 27 74 26 70 30 71 29 75 25 73 27 70 30 72 27 74 26 72 28 71 29

Q.4 (T) Do you happen to watch any TV news programs regularly, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Don't Know
April, 1998	80	20	*=100
April, 1996	81	19	0=100
June, 1995	78	22	*=100
March, 1995	82	18	*=100
October, 1994	81	19	*=100
July, 1994	81	19	*=100
February, 1994	84	16	0=100
January, 1994	85	15	*=100
June, 1992	85	15	*=100
July, 1991	84	16	*=100
May, 1991	84	16	*=100
January, 1991	88	12	*=100
November, 1990	80	20	*=100
October, 1990	81	19	0 = 100
July, 1990	81	19	0=100
May, 1990	80	20	0=100

Q.5 (T) Do you listen to news on the radio regularly, or not?

	Yes	<u>No</u>	Don't Know
April, 1998	52	48	*=100
April, 1996	51	49	*=100
June, 1995	50	50	*=100
March, 1995	54	46	*=100
October, 1994	51	49	*=100
July, 1994	52	48	0=100
February, 1994	53	47	0=100
January, 1994	52	48	*=100
June, 1992	54	46	*=100
May, 1991	53	47	*=100
January, 1991	55	45	*=100
November, 1990	55	45	*=100
October, 1990	54	46	0=100
May, 1990	56	44	*=100

Q.6 (T) We're interested in how often people watch the <u>major TV network evening news</u> programs -- by this we mean ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, CBS Evening News with Dan Rather, and NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw. Do you happen to watch TV <u>evening news programs regularly</u>, or not?

		April	March	May	Aug	May
		1996	1995	1990	1989	1987
59	Yes	59	65	67	67	71
41	No	41	35	32	33	28
*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	1	*	1
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.7 (T) 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? [READ AND ROTATE LIST]

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	(VOL)
		Closely	Closely	Closely	Closely	<u>DK</u>
a.	Allegations of sexual misconduct					
	against Bill Clinton	27	39	20	14	*=100
	March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
	February, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	21	44	25	10	*=100
	Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
b.	The debate in Washington over legislation					
	to regulate the tobacco industry	20	37	25	18	*=100
c.	The end of the TV comedy series Seinfeld	13	15	20	52	*=100
d.	An agreement between Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland on a new form					
	of government for Northern Ireland	7	20	29	43	1=100
e.	Candidates and election campaigns in your state	16	33	24	27	*=100
	November, 1994 <sup>2</sup>	18	42	25	15	*=100
	October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1=100
	Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1=100
	September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*=100
	November, 1990 <sup>3</sup>	38	34	17	11	*=100
	October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*=100

In February 1998, story was listed as "Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky."

In November 1994 and October 1994, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state and district."

In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

# INTERVIEWER NOTE: FOR QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 12 PLEASE DETERMINE WHAT DAY OF THE WEEK IT IS. IF THE DAY OF THE WEEK IS SUNDAY, PLEASE READ "FRIDAY." IF THE DAY OF THE WEEK IS NOT SUNDAY, READ "YESTERDAY."

Q.8 (T) Now, on another subject... Did you get a chance to read a daily newspaper yesterday, or not? **FORM A ONLY:** 

# IF "YES" IN QUESTION 8, ASK:

Q.9 (A) About how much time did you spend reading a daily newspaper yesterday? (DO NOT READ)

				Nov	April	June	March	Feb	Jan	March	Gallup
<u>(T)</u>	(A)			<u> 1997</u>	<u> 1996</u>	<u> 1995</u>	<u> 1995</u>	1994	<u> 1994</u>	<u> 1991</u>	<u>1965</u>
47	48	Read the pape	er	50	50	52	45	58	49	56	71
		8 Les	s than 15 min.	8	7	7	9	7	7	n/a	n/a
		14 15-2	29 min.	14	15	15	14	15	15	n/a	n/a
		17 30-	59 min.	17	18	18	16	21	17	n/a	n/a
		9 1 ho	our or more	10	10	11	6	14	10	n/a	n/a
		* Dor	n't know	1	*	1	0	1	*	n/a	n/a
52	52	Didn't read pa	aper	50	50	48	55	42	50	44	29
1	*	Don't know		0	*	*	*	0	1	*	0
100	100			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### ASK ALL:

Q.10 (T) Did you watch THE NEWS OR A NEWS PROGRAM on television yesterday, or not? FORM A ONLY:

# IF "YES" IN QUESTION 10, ASK:

Q.11 (A) About how much time did you spend watching the news or any news programs on TV yesterday? (**DO NOT READ**)

				Nov	April	June	March	Feb	Jan	March	Gallup
<u>(T)</u>	(A)			1997	1996	1995	1995	1994	1994	1991	<u>1965</u>
60	59	Watche	ed TV News	68	59	64	61	74	72	68	55
		3	Less than 15 min.	4	3	3	4	3	3	n/a	n/a
		7	15-29 min.	11	6	8	9	8	8	n/a	n/a
		21	30-59 min.	23	21	24	21	25	25	n/a	n/a
		28	1 hour or more	30	29	28	27	37	36	n/a	n/a
		*	Don't know	*	*	1	*	1	*	n/a	n/a
39	41	Did not	t watch	31	40	35	38	26	27	32	45
<u>1</u>	*	Don't k	now	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	*	0
100	100			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### ASK ALL:

Q.12 (T) About how much time, if any, did you spend listening to any news on the radio yesterday, or didn't you happen to listen to the news on the radio yesterday? (**DO NOT READ**)

			Nov	April	June	March	Feb	Jan	March	Gallup
			<u>1997</u>	<u> 1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1995</u>	1994	<u>1994</u>	<u> 1991</u>	<u>1965</u>
49	Yes, liste	ened	44	44	42	47	47	47	44	58
	16	Less than 15 min.	12	12	13	16	14	15	n/a	n/a
	9	15-29 min.	9	11	9	12	11	10	n/a	n/a
	10	30-59 min.	9	10	9	9	9	10	n/a	n/a
	14	1 hour or more	14	11	11	10	13	12	n/a	n/a
51	Didn't Listen		55	55	56	52	52	52	56	42
*	Don't kn	OW	1	1	2	<u>1</u>	1	1	*	0
100			100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### FORM A ONLY:

INTERVIEWER: IF THE DAY OF THE WEEK IS SUNDAY, BEGIN THIS SERIES WITH "Now, thinking about yesterday..." OTHERWISE BEGIN WITH "Again, thinking about yesterday..."

Q.13 (A) Did you spend any time reading magazines?

### IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES, READ MAGAZINES IN QUESTION 13 ASK:

Q.14 (A) About how much time did you spend reading magazines yesterday? (DO NOT READ)

			Nov	June	Feb
			<u>1997</u>	1995	<u>1994</u>
29	Yes		32	31	33
	4	Less than 15 minutes	6	4	5
	7	15 to less 30 minutes	8	8	9
	10	30 minutes to less than one hour	9	11	10
	8	One hour or more	9	8	9
	*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	*
71	No		68	69	67
*	Don't k	now	*	*	0
100			100	100	100

Q.15 (A) As I read from a list tell me if you did this yesterday or not.

