

## Supplement for **Mechanical Turk and the “Don’t Know” Option**

This supplement contains additional information to support the findings presented in the main manuscript. Table A1 shows the results of four probit models that predict respondents’ assignment to the *encourage DK* condition (as opposed to the *encourage guessing* condition) using a series of demographic variables. The first three columns present separate models for CCES respondents, GS respondents, and MTurk respondents respectively. The final column presents a pooled model. Table A2 presents the same models, but applying sampling weights to the CCES and GS respondents. None of these models raises any concerns that respondents assigned to one condition differed meaningfully from those assigned to the other.

Table A3 presents ordinary least squares regressions of the treatment effects. Table A4 presents the same models, but applying sampling weights to the CCES and GS respondents. Tables A5 and A6 present the same models as Tables A3 and A4 (respectively), but using negative binomial regression rather than OLS. In all these tables, the first two models predict the number of items each respondent answered correctly, the latter two models predict the number of DK responses, and the second and fourth models include demographic controls. CCES respondents and GS respondents are indicated with separate variables; MTurk respondents are the omitted category. The *encourage guessing* variable indicates respondents assigned to that condition as opposed to the *encourage DK* condition. Because this dichotomous indicator is interacted with the CCES and GS variables, the baseline *encourage guessing* coefficient serves as an estimate of the treatment effect on MTurk respondents only. To obtain the treatment effect on CCES or GS respondents, one must add this baseline effect to the interaction estimates. Thus, in the first model of Table A3, we estimate that the *encourage guessing* condition is associated with a 0.30 increase

in the number of correct answers among MTurk respondents, but essentially zero change among CCES ( $0.30 - 0.36 = -0.06$ ) and GS ( $0.30 - 0.27 = 0.03$ ) respondents. For discussion of the results of these supplemental analyses, see footnote 6 in the main manuscript.

Figure A1 depicts the mean number of DK responses by condition and platform. Figure A2 does the same for the mean number of correct responses. The patterns identified through the more complicated analysis presented in the foregoing tables are plainly visible in these simple figures. Respondents from all three platforms (but especially MTurk) are somewhat less likely to select DK when encouraged to guess (Figure A1), but only MTurk respondents give significantly more correct responses as a result (Figure A2). Importantly, MTurk respondents do not stand out from CCES or GS respondents in the *encourage DK* condition, but they differ markedly in the *encourage guessing* condition. This pattern suggests that something bigger than mere sample selection effects is driving these results. MTurk users are not simply demographically different from CCES or GS users; their previous MTurk experience has changed the way they respond to our prompt.

Finally, Figure A3 replicates Figure 1 from the main manuscript, but with survey weights applied. The results are similar.

Table A1. Probit Models Predicting Assignment to *Encourage DK* Condition (Unweighted).

	CCES	GS	MTurk	Pooled
Male	-0.0074 (0.093)	-0.036 (0.095)	-0.017 (0.081)	-0.020 (0.050)
Democrat	0.085 (0.13)	0.0069 (0.12)	-0.047 (0.11)	0.010 (0.074)
Republican	-0.26 (0.13)	-0.11 (0.13)	0.042 (0.12)	-0.10 (0.074)
4-year college degree	0.16 (0.097)	0.0015 (0.098)	0.066 (0.081)	0.090 (0.051)
Age 25-34	0.16 (0.24)	-0.083 (0.16)	0.10 (0.12)	0.080 (0.086)
Age 35-44	0.13 (0.24)	0.12 (0.17)	-0.12 (0.13)	-0.0028 (0.095)
Age 45-54	0.15 (0.23)	0.31 (0.17)	-0.12 (0.17)	0.096 (0.097)
Age 55-64	0.14 (0.23)	0.22 (0.17)	0.0073 (0.19)	0.079 (0.096)
Age 65+	0.26 (0.23)	0.26 (0.18)	0.11 (0.39)	0.17 (0.10)
Constant	-0.20 (0.23)	-0.11 (0.16)	-0.026 (0.14)	-0.089 (0.093)
N	787	739	995	2,521

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed). Probit coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. Females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. Rounding to two significant digits.