Yesterday did you... (READ) INTERVIEWER: IF THE DAY OF THE WEEK IS SUNDAY OR MONDAY, DO NOT ASK ITEMS d AND  ${\bf e}^4$ 

				Doesn't	
		Yes	<u>No</u>	<b>Apply</b>	DK/NA
a.	Get some kind of vigorous exercise such as jogging,				
	working out at a gym, or playing a racquet sport;	36	64	_	0 = 100
	June, 1997	37	63	_	*=100
	February, 1994	26	74		*=100
b.	Use a personal computer at home;	29	71	_	*=100
	June, 1995	14	86	_	0 = 100
	February, 1994	14	86		0=100
c.	Go online from home	17	82		1=100
d.	Use a personal computer at work;	31	67	2	*=100
e.	Go online from work	12	85	3	*=100
f.	Call a friend or relative just to talk;	67	33	_	*=100
	June, 1997	65	35	_	*=100
	June, 1995	56	44	_	*=100
	February, 1994	63	37		*=100
g.	Have a family meal together;	67	32		1=100
	February, 1994	64	36		*=100
	COMPUTER USER (NET)	46	54	_	0=100
	GOES ONLINE (NET) <sup>5</sup> June, 1995	25 4	75 96		0=100 *=100

<sup>4</sup> N = 1,141 for items e and d.

<sup>5</sup> The net figure represents the percent who went online *either* from work or from home.

ASK ALL:

Q.16 (T) Now I'd like to know how often you watch or listen to certain TV and radio programs. For each that I read, tell me if you watch or listen to it regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never. (First) how often do you ... (READ AND ROTATE) How often do you...

	NOTITE) 110 W Often do you			Hardly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	<u>Ever</u>	Never	Don't Know
a.	Watch the national nightly network news on CBS,	Regularry	<u>Bonnetimes</u>	<u> Ever</u>	110101	Don't Know
и.	ABC or NBC? This is different from local news					
	shows about the area where you live	38	29	15	18	*=100
	February, 1997	41	31	14	14	*=100
	April, 1996	42	29	15	14	*=100
	March, 1995	48	28	14	10	*=100
	May, 1993	60	28	5	6	1=100
	February, 1993	58	23	10	9	*=100
b.	Watch the local news about your viewing area? This					
٠.	usually comes on before the national news and then					
	later at night at 10 or 11	64	22	6	8	*=100
	February, 1997	72	16	7	5	0=100
	April, 1996	65	23	7	5	*=100
	March, 1995	72	18	6	4	*=100
	May, 1993	77	16	5	4	*=100
	February, 1993	76	16	5	3	*=100
c.	Watch Cable News Network (CNN)	23	34	13	30	*=100
	February, 1997	28	30	14	28	0=100
	April, 1996	26	33	14	27	*=100
	March, 1995	30	28	13	28	1=100
	July, 1994	33	36	7	24	*=100
	February, 1994	31	32	8	29	*=100
	May, 1993	35	34	7	24	*=100
	June, 1992	30	32	10	27	1=100
	July, 1990	27	28	8	36	1=100
	June, 1990	30	27	6	37	*=100
	May, 1990	27	25	7	40	1=100
	April, 1990	26	29	7	37	1=100
	March, 1990	22	28	8	41	1=100
	February, 1990	23	29	8	40	0=100
	January, 1990	26	25	7	41	1=100
d.	Watch C-SPAN	4	19	18	58	1=100
	April, 1996	6	21	18	53	2=100
	March, 1995	8	17	20	53	2=100
	July, 1994	9	26	12	52	1=100
	February, 1994	7	20	15	56	2=100
	May, 1993	11	25	13	48	3=100
	Feb, 1993	7	18	14	45	16=100
	June, 1992	6	19	18	54	3=100

### **Q.16** (T) **CONTINUED** ...

<b>Q</b> (-	-,			Hardly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	<u>Ever</u>	Never	Don't Know
e.	Listen to National Public Radio (NPR)	15	17	18	49	1=100
	April, 1996	13	18	16	52	1=100
	March, 1995	15	17	21	46	1=100
	July, 1994	9	18	11	62	*=100
	February, 1994	9	13	12	65	1=100
	May, 1993 <sup>6</sup>	15	20	15	49	1=100
	June, 1992	7	16	17	59	1=100
	July, 1990	9	13	8	70	*=100
	June, 1990	9	10	11	69	1=100
	May, 1990	7	11	10	72	*=100
	April, 1990	7	12	9	71	1=100
	March, 1990	7	9	10	74	*=100
	February, 1990	8	10	8	74	*=100
	January, 1990	5	10	7	78	*=100
f.	Watch news magazine shows such					
	as 60 Minutes, 20/20 or Dateline <sup>7</sup>	37	41	12	10	*=100
	April, 1996	36	38	15	11	*=100
	July, 1994	43	43	8	6	*=100
	February, 1994	45	36	11	8	0 = 100
	May, 1993	52	37	6	5	*=100
	Feb, 1993	49	32	11	8	*=100
	June, 1992	46	40	8	6	*=100
	July, 1990	46	38	8	8	*=100
	June, 1990	50	36	6	8	*=100
	May, 1990	45	37	8	10	*=100
	April, 1990	47	37	7	9	*=100
	March, 1990	41	42	7	10	*=100
	February, 1990	39	41	10	10	0 = 100
	January, 1990	43	40	8	9	*=100
g.	Watch the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	4	14	14	67	1=100
	April, 1996 <sup>8</sup>	4	10	11	73	2=100
	July, 1994	7	23	11	58	1=100
	February, 1994	6	16	11	66	1=100
	May, 1993	10	24	14	51	1=100
	June, 1992	6	19	17	56	2=100
	July, 1990	7	16	11	66	*=100
	June, 1990	7	16	12	64	1=100
	May, 1990	8	15	11	65	1=100
	April, 1990	6	16	11	66	1=100
	March, 1990	5	19	12	63	1=100
	February, 1990	5	15	11	69	0 = 100
	January, 1990	6	15	12	67	*=100

In previous months the question was asked "Programs on National Public Radio, such as Morning Edition or All Things Considered."

<sup>7</sup> In previous months the question was asked "Watch news magazine shows such as 60 Minutes or 20/20."

In 1996, the question was asked "Jim Lehrer NewsHour;" previously the question was asked "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour." The change in the program name may have contributed to the decline in viewership.

# Q.16 (T) CONTINUED ...

Q.10 (1	) CONTINUED			Hordly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	Hardly <u>Ever</u>	Never	Don't Know
h.	Watch MTV	6	15	16	63	*=100
	April, 1996	7	13	16	63	1=100
	July, 1994	6	19	15	60	*=100
	February, 1994 <sup>9</sup>	9	18	12	60	1=100
	February, 1993	5	14	15	61	5=100
	1 columny, 1995	3		10	01	5-100
i.	Watch TV shows such as Hard Copy or Inside Edition	14	33	23	30	*=100
	February, 1997 <sup>10</sup>	15	34	23	28	*=100
	April, 1996	19	35	20	26	*=100
	July, 1994	24	40	18	18	0=100
	February, 1994 <sup>11</sup>	19	34	18	29	*=100
j.	Watch the daytime talk shows Ricki Lake,					
3	Jerry Springer, or Jenny Jones	13	15	14	58	*=100
	June, 1997	8	13	20	59	*=100
	April, 1996	10	14	17	59	*=100
	1 /					
k.	Watch Court TV a cable channel	6	14	14	66	*=100
	April, 1996	4	13	12	70	1=100
	February, 1993	7	18	14	45	16=100
	,					
1.	Watch the Today Show, Good Morning					
	America or CBS This Morning	23	19	17	41	*=100
	Č					
m.	Watch CNBC	12	27	17	42	2=100
n.	Watch the FOX News CABLE Channel	17	30	14	38	1=100
0.	Watch MSNBC	8	23	15	51	3=100
p.	Watch the Weather Channel	33	27	13	27	*=100
•						
q.	Watch ESPN Sports News	20	20	15	45	*=100
•	•					
r.	Watch Entertainment Tonight	8	27	24	41	*=100
	February, 1997	9	29	23	39	*=100
	June, 1992	11	30	24	35	*=100
	April, 1990	14	30	17	39	*=100
	March, 1990	15	31	15	39	*=100
	February, 1990	11	31	16	42	0=100
	January, 1990	11	34	16	39	0=100
			٠.			0 200

<sup>9</sup> In February 1994, the question was asked "MTV or VH1."

<sup>10</sup> In February 1997, April 1996 and July 1994, the question included "A Current Affair."

<sup>11</sup> In February 1994, the question was asked about "A Current Affair" only.

### **FORM A ONLY: [N = 1,499]**

Q.17 (A) Now I'd like to ask you about some other television and radio programs. For each that I read, tell me if you watch or listen to it regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never. (First) how often do you ... (**READ AND ROTATE**)

				Hardly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	Ever	Never	Don't Know
a.	Watch Larry King Live	4	20	15	61	*=100
b.	Watch Rivera Live with Geraldo Rivera	3	13	13	71	*=100
c.	Listen to Dr. Laura Schlesinger's radio show	3	9	8	80	*=100
d.	Listen to Don Imus' radio show	1	3	6	89	1=100
e.	Listen to Howard Stern's radio show	4	10	10	76	*=100
f.	Listen to Rush Limbaugh's radio show	5	11	11	73	*=100
	June, 1997	5	11	12	71	1=100
	April, 1996	7	11	11	70	1=100
	July, 1994	6	20	13	61	*=100
g.	Listen to religious radio shows such					
-	as "Focus on the Family"	10	16	11	63	*=100
	June, 1997	11	17	15	57	*=100
	April, 1996	11	14	13	62	*=100

### ASK ALL:

Q.18 (T) Now I'd like to know how often you read certain types of publications. As I read each, tell me if you read them regularly, sometimes, hardly ever or never. (First,) how about... (**READ AND ROTATE**) How often do you read... Hardly

		Regularly	Sometimes	Ever	Never	Don't Know
a.	News magazines such as Time, U.S. News, or Newsweel	x 15	36	17	32	*=100
`	April, 1996	15	35	20	30	*=100
	July, 1994	18	41	18	23	*=100
	February, 1994	16	31	23	30	*=100
	May, 1993	24	39	14	23	*=100
	June, 1992	20	39	18	23	*=100
	July, 1990	18	34	18	30	*=100
	June, 1990	21	39	16	24	*=100
	May, 1990	17	34	19	30	*=100
	April, 1990	20	35	16	29	*=100
	March, 1990	16	35	19	30	*=100
	February, 1990	17	36	18	29	0 = 100
	January, 1990	18	34	17	31	0=100
b.	Business magazines such as Fortune and Forbes	5	16	15	64	*=100
	April, 1996	5	17	16	62	*=100
	July, 1994	5	21	21	53	0 = 100
	February, 1994	6	15	17	62	*=100
	June, 1992	5	17	21	57	*=100
	July, 1990	5	15	14	66	*=100
	June, 1990	6	16	16	62	*=100
	May, 1990	4	14	15	67	*=100
	April, 1990	5	15	14	66	*=100
	March, 1990	5	14	14	67	0 = 100
	February, 1990	4	12	14	70	*=100
	January, 1990	5	13	14	68	0=100

# Q.18 (T) CONTINUED ...

				Hardly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	Ever	Never	Don't Know
c.	The National Enquirer, The Sun or The Star	3	12	9	76	*=100
	February, 1997	5	6	12	77	0=100
	April, 1996	5	11	12	72	*=100
	July, 1994	5	13	16	66	*=100
	June, 1992	5	13	14	68	*=100
	March, 1990	5	15	13	67	*=100
	February, 1990	7	13	13	67	*=100
	January, 1990	7	12	13	68	0=100
d.	Personality magazines such as People <sup>12</sup>	8	29	18	45	0=100
	February, 1994	9	22	22	47	*=100
	May, 1993	12	25	19	44	*=100
	June, 1992	8	28	25	39	*=100
	July, 1990	9	25	18	48	*=100
	June, 1990	10	28	19	43	*=100
	May, 1990	7	24	19	50	*=100
	April, 1990	9	25	20	46	*=100
	March, 1990	8	25	20	47	*=100
	February, 1990	8	24	19	49	*=100
	January, 1990	9	23	19	49	0=100
e.	Magazines such as The Atlantic Monthly, Harpers					
	or The New Yorker	2	8	11	79	0 = 100
	February, 1994	2	6	14	78	*=100
	June, 1992	2	9	16	73	*=100
	July, 1990	2	8	11	79	*=100
	June, 1990	2	8	13	77	*=100
	May, 1990	2	7	12	79	*=100
	April, 1990	2	6	12	80	*=100
	March, 1990	2	7	13	78	0=100
	February, 1990	2	7	10	81	*=100
	January, 1990	2	7	11	80	0=100

<sup>12</sup> In previous years (through February 1994), question also included "US" magazine.

### SPLIT FORM B INTO B1 AND B2

**FORM B1 ONLY: [N = 757]** 

Q.19 (B1) Now, a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word or phrase best describes your impression of THE NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA. (OPEN ENDED. PROBE FOR UP TO 3 RESPONSES: Are there any

other words or phrases that describe your impression of the national news media?)

**FORM B2 ONLY: [N = 746]** 

Q.20 (B2) Now, a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word or phrase best describes your impression of THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA IN YOUR AREA. (OPEN ENDED. PROBE FOR UP TO 3 RESPONSES:

Are there any other words or phrases that describe your impression of the local news media in your area?)

### **General Response Categories:**

Natl.	Local	
%	%	
52	27	Negative (NET)
12	4	Over the top
11	2	Biased
6	1	Intrusive
6	5	General content (negative)
1	2	Violent
20	52	Positive (NET)
30	32	I OSICIVE (INDI)
10	36	General good
		, ,
10	36	General good
10 7	36	General good Informative
10 7 6	36 10 7	General good Informative Enjoyable
10 7 6 3	36 10 7 4	General good Informative Enjoyable Thorough

# The following results are the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

National N	News Media	Local Ne	ews Media
"Top 25"F	<u>requency</u>	"Top 25"	Frequency
61	Biased	138	Good
58	Good	52	Informative
53	Informative	36	Adequate
34	Sensationalism	35	Fair
29	Fair	28	Good job
28	Okay	27	Excellent
21	Liberal	27	Okay
17	Boring	27	Very good
16	Interesting	22	Sensationalistic
15	Thorough	18	Up-to-date
13	Nosy	17	Accurate
13	Adequate	17	Biased
11	Accurate	16	Good coverage
10	They do their job	15	Thorough
8	Repetitive	15	Fairly good
8	Overbearing	12	Depressing
7	Slanted	12	Violence
7	Somewhat aggressive	11	Competent
7	Exploitative	11	Great
6	Overboard	9	Complete
6	One-sided	9	Professional
6	Intrusive	9	Negative
6	Shallow	9	Boring
6	Blown out of proportion	9	Repetitious
6	Overrated	9	Average

### ASK ALL:

Q.21 (T) On another subject... Thinking about a typical weekday, do you normally start your morning with some type of news, or not?

67 Yes 33 No \* Don't know/Refused

### FORM B ONLY:

### IF YES IN Q.21: [N = 1,045]

Q.22 (B) If you don't have an opportunity to start your day with the news, do you miss it a lot, or doesn't it make that much of a difference to you?

	Morning	
	News	
<u>Total</u>	<u>Audience</u>	
33	48	A lot
33	49	Not Much Difference
1	2	Never miss the news (VOL)
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
68	100	

### **IF YES IN Q.21:**

Q.23 (B) Is your morning news mainly from television, the newspaper, radio or the Internet? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.)

	Morning News	
<u>Total</u>	Audience	
41	60	Television
19	28	Newspaper
22	33	Radio
2	3	Internet
*	*	Don't know/Refused

### ASK ALL:

Q.24 (T) Again, thinking about a typical weekday, do you normally read, watch, or listen to the news during the course of the day, or not?