Table A2. Probit Models Predicting Assignment to *Encourage DK* Condition (Weighted).

	CCES	GS	MTurk	Pooled
Male	-0.091 (0.12)	0.038 (0.11)	-0.017 (0.081)	-0.029 (0.058)
Democrat	0.11 (0.16)	0.055 (0.14)	-0.047 (0.11)	0.035 (0.077)
Republican	-0.28 (0.17)	-0.078 (0.15)	0.042 (0.12)	-0.099 (0.085)
4-year college degree	0.12 (0.12)	-0.044 (0.11)	0.066 (0.081)	0.052 (0.059)
Age 25-34	0.27 (0.30)	-0.083 (0.19)	0.10 (0.12)	0.11 (0.097)
Age 35-44	0.32 (0.29)	0.23 (0.20)	-0.12 (0.13)	0.080 (0.11)
Age 45-54	0.18 (0.28)	0.39 (0.20)	-0.12 (0.17)	0.13 (0.11)
Age 55-64	0.18 (0.27)	0.17 (0.20)	0.0073 (0.19)	0.087 (0.11)
Age 65+	0.13 (0.27)	0.16 (0.21)	0.11 (0.39)	0.063 (0.12)
Constant	-0.12 (0.28)	-0.15 (0.19)	-0.026 (0.14)	-0.077 (0.11)
N	787	605	995	2,387

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed). Probit coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. CCES and GS respondents include sampling weights. Females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. Rounding to two significant digits.

Table A3. Ordinary Least Squares Estimates of Treatment Effects (Unweighted).

	Correct	Correct	Don't Know	Don't Know
Encourage guessing	0.30* (0.088)	0.31* (0.079)	-0.33* (0.074)	-0.33* (0.067)
CCES	-0.067 (0.094)	-0.18* (0.11)	0.083 (0.079)	0.08 (0.076)
× Encourage guessing	-0.36* (0.13)	-0.35* (0.12)	0.19† (0.11)	0.19† (0.10)
Google Surveys	-0.098 (0.093)	-0.15† (0.090)	0.12 (0.079)	-0.0047 (0.076)
× Encourage guessing	-0.27* (0.13)	-0.22† (0.12)	0.21† (0.11)	0.21* (0.10)
Male		0.70* (0.050)		-0.36* (0.042)
Democrat		0.28* (0.067)		-0.25* (0.056)
Republican		0.37* (0.073)		-0.34* (0.062)
4-year college degree		0.60* (0.051)		-0.34* (0.043)
Age 25-34		0.14 (0.086)		-0.17* (0.073)
Age 35-44		0.36* (0.095)		-0.32* (0.080)
Age 45-54		0.57* (0.099)		-0.35* (0.083)
Age 55-64		0.68* (0.099)		-0.32* (0.084)
Age 65+		0.90* (0.11)		-0.49* (0.092)
Constant	2.9 (0.062)	1.7 (0.11)	0.91 (0.053)	1.7 (0.089)
N	2,613	2,521	2,613	2,521
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.18	0.02	0.09

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed), †  $p \leq 0.05$  (one tailed). Ordinary least squares coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. MTurk is the omitted platform; females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. Rounding to two significant digits.

Table A4. Ordinary Least Squares Estimates of Treatment Effects (Weighted).