74 Yes 26 No \* Don't know/Refused

### FORM B ONLY:

### **IF YES IN Q.24:**

Q.25 (B) Is that news mainly from television, the newspaper, radio or the Internet? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.)

	Daytıme	
	News	
<u>Total</u>	<u>Audience</u>	
41	58	Television
25	35	Newspaper
22	31	Radio
4	5	Internet
*	*	Don't know/Refused

### ASK ALL:

Q.26 (T) And, on a typical weekday, do you normally read, watch or listen to the news around the dinner hour, or not?

63 Yes 37 No \* Don't know/Refused

### FORM B ONLY:

### **IF YES IN Q.26:**

Q.27 (B) Is that news mainly from television, the newspaper, radio or the Internet? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.)

	Dinner Hour	r
	News	
<u>Total</u>	Audience	
54	90	Television
7	11	Newspaper
4	7	Radio
1	2	Internet
*	*	Don't know/Refused

### ASK ALL:

W1 How good of a job does the evening news do in summing up the events of the day... an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

18	Excellent
50	Good
21	Only fair
4	Poor
7	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.28 (T) On a typical weekday, do you normally read, watch or listen to the news late in the evening, or not?

61	Yes
39	No
*	Don't know/Refused
100	

# FORM B ONLY:

### IF YES IN Q.28: [N = 883]

Q.29 (B) Is that news mainly from television, the newspaper, radio or the Internet? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.)

	Late Evening	g
	News	
<u>Total</u>	Audience	
55	94	Television
5	9	Newspaper
2	3	Radio
1	2	Internet
0	0	Don't know/Refused

### ASK ALL:

W2 How good of a job does the late evening news do in summing up the events of the day... an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

15	Excellent
46	Good
19	Only fair
3	Poor
17	Don't know/Refused
100	

# **FORM A ONLY: [N = 1,499]**

Q.30 (A) How much do you enjoy keeping up with the news? (**READ CATEGORIES**)

		June	Feb
		1995	1994
50	A lot	54	53
37	Some	34	35
11	Not much	8	9
2	Not at all	3	2
*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

Q.31 (A) How often, if ever, do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics -- regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	DK/Ref
April, 1998	13	22	24	41	*=100
October, 1997	18	28	25	29	*=100
August, 1997	17	24	28	31	*=100
Early September, 1996	15	25	22	37	1=100
July, 1996	16	24	27	33	*=100
June, 1996	17	25	26	31	1=100
April, 1996	13	23	25	39	*=100
March, 1996	18	28	24	30	*=100
October, 1995	18	33	25	24	*=100
June, 1995	15	19	27	39	*=100
April, 1995	19	30	24	27	*=100
November, 1994	16	31	26	26	1=100
July, 1994	17	29	24	30	*=100
December, 1993	23	22	25	30	0 = 100
April, 1993	23	32	23	22	*=100

Q.32 (A) Some people say they feel overloaded with information these days, considering all the TV news shows, magazines, newspapers, and computer information services. Others say they like having so much information to choose from. How about you... do you feel overloaded, or do you like having so much information available?

		June
		1995
28	Overloaded	23
67	Like it	64
2	Other (VOL)	11
3	Don't know/Refused	2
100		100

# NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS. NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE HEARD ABOUT THEM.

Q.33 (A) Who is the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

		Oct	April	June	Feb
		1997	1996	<u> 1995</u>	<u> 1995</u>
57	Newt Gingrich (correct answer)	55	50	53	52
3	Other answer	4	3	3	4
<u>40</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>
100		100	100	100	100

### NO QUESTION 34

Q.35 (A) Do you happen to know if high cholesterol is generally regarded as good for your health, or bad for your health?

- 2 Good
- 96 Correct Answer (Total)
  - 94 Bad (correct answer)
  - 2 Depends on type **(VOL)** (correct answer)
- 2 Don't know/Refused

 $\frac{2}{100}$ 

Q.36 (A) Do you happen to know if the weather in the United States generally moves from east to west OR from west to east?

- 14 East to west
- 71 West to east (correct answer)
- 15 Don't know/Refused

100

Now, on a different subject...

### IF RESPONDENT READS DAILY NEWSPAPER ('1' YES IN Q.3) ASK: [N = 1,054]

Q.37 (A) How much would you miss reading the newspaper, if newspapers were no longer available? (READ CATEGORIES)

		June	Feb
		<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
60	A Lot	58	67
25	Some	27	21
10	Not much	10	8
4	Not at all	4	4
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	*
100		100	100

### ASK OF ALL FORM A RESPONDENTS:

Q.38 (A) Generally, how satisfied are you with the choice of things you can see on television these days? Are you ... (READ)

		Feb
		1994
16	Very Satisfied	14
45	Fairly Satisfied	43
28	Not Too Satisfied	29
10	Not At All Satisfied	11
1	(DO NOT READ) Does not apply/irrelevant/don't care	2
*	Don't know/Refused	1
100		100

Q.39 (A) And how satisfied are you with the choice of NEWS programs available to you on TV these days? Are you ... (READ)

		Feb
		1994
35	Very Satisfied	43
50	Fairly Satisfied	43
9	Not Too Satisfied	7
4	Not At All Satisfied	4
1	(DO NOT READ) Does not apply/irrelevant/don't care	2
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	1
100		100

### ASK ALL:

Q.40 (T) Generally speaking, which is more common for you: At first, do you just decide to watch TV and then flip channels to see what is on, or do you tune in to see a specific program that you know is on at a set time? (**IF BOTH, PROBE:** But which would you say you do most often?)<sup>13</sup>

		Feb
		<u> 1994</u>
32	Just watch TV, flip around	30
62	Tune in for specific program	61
5	Both	7
1	Don't know/Refused	2
100		100

<sup>13</sup> 

Q.41 (T) Now, I'm going to read you a list of different types of news. Please tell me how closely you follow this type of news either in the newspaper, on television, or on radio...very closely, somewhat closely, not very closely, or not at all closely? First, (READ AND ROTATE)

•		Very	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all	Don't
		Closely	Closely	Closely	Closely	<b>Know</b>
a.	News about political figures	4.0				
	and events in Washington	19	46	22	13	*=100
	April, 1996	16	43	28	13	*=100
b.	Sports	27	28	18	27	*=100
	April, 1996	26	28	21	25	*=100
c.	Business and finance	17	36	24	23	*=100
С.	April, 1996	13	37	31	19	*=100
	1.51.1, 1550	10	٥,	01	/	100
d.	International affairs	16	46	23	15	*=100
	April, 1996	16	46	26	12	*=100
e.	Local government	23	44	20	13	*=100
	April, 1996	24	43	21	12	*=100
f.	Religion	18	33	25	24	*=100
1.	April, 1996	17	33	29	23	*=100
	Арт, 1990	17	31	29	23	-100
g.	People and events in your own community	34	45	14	7	*=100
	April, 1996	35	44	14	7	*=100
h.	Entertainment	16	43	27	14	*=100
	April, 1996	15	42	29	14	*=100
	1					
i.	Consumer news	15	46	22	17	*=100
	April, 1996	14	45	26	15	*=100
j.	Science and technology	22	41	19	18	*=100
3	April, 1996	20	42	24	14	*=100
k.	Health	34	46	12	8	*=100
	April, 1996	34	44	14	7	1=100
1.	Crime	36	44	13	7	*=100
	April, 1996	41	43	10	6	*=100
	Culture and the arts	12	22	20	26	*_100
m.	Culture and the arts	12 9	33 34	29 32	26 25	*=100 *=100
	April, 1996	9	54	32	23	*=100

### FORM B ONLY [N = 1,503]; ROTATE Q.42 THROUGH Q.44:

- Q.42 (B) Which of the following two statements best describes you: "I follow LOCAL COMMUNITY news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening" OR "I follow LOCAL COMMUNITY news closely most of the time, whether or not something important or interesting is happening"?
  - 38 Follow the LOCAL COMMUNITY news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening
  - 61 Follow the LOCAL COMMUNITY news closely MOST of the time
  - 1 Don't know/Refused

100

- Q.43 (B) Which of the following two statements best describes you: "I follow NATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening" OR "I follow NATIONAL news closely most of the time, whether or not something important or interesting is happening"?
  - 46 Follow NATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening
  - 52 Follow NATIONAL news closely MOST of the time
  - 2 Don't know/Refused

100

- Q.44 (B) Which of the following two statements best describes you: "I follow INTERNATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening" OR "I follow INTERNATIONAL news closely most of the time, whether or not something important or interesting is happening"?
  - 63 Follow INTERNATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening
  - 34 Follow INTERNATIONAL news closely MOST of the time
  - <u>3</u> Don't know/Refused

100

# FOR Q.45 THROUGH Q.50 SPLIT FORM B INTO B1 AND B2: FORM B1 ONLY: IF RESPONDENT WATCHES THE NEWS REGULARLY (YES IN Q.4) ASK: [N=612] 0.45

(B1) Do you have children between the ages of five and ten living at home with you?

- 17 Yes
- 82 No
- 1 Don't have any children (**VOL**)
- Don't know/Refused

100

# IF YES (HAVE CHILD/CHILDREN) IN Q.45: [N = 107]

Q.46

- (B1) Do your kids ever watch the news with you, or not?
  - 57 Yes
  - 43 No
  - 0 Don't know/Refused

100

### IF NO (DOES NOT WATCH NEWS) IN Q.46: [N = 44]

0.47

- (B1) Do your kids not watch because they're not interested OR because you don't want them to watch?
  - Because they're not interested
  - Because I don't want them to
  - 15 Other (**VOL**)
  - 0 Don't know/Refused

100

# FORM B2 ONLY; IF RESPONDENT WATCHES THE NEWS REGULARLY (YES IN Q.4) ASK: $\left[N=602\right]$

Q.48

(B2) Do you have children between the ages of eleven and fourteen living at home with you?

15 Yes

84 No

1 Don't have any children (**VOL**)

0 Don't know/Refused

100

# IF YES (HAVE CHILD/CHILDREN) IN Q.48: [N = 91]

Q.49

(B2) Do your kids ever watch the news with you, or not?

72 Yes

28 No

0 Don't know/Refused

100

### IF NO (DOES NOT WATCH NEWS) IN Q.49: [N = 24]

Q.50

(B2) Do your kids not watch because they're not interested OR because you don't want them to watch?

78 Because they're not interested

3 Because I don't want them to

19 Other (**VOL**)

O Don't know/Refused

100

### ASK ALL:

Q.51 (T) Now I'm going to read a series of statements about the news. For each statement, 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... (READ AND ROTATE a-d)

						(VOL)	
		Completely	Mostly	Mostly	Completely	Don't Watch	ı DK/
		<u>Agree</u>	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	the news	Ref.
a.	News is not as important today as it once was.	7	16	29	46	n/a	2=100
b.	A good thing about news magazine shows such as 60 Minutes, 20/20 or Dateline, is that they help me to really understand an issue.	28	48	14	6	n/a	4=100
c.	There are so many ways to get the news these days that I don't worry when I don't have a chance to read the paper or when I miss my regular news programs.	36	40	14	9	n/a	1=100
d.	I find that I often watch the news with my remote control in hand, flipping to other channels when I'm not interested in the topic.	29	27	21	21	1	1=100

Q.52 (T) We're interested in what's important to you when you watch, listen to, or read different news sources. Using a 5 point scale, where "5" means extremely important and "1" means not at all important, how important is it to you that the news... [READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a-h] And how important is it that the news...

		Extremely Important $\underline{5}$	<u>4</u> 15	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Not at all Important <u>1</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
a.	Stirs your emotions	15	15	34	16	19	1=100
b.	Contains information that is helpful in your daily life	50	24	16	5	4	1=100
c.	Is enjoyable and entertaining	22	20	29	14	14	1=100
d.	Fits easily into your daily schedule	34	24	24	8	9	1=100
e.	Is accurate	81	9	6	2	2	*=100
f.	Is timely and up-to-date	70	18	7	2	2	1=100
g.	Has news personalities who present the news in a caring way	35	23	22	8	11	1=100
h.	Provides facts and information you can't get elsewhere	56	22	13	3	5	1=100

# NO QUESTION 53

Now on another subject...

Q.54 (T) In general, would you describe your political views as ...(READ)

	June	June	Aprıl	July
	1997	1996	1996	1994
Very conservative	7	7	7	7
Conservative	30	32	31	32
Moderate	40	38	39	39
Liberal, OR	14	14	14	15
Very liberal?	5	6	5	4
Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	4	3	<u>4</u>	3
	100	100	100	100
	Conservative Moderate Liberal, OR Very liberal?	Very conservative         1997           Conservative         7           Conservative         30           Moderate         40           Liberal, OR         14           Very liberal?         5           Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)         4	Very conservative         1997         1996           Conservative         7         7           Conservative         30         32           Moderate         40         38           Liberal, OR         14         14           Very liberal?         5         6           Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)         4         3	Very conservative         1997         1996         1996           Conservative         7         7         7           Conservative         30         32         31           Moderate         40         38         39           Liberal, OR         14         14         14           Very liberal?         5         6         5           Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)         4         3         4

Q.55 (T) Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

		Nov	June	Late	Early	July	April	March	Feb	Jan
		1997	1997	Sept 96 <sup>14</sup>	Sept 96	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996
61	Yes	66	60	59	56	56	58	61	60	59
39	No	34	40	41	44	44	42	39	40	41
*	Don't know/Refused	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	0	0
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.55:

Q.56 (T) Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computers over the Internet, the World Wide Web, or with information services such as America Online or Prodigy?

		Nov	July	April	March	Feb	Jan	June
		<u> 1997</u>	<u> 1996</u>	1995 <sup>15</sup>				
BASE	D ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:							
36	Goes online	36	23	21	22	21	21	14
25	Does not go online	29	33	37	39	39	38	86
0	Don't know/Refused	1	0	*	0	*	0	*
<u>39</u>	Not a computer user	<u>34</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>n/a</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

### **IF YES (GOES ONLINE) IN Q.56: [N = 1,192]**

57 (T) How frequently do you go online to get news... would you say every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, or less often?

		June
		<u> 1995</u>
18	Everyday	6
17	3-5 days per week	9
20	1-2 days per week	15
15	Once every few weeks	13
21	Less often	28
9	No/Never (VOL)	29
*	Don't know/Refused	*
100		100

# ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED 'EVERYDAY,' '3-5 DAYS PER WEEK' OR '1-2 DAYS PER WEEK' IN Q.57: [N = 657]

Q.58 (T) Since you started getting news online, are you using other sources of news MORE often, LESS often, or about the same as you used to?

	June
	1995
Yes, more often	4
Yes, less often	12
Yes, some more, others less	8
No, about the same	76
Don't know/Refused	0
	100
	Yes, less often Yes, some more, others less No, about the same

<sup>14</sup> Based on registered voters only.

<sup>15</sup> The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

<sup>(1)</sup> 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?)

<sup>(2)</sup> 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?

### ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED 'YES, MORE OFTEN' IN Q.58: [N = 52]

Q.59 (T) Which sources are you using MORE often? [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

		June
		<u> 1995</u>
36	Newspapers	60
47	Television	58
7	Magazines	23
10	Radio	26
22	Other	13
0	Don't know/Refused	0

# ASK RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED 'YES, LESS OFTEN' OR 'YES, SOME MORE, OTHERS LESS' IN Q.58 $\lceil N=109 \rceil$

Q.60 (T) Which sources are you using LESS often? [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES.]