	Correct	Correct	Don't Know	Don't Know
Encourage guessing	0.30* (0.083)	0.31* (0.078)	-0.33* (0.065)	-0.33* (0.063)
CCES	-0.15 (0.12)	-0.17 (0.11)	0.21† (0.12)	0.16 (0.11)
× Encourage guessing	-0.20 (0.16)	-0.29* (0.15)	-0.027 (0.14)	0.045 (0.13)
Google Surveys	-0.14 (0.098)	-0.15 (0.091)	0.13 (0.091)	0.014 (0.083)
× Encourage guessing	-0.29* (0.14)	-0.28* (0.12)	0.20 (0.12)	0.22* (0.11)
Male		0.66* (0.058)		-0.32* (0.051)
Democrat		0.31* (0.082)		-0.26* (0.075)
Republican		0.39* (0.087)		-0.38* (0.078)
4-year college degree		0.67* (0.057)		-0.36* (0.049)
Age 25-34		0.16 (0.10)		-0.15† (0.089)
Age 35-44		0.36* (0.11)		-0.35* (0.092)
Age 45-54		0.60* (0.12)		-0.35* (0.097)
Age 55-64		0.67* (0.13)		-0.26* (0.12)
Age 65+		0.86* (0.13)		-0.49* (0.11)
Constant	2.9 (0.062)	1.7 (0.12)	0.91 (0.052)	1.7 (0.11)
N	2,456	2,387	2,456	2,387
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.17	0.02	0.10

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed), †  $p \leq 0.05$  (one tailed). Ordinary least squares coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. MTurk is the omitted platform; females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. CCES and GS respondents include sampling weights. Rounding to two significant digits.

Table A5. Negative Binomial Estimates of Treatment Effects (Unweighted).

	Correct	Correct	Don't Know	Don't Know
Encourage guessing	0.099* (0.036)	0.099* (0.036)	-0.44* (0.092)	-0.44* (0.087)
CCES	-0.023 (0.040)	-0.065 (0.043)	0.087 (0.089)	0.087 (0.090)
× Encourage guessing	-0.12* (0.055)	-0.12* (0.056)	0.30* (0.13)	0.27* (0.13)
Google Surveys	-0.034 (0.040)	-0.058 (0.042)	0.12 (0.088)	-0.027 (0.091)
× Encourage guessing	-0.088 (0.055)	-0.069 (0.056)	0.32* (0.13)	0.29* (0.13)
Male		0.24* (0.024)		-0.45* (0.0053)
Democrat		0.10* (0.032)		-0.26* (0.066)
Republican		0.13* (0.035)		-0.39* (0.075)
4-year college degree		0.20* (0.024)		-0.44* (0.056)
Age 25-34		0.057 (0.043)		-0.18* (0.084)
Age 35-44		0.13* (0.046)		-0.36* (0.095)
Age 45-54		0.20* (0.048)		-0.40* (0.10)
Age 55-64		0.24* (0.048)		-0.38* (0.098)
Age 65+		0.31* (0.051)		-0.61* (0.11)
Constant	1.01 (0.026)	0.64 (0.052)	-0.36 (0.088)	-0.81 (0.10)
N	2,613	2,521	2,613	2,521

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed), †  $p \leq 0.05$  (one tailed). Negative binomial coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. MTurk is the omitted platform; females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. Rounding to two significant digits.

Table A6. Negative Binomial Estimates of Treatment Effects (Weighted).

	Correct	Correct	Don't Know	Don't Know
Encourage guessing	0.098* (0.027)	0.099* (0.026)	-0.44* (0.087)	-0.44* (0.086)
CCES	-0.052 (0.044)	-0.063 (0.040)	0.21† (0.11)	0.15 (0.11)
× Encourage guessing	-0.063* (0.057)	-0.093† (0.051)	0.065 (0.15)	0.13 (0.15)
Google Surveys	-0.049 (0.035)	-0.059† (0.032)	0.13 (0.092)	-0.0087 (0.092)
× Encourage guessing	-0.096* (0.048)	-0.089* (0.042)	0.31* (0.14)	0.32* (0.14)
Male		0.23* (0.020)		-0.40* (0.061)
Democrat		0.11* (0.030)		-0.27* (0.073)
Republican		0.14* (0.032)		-0.43* (0.084)
4-year college degree		0.22* (0.020)		-0.46* (0.063)
Age 25-34		0.064 (0.040)		-0.16 (0.089)
Age 35-44		0.13* (0.042)		-0.41* (0.10)
Age 45-54		0.22* (0.045)		-0.39* (0.11)
Age 55-64		0.24* (0.048)		-0.29* (0.12)
Age 65+		0.31* (0.048)		-0.59* (0.13)
Constant	1.07 (0.021)	0.62 (0.049)	-0.095 (0.057)	-0.96 (0.15)
N	2,456	2,387	2,456	2,387

\*  $p \leq 0.05$  (two-tailed), †  $p \leq 0.05$  (one tailed). Negative binomial coefficients shown with standard errors in parentheses. MTurk is the omitted platform; females, independents, and respondents aged 18-24 are the omitted categories. CCES and GS respondents include sampling weights. Rounding to two significant digits.