		June
		1995
43	Newspapers	43
52	Television	37
13	Magazines	14
17	Radio	28
2	Other	10
4	Don't know/Refused	3

# ASK OF ALL ONLINE USERS (Q.56 = YES): [N = 1,192]

Q.61 (T) Please tell me how often, if ever, you engage in each of the following online activities. First, how often do you go online to (**READ AND ROTATE**)... everyday, 3-5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?<sup>16</sup>

		Every-	3-5 days	1-2 days	s Every	Less		
		<u>day</u>	week	week	few weeks	often	Never	<u>DK</u>
a.	Communicate with other people through							
	online forums, discussion lists, or chat groups	12	10	13	11	15	39	*=100
	October, 1996	6	7	10	12	15	50	*=100
	June, 1995	4	7	12	12	9	55	1=100
b.	Get financial information such as stock quotes							
	or corporate information or to buy stocks or bonds	10	7	11	12	12	48	*=100
	October, 1996	5	7	10	12	10	56	*=100
	June, 1995	3	4	7	8	4	74	*=100
c.	Get information about hobbies, movies, restaurants or other entertainment-related							
	activities	6	13	20	26	17	18	*=100
	October, 1996	2	9	19	24	15	31	*=100
	June, 1995	1	6	12	16	9	56	*=100

In 1996 this question was asked only of people who go online for "current events, public issues, and politics."

Q.62 (T) Please tell me how often, if ever you help your children or allow your children to go online to do research for school projects? (**READ CATEGORIES**)

- 9 Everyday
- 6 3-5 days a week
- 7 1-2 days a week
- 8 Once every few weeks
- 5 Less often OR
- 28 Never
- No children in school (**VOL**)
- 1 Don't know/Refused

100

# ASK ONLY THOSE WHO GO ONLINE FOR NEWS (QUESTION 57 = 'EVERYDAY,'' 3-5 DAYS PER WEEK,'' 1-2 DAYS PER WEEK,'' (ONCE EVERY FEW WEEKS' OR 'LESS OFTEN'): [N = 1,084]

Q.63 (T) Do you sometimes go online to get... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)

		Yes	No	DK
a.	Political news	40	60	0 = 100
	October, 1996	46	54	*=100
b.	Sports news	39	61	0=100
	October, 1996	46	54	0=100
c.	International news	41	59	0=100
	October, 1996	45	55	0=100
d.	News about science and health	64	36	0=100
	October, 1996	58	42	0=100
e.	News about technology	60	40	0=100
	October, 1996	64	36	*=100
f.	Weather	48	52	0=100
	October, 1996	47	53	0=100
g.	Entertainment news	45	55	0=100
	October, 1996	50	50	*=100
h.	Local news	28	72	0=100
	October, 1996	27	73	0=100

### ASK ALL ONLINE USERS (Q.56 = YES): [N = 1,192]

Q.64 (T) When you go online do you ever encounter or come across news and information on current events, public issues or politics when you may have been going online for a purpose other than to get the news?

		Oct
		1996 <sup>17</sup>
54	Yes	53
45	No	45
1	Don't know/Refused	2
100		100

In 1996 this question was worded, "When you go online are you ever exposed to news and information on current events, public issues or politics when you may have been going online for a purpose other than to get the news?"

Q.65 (T) Have you ever gone online to follow-up or get more information on a news story you saw or heard in a newspaper or magazine or on TV?

		Oct
		1996
54	Yes	42
46	No	58
*	Don't know/Refused	*
100		100

### ASK ALL:

Q.66 (T) Do you currently live in an area where you could get Cable TV if you wanted it?

		April	Feb
		<u>1996</u>	<u>1994</u>
91	Yes	92	89
9	No	8	10
*	Don't know/Refused	*	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

Q.67 (T) Do you currently subscribe to Cable TV?

		April	Feb
		1996	1994
74	Yes	69	64
26	No	23	25
0	Don't know/Refused	8	<u>11</u>
100		100	100

Q.68 (T) As I read to you from a list of newspapers, please tell me if you read each newspaper regularly, or not. Some of these may not be available in your area. First, do you read [ROTATE ITEMS a THROUGH g] regularly, or not? What about...?

a.	The New York Times	<u>Yes</u> 10	<u>No</u> 90	DK/Ref. *=100
b.	The Wall Street Journal	16	84	*=100
c.	The Washington Post	5	95	*=100
d.	The Los Angeles Times	5	95	*=100
e.	The Chicago Tribune	4	96	*=100
f.	The Boston Globe	3	97	*=100
g.	USA Today	28	72	*=100

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS MAY 1998 BELIEVABILITY STUDY

— FINAL TOPLINE — May 7-13, 1998 N = 981

Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. [IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]

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]

<u>Approve</u> <u>Disapprove</u> <u>Don't Know</u> May, 1998 62 28 10=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? [IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. 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 CODE 9.]

 Approve
 Disapprove
 Don't Know

 May, 1998
 40
 41
 19=100

Q.2a What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? (PROBE FOR CLARITY. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION) (OPEN-END) ('NONE' AND 'DK/REF' ARE HARD CODED)

		Nov 1997	•		April	Oct 1994	•	June 1994							•		April
13	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	12	19	22	23	28	26	22	31	25	15	7	5	3	7	8	3
10	Morality/Ethics/Family values	9	13	12	10	8	9	10	10	6	8	7	3	3	5	2	3
9	Education	5	6	6	7	2	3	4	5	5	4	5	2	2	4	4	0
7	Drugs/Alcohol	7	8	5	9	2	3	6	10	8	5	5	4	4	37	23	6
6	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	6	7	10	9	9	12	12	12	15	23	19	18	22	7	9	13
6	Deficit/National debt/ Balanced budget	5	7	9	13	8	5	4	5	6	9	13	17	4	11	19	12
5	Scandal/Corruption in governmen	ıt															
5	Dissatisfaction with government/politics	4	8	6	6	5	4	5	5	2	5	5	3	2	2	1	0

# Q.2a CONTINUED ...

					April 1995												
4	Taxes	3	3	3	4	2	2	1	3	2	3	4	4	1	3	2	0
4	Health care/Cost, availability of health care	5	4	7	5	10	14	20	14	14	12	11	13	3	3	1	*
4	Economy (general)	4	4	5	5	7	5	4	4	6	9	17	18	43	5	4	7
3	Issues related to elderly	1	2	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	*	2	2	1	2	2	0
3	Poverty	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
3	Welfare abuse	1	7	5	9	1	2	4	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
3	Other international issues (include mentions of Iraq/Saddam Hussein																
3	Other social issues																
2	Inflation/Difference between wages/Costs	1	2	3	2	2	2	*	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
2	Homeless	3	2	4	3	4	4	2	3	5	2	5	2	6	8	10	*
2	Too much foreign aid/ Spend money at home	1	5	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	*	2	2	1	3	1	0
2	Environment/Pollution	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	2	1	1	*	2	1	8	2	0
1	Racism	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	3	1	2	0	0
1	Other domestic issues																
1	Other defense issues	*															
*	Terrorism	*															
5	Other	6	2	2	3	4	6	2	2	*	2	4	8	1	5	9	1
*	None	1															
12	Don't know/No answer	7	6	3	3	5	3	5	4	6	4	2	4	3	1	3	3
16	ECONOMIC (NET)	18	18	28	30	27	26	22	26	33	47	53	58	76	26	28	35
6	POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)	6	5	8	6	7	7	4	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	DEFENSE/INTER- NATIONAL (NET)	<b>10</b> (599)	<b>1</b> (1216)	<b>9</b> (1500)	<b>2</b> (1800)	<b>5</b> (2052)	<b>7</b> (3800)	<b>4</b> (511)	<b>2</b> (989)	<b>*</b> (1479)	<b>4</b> (2000)	<b>*</b> (1507)	<b>*</b> (1011)	<b>*</b> (1220)	<b>*</b> (3004)	<b>*</b> (2048)	<b>*</b> (4244)

Q.3 Now, I'm going to read a list. Please rate how much you think you can BELIEVE each organization I name on a scale of 4 to 1. On this four point scale, "4" means you can believe all or most of what the organization says. "1" means you believe almost nothing of what they say. How would you rate the believability of (READ ITEM. ROTATE LIST) on this scale of 4 to 1?

(INTERVIEWERS: FOR Q.3 thru Q.5, PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

01	mve chivi mile )				Cannot	Never	
		Believe			Believe	Heard	Can't
		<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>of</u>	Rate
a.	USA Today	18	35	$\frac{-}{21}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	2	19=100
	April, 1996	20	34	20	9	3	14=100
	February, 1993	20	36	21	7	1	15=100
	August, 1989	21	32	18	5	6	18=100
	June, 1985	13	26	13	2	4	42=100
b.	ABC News	28	43	18	4	*	7=100
	April, 1996	30	44	17	5	*	4=100
	February, 1993	34	42	17	4	*	3=100
	August, 1989	30	46	14	3	1	7 = 100
	June, 1985	32	51	11	1	*	5=100
c.	The Wall Street Journal	30	30	9	4	2	25=100
	April, 1996	28	29	13	7	3	20 = 100
	February, 1993	30	32	14	6	2	16=100
	August, 1989	30	26	9	3	6	26=100
	June, 1985	25	23	6	2	1	43=100
d.	The daily newspaper you						
	are most familiar with	27	36	24	7	*	6=100
	April, 1996	24	37	26	8	*	5=100
	February, 1993	22	41	25	8	*	4=100
	August, 1989	26	41	24	7	*	2=100
	June, 1985	28	52	13	2	*	5=100
e.	The Associated Press	15	36	24	6	4	15=100
	April, 1996	14	40	22	9	3	12 = 100
	February, 1993	16	39	23	7	3	12 = 100
	August, 1989	21	43	18	4	6	9=100
	June, 1985	21	40	11	2	2	24=100
f.	CNN	37	35	11	4	1	12=100
	April, 1996	34	37	14	4	1	10 = 100
	February, 1993	41	35	10	4	2	8=100
	August, 1989	33	31	11	2	8	16=100
	June, 1985	20	24	7	1	10	38=100
g.	NBC News	28	42	20	4	*	6=100
	April, 1996	28	46	18	5	*	3=100
	February, 1993	31	42	18	6	*	3=100
	August, 1989	32	47	14	2	*	5=100
	June, 1985	31	51	12	1	*	5=100

# Q.3 CONTINUED ...

					Cannot	Never	
		Believe			Believe	Heard	Can't
	CDG M	<u>4</u>	3	<u>2</u>	1	<u>of</u> *	Rate
h.	CBS News	26 30	43 42	21 17	4 6	*	6=100 5-100
	April, 1996 February, 1993	31	42 44	16	5	*	5=100 4=100
	August, 1989	29	45	16	4	1	5=100
	June, 1985	33	51	11	1	*	4=100
i.	C-SPAN	20	26	12	4	12	26=100
	April, 1996	19	24	12	9	10	26=100
j.	Time Magazine	21	38	17	4	1	19=100
J.	June, 1985	27	38	10	2	*	23=100
k.	People Magazine	8	21	34	16	1	20=100
	June, 1985	8	22	28	12	1	29=100
1.	Newsweek	19	40	16	5	1	19=100
	June, 1985	23	40	9	2	*	26=100
m.	The National Enquirer	3	4	11	69	1	12=100
	June, 1985	4	7	11	54	1	23=100
n.	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	15	21	12	5	19	28=100
	June, 1985 <sup>18</sup>	18	17	6	2	29	28=100
0.	Your local TV news	32	38	19	6	*	4=100
	June, 1985	34	47	13	1	*	5=100
p.	Dateline NBC	23	39	19	5	2	13=100
q.	60 Minutes	32	37	20	4	*	7=100
_	Incide Edition	7	16	31	22	5	10_100
r.	Inside Edition	7	16	31	22	3	19=100
_	I 1 N=493]				_	_	
s.F1	National Public Radio	13	34	17	7	7	22=100
	1 2 N=436]						
t.F2	"All Things Considered" on National Public Radio	14	31	24	4	11	16=100
	June, 1985	10	21	2 <del>4</del> 9	1	32	27=100
	5 talle, 1705	10	21		•	32	27-100

In 1985 this item was worded "The MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour."

Q.4 Now I am going to read another list. Please rate how much you think you can BELIEVE each person I name on a scale of 4 to 1. Again, on this four point scale, "4" means you can believe all or most of what the person says. "1" means you believe almost nothing of what they say. How would you rate the believability of (**READ ITEM. ROTATE LIST**) on this scale of 4 to 1?

a.	Bernard Shaw April, 1996	Believe <u>4</u> 14 9	3 29 22	2 15 16	Cannot Believe 1/4 10	Never Heard of 18 18	Can't Rate 20=100 25=100
b.	Peter Jennings April, 1996 February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	35 27 34 35 33	40 37 40 39 41	14 18 15 11 8	4 8 4 3 1	1 2 2 5 8	6=100 8=100 5=100 7=100 9=100
c.	Dan Rather April, 1996 February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	34 29 36 36 40	40 39 40 40 41	17 18 14 13 8	4 8 6 6 2	1 1 1 1 4	4=100 5=100 3=100 4=100 5=100
d.	Tom Brokaw April, 1996 February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	33 29 32 32 29	42 37 41 42 40	13 18 16 14 8	3 7 5 3 1	3 2 2 3 10	6=100 7=100 4=100 6=100 12=100
e.	Ted Koppel February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	27 30 32 30	39 39 36 34	17 15 14 8	4 5 4 1	4 4 6 14	9=100 7=100 8=100 13=100
f.	Jim Lehrer	17	23	14	4	20	22=100
g.	Sam Donaldson February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	22 23 23 17	38 33 33 27	20 21 16 10	5 7 7 2	7 8 13 27	8=100 8=100 8=100 17=100
h.	Geraldo Rivera February, 1993 August, 1989 June, 1985	8 8 9 18	12 14 12 25	33 31 27 12	36 39 37 4	3 2 7 25	8=100 6=100 8=100 16=100
i.	Cokie Roberts	13	25	16	7	23	16=100
j.	Katie Couric	18	27	18	5	16	16=100

Q.5 Next, please rate the believability of the following people, using this same scale of 4 to 1. (**READ AND ROTATE**)

SPLIT FORM ITEMS AS INDICATED: [FORM 1 N = 493; FORM 2 N = 488]

		Believe			Cannot Believe	Never Heard	Can't
		4	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	1 1	of	Rate
a.F1	Bill Clinton	<u>∓</u> 17	<u>2</u> 8	31	$\frac{1}{23}$	0	1=100
u.1 1	April, 1996	14	31	25	28	*	2=100
	February, 1993	18	35	25	19	*	3=100
	redition, 1993	10	33	23	19		3-100
b.F2	Al Gore	14	33	29	18	1	5=100
c.F1	Newt Gingrich	5	20	34	30	4	7=100
	April, 1996	4	16	30	41	2	7=100
d.F2	Colin Powell	36	33	15	3	6	7=100
	April, 1996	28	36	19	9	2	6=100
	February, 1993	24	31	18	6	13	8=100
e.F1	Bill Gates	10	29	25	12	11	13=100
f.F2	Janet Reno	14	31	26	14	6	9=100
g.F1	Madeleine Albright	11	31	22	10	12	14=100
h.F2	Ted Turner	10	24	31	12	8	15=100
i.F1	Oprah Winfrey	26	38	25	8	*	3=100
j.F2	Don Imus	5	8	13	10	38	26=100
k.F1	Rush Limbaugh	7	18	29	34	5	7=100
	April, 1996	8	15	25	42	3	7=100
	119111, 1330	Ü	10	25	.2	J	, 100
1.F2	Pat Robertson	8	21	29	19	11	12=100
		-		-	-		
m.F1	Jerry Springer	6	6	14	62	4	8=100

### ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.6 Do you happen to read any daily newspaper or newspapers regularly, or not?