Figure A1. Mean Number of DK Responses, by Condition and Platform (Unweighted)

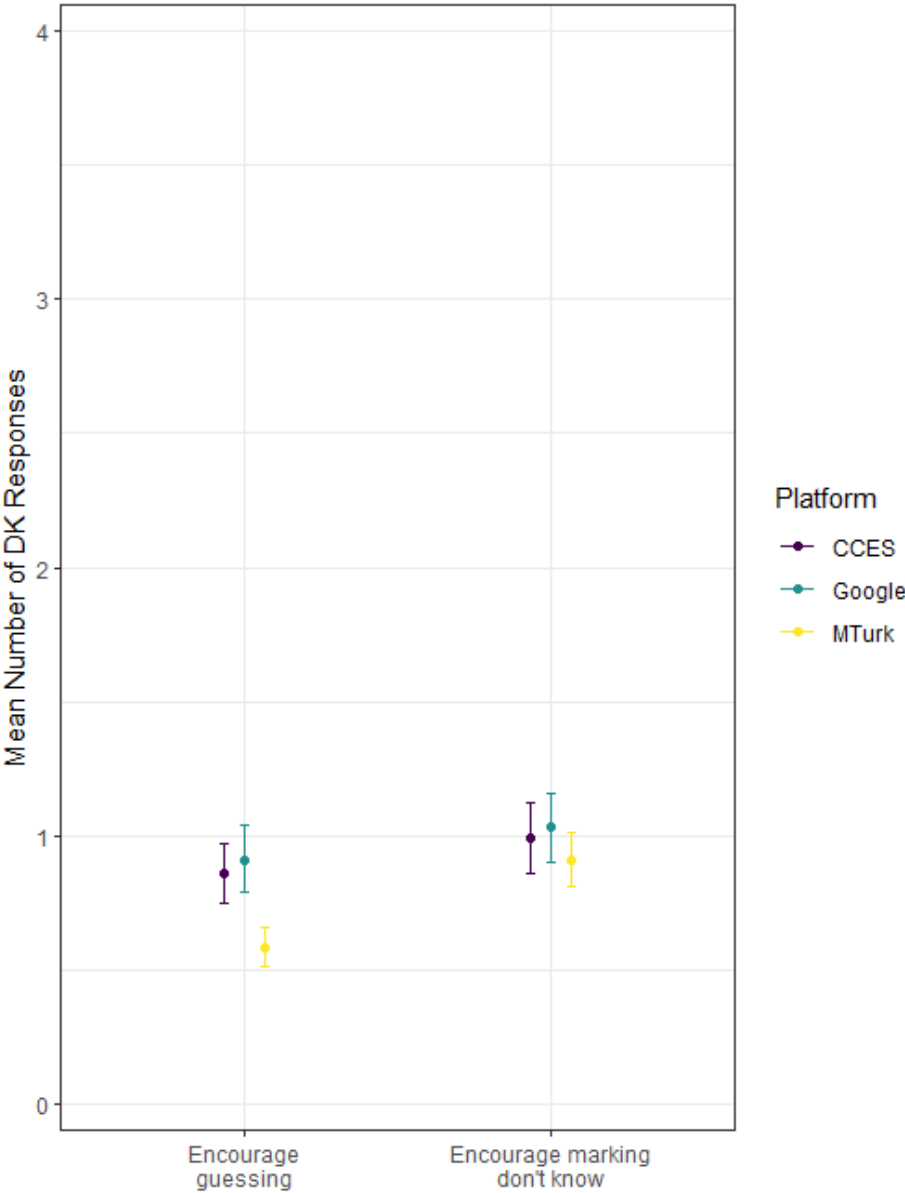


Figure A2. Mean Number of Correct Responses, by Condition and Platform (Unweighted)

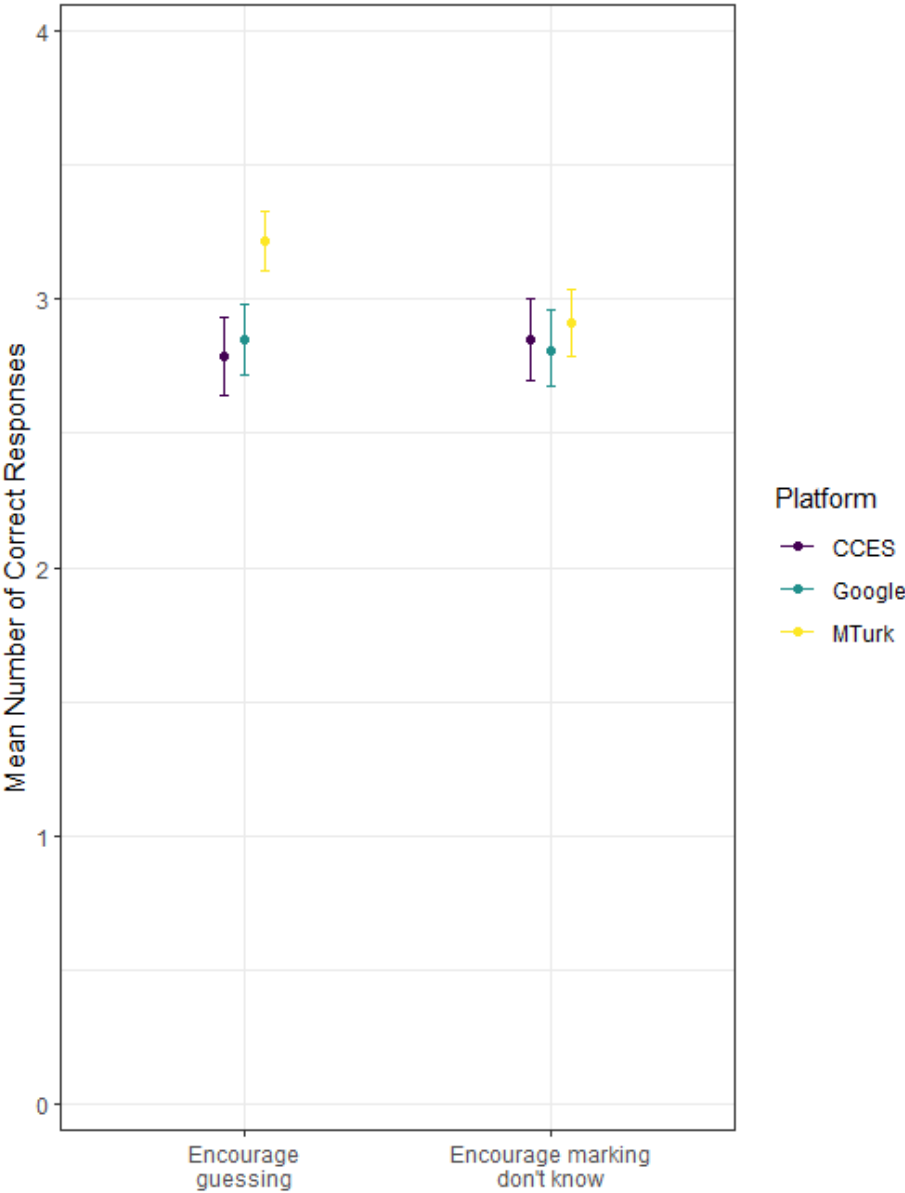


Figure A3. Mean Treatment Effect of Encouraging Guessing on Correct and DK Responses (Weighted)