	Yes	<u>No</u>	Don't Know
May, 1998	69	31	*=100

Q.7 I'd like to know how often you watch or listen to certain TV and radio programs. For each that I read, tell me if you watch or listen to it regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never. (First) how often do you ... (READ AND ROTATE) How often do you...

Hardly

				Hardly		
		Regularly	Sometimes	<u>Ever</u>	Never	Don't Know
a.	Watch the national nightly network news on CBS, ABC or NBC? This is different from local news shows about the area where you live	42	34	13	11	*=100
b.	Watch the local news about your viewing area? This usually comes on before the national news and then later at night at 10 or 11	67	21	7	5	*=100
c.	Watch Cable News Network (CNN)	28	40	13	19	*=100
d.	Watch C-SPAN	7	29	23	40	1=100
e.	Listen to National Public Radio (NPR)	22	30	18	29	1=100
f.	Watch news magazine shows such as 60 Minutes, 20/20 or Dateline	35	45	14	6	*=100
g.	Watch the Newshour with Jim Lehrer	7	25	20	46	2=100
h.	Watch MTV	6	17	20	57	*=100
i.	Watch TV shows such as Hard Copy or Inside Edition	13	37	24	26	*=100
j.	Watch the daytime talk shows Ricki Lake, Jerry Springer, or Jenny Jones	10	17	20	53	0=100
k.	Watch Court TV a cable channel	5	19	18	57	1=100
1.	Watch the Today Show, Good Morning America or CBS This Morning	23	26	19	32	*=100
m.	Watch CNBC	17	34	19	28	2=100
n.	Watch all news cable channels such as the Fox News Channel or MSNBC	23	35	18	24	*=100

### **ROTATE Q.8 THROUGH Q.11:**

Now thinking about where you MIGHT go to GET news...

Q.8 If you heard that Colin Powell had decided to run for President in the Year 2000, where would you go FIRST for more information about this, or wouldn't you want more information? (OPEN-END; IF TV/TV NEWS, PROBE WITH: What kind of tv/tv news? ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

68	News		
00	43	Networ	k/TV News
		19	CNN News
		4	NBC News
		4	Television (unspecified)
		4	ABC News
		4	CBS News
		3	Network program/Network news (unspecified)
		3	Local TV News
		1	FOX News
		1	C-SPAN News
		*	News channel
		*	Cable TV channels
		2	All other Network/TV News mentions
	15	Newspa	per/Magazine
		6	Newspaper (unspecified)
		3	Local newspaper
		1	Time
		1	Newsweek
		1	New York Times
		1	Wall Street Journal
		*	Magazine (unspecified)
		*	USA Today
		*	Los Angeles Times
		*	Chicago Tribune
		2	All other Newspaper/Magazine mentions
	4	Online/	Wire Service
		3	Internet/Online
		*	Associated Press
	3	Radio	
		2	Radio (unspecified)
		1	National Public Radio
		*	All other Radio mentions
	3		egional News
	3	,	inspecified)
	2	Nationa	l News
4	Miscellar		
	1	Library	
	1	Word o	
	1		er miscellaneous mentions
	1		ssman/Republican party/My Senator
20	*	Military	
29	Wouldn't	t want mo	re information/No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

33

- Q.9 If you heard that a vaccine for the common cold had been discovered, where would you go FIRST for more information about this, or wouldn't you want more information? (OPEN-END; IF TV/TV NEWS, PROBE WITH: What kind of tv/tv news? ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)
  - 62 News 34 Network/TV 14 **CNN News** 3 News program/Network news (unspecified) 3 **NBC** News 3 **CBS** News 3 Local TV News 2 **ABC News** 2 Television (unspecified) 1 FOX News \* C-SPAN News \* Cable TV Channels 3 All other Network/TV News mentions 15 Newspaper/Magazine Newspaper (unspecified) 4 3 Local newspaper 3 Medical literature/journal New York Times 1 **USA** Today Wall Street Journal Newsweek Los Angeles Times Time Magazine (unspecific) 2 All other Newspaper/Magazine mentions 2 Radio Radio (unspecified) 1 1 National Public Radio/NPR All other Radio mentions 5 Online/Wire Service 5 Internet/Online Associated Press/AP 4 Local/Regional News 2 National News News (unspecified) All other news mentions 24 Miscellaneous 22 Hospital/Doctor/Health Department 1 Library 1 Word of Mouth All other Miscellaneous mentions

15

Wouldn't want more information/No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

- Q.10 If you heard that Tiger Woods had decided to retire from golf, where would you go FIRST for more information about this, or wouldn't you want more information? (OPEN-END; IF TV/TV NEWS, PROBE WITH: What kind of tv/tv news? ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)
  - 44 News 30 Network/TV **ESPN** 13 **CNN News** 6 2 Sports Channel 2 Local TV News 1 News program/Network news (unspecified) NBC News 1 1 **CBS** News 1 Television (unspecified) 1 **ABC News** 1 FOX News Cable TV Channels C-SPAN News News channel 2 All other Network/TV News mentions 11 Newspaper/Magazine Newspaper (unspecified) 4 2 Local newspaper Sports Illustrated/SI 2 **USA** Today New York Times Newsweek Magazine (unspecified) Time All other Newspaper/Magazine mentions 1 3 Online/Wire service Internet/Online 2 **Associated Press** 1 Local/Regional News 1 Radio News (unspecified) National News 2 Miscellaneous Word of mouth Library All other Miscellaneous mentions

54

Wouldn't want more information/No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

- Q.11 If you heard that Boris Yeltsin had been overthrown in a military coup, where would you go FIRST for more information about this, or wouldn't you want more information? (OPEN-END; IF TV/TV NEWS, PROBE WITH: What kind of tv/tv news? ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)
  - 73 News 53 Network/TV 29 **CNN News** 5 **NBC** News 5 Television (unspecified) 4 ABC News 3 Local TV News 3 **CBS** News 2 Network program/Network new (unspecified) 1 C-SPAN FOX News 1 Cable TV channels 1 News channel 2 All other Network/TV News mentions 9 Newspaper/Magazine Newspaper (unspecified) 2 Local newspaper 1 New York Times Wall Street Journal **USA** Today Time Magazine (unspecified) Newsweek Los Angeles Times All other Newspaper/Magazine mentions 1 4 Radio 3 Radio (unspecified) 1 National Public Radio/NPR All other Radio mentions 3 Online/Wire Service 3 Internet/Online Associated Press/AP 3 National News 3 Local/Regional News 2 News (unspecified) 3 Miscellaneous 1 Library 1 Congressman/Republican Party/My Senator Word of mouth 1 All other Miscellaneous mentions

24

Wouldn't want more information/No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

On a different subject...

- Do you often read accounts in newspapers of national and international events that you have previously Q.12 seen on TV, or not?
  - 55 Yes
  - 44 No
  - $\frac{1}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

## IF ANSWERED YES IN QUESTION 12: [N=561]

- Do you find that newspaper accounts give you a better understanding of what you have seen on TV, or do they pretty much cover the same ground?
  - 42 Better understanding
  - 57 Cover same ground
  - $\frac{1}{100}$ Don't know/Refused