

## Appendix

**Table A1. Characteristics of Study Participants**

	Lab	Online	<i>p</i> -value (lab vs. online)
Party Identification (7 pt.; -3 = Dem and 3=Rep)	-.22	-.17	.80
Female	52%	56%	.38
White	75%	69%	.19
GPA	1.99	1.92	.46
Registered to Vote	95%	96%	.71
Political Interest (5 pt.)	3.49	3.54	.50
Average Years in College (7 pt.)	3.28	3.13	.19
Average Number of Surveys Taken in Past 7 Days	1.39	1.57	.11
Use of Public Transportation (7 pt.)	2.80	2.46	.08
Need to Evaluate	0.63	0.66	.19
Risk Acceptance	4.71	4.65	.65

*Note:* Cell entries in the first two columns represent percentages or average values for subjects assigned to the lab or online conditions. The third column shows the *p*-value on the test for a significant difference between the lab and online conditions. The GPA variable is coded to range from "3.5-4.0" (1) to "Below 2.0" (5). The political interest variable is a five-point item that ranges from "Not interested at all" (1) to "Extremely interested" (5). The average year in school entry comes from a question that asks, "What is the last grade or class that you have completed in school?" with responses ranging from "High school or less" (1) to "More than 5 years of college" (7). The public transportation variable was a seven-point item that asked how frequently the respondent uses public transportation. It ranged from "never use" (1) to "daily" use (7). See Appendix for more details on question wording.

### **Questionnaire Wording**

The questionnaire is displayed below in the order it was presented to subjects. For brevity, survey items that were analyzed by other investigators are omitted, but the number of questions in between each item discussed in the paper is noted. Instructions and transitions that were present in the survey are also excluded below.

<Consent Form>

Are you:

- <1> Male
- <2> Female

Generally speaking, do you usually consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- <1> Republican
- <2> Democrat
- <3> Independent
- <4> Other

[If response is Republican/Democrat] Would you call yourself a strong Republican/Democrat or a not very strong Republican?

- <1> Strong Republican/Democrat
- <2> Not very strong Republican/Democrat

[If response is Independent] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democrat party?

- <1> Closer to the Republican Party
- <2> Closer to the Democratic Party
- <3> Neither

< 6 unrelated items >

### *Modern Racism Scale*

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

- a. The Irish, Italians, Jews, Vietnamese and other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors.
- b. It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites.
- c. Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.
  - <1> Strongly agree
  - <2> Agree
  - <3> Slightly agree
  - <4> Neither agree nor disagree

- <5> Slightly disagree
- <6> Disagree
- <7> Strongly disagree

*Bogus Item 1*

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

I am currently taking a survey about politics.

- <1> Strongly agree
- <2> Agree
- <3> Slightly agree
- <4> Neither agree nor disagree
- <5> Slightly disagree
- <6> Disagree
- <7> Strongly disagree

*Political Interest 1*

How interested are you in politics?

- <1> Not interested at all
- <2> Not too interested
- <3> Somewhat interested
- <4> Very interested
- <5> Extremely interested

*Political Interest 2*

How regularly do you follow stories about politics in the news?

- <1> Not at all regularly
- <2> Not too regularly
- <3> Somewhat regularly
- <4> Very regularly
- <5> Extremely regularly

*Political Interest 3*

How knowledgeable are you about politics?

- <1> Not at all knowledgeable
- <2> Not too knowledgeable
- <3> Somewhat knowledgeable
- <4> Very knowledgeable
- <5> Extremely knowledgeable



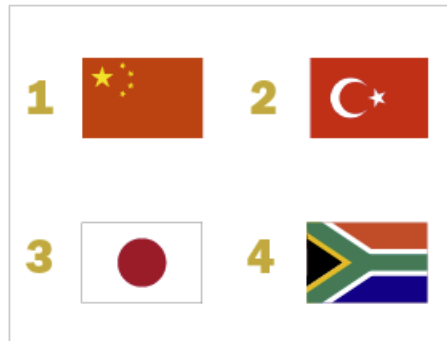
Who is this?

- <1> John Boehner
- <2> Mitch McConnell
- <3> Harry Reid
- <4> Eric Cantor



What currency does this symbol represent?

- <1> Euro
- <2> Yen
- <3> Pound
- <4> Dollar



Which of these is the flag of the People's Republic of China?

- <1> 1
- <2> 2
- <3> 3
- <4> 4

< 1 unrelated item >



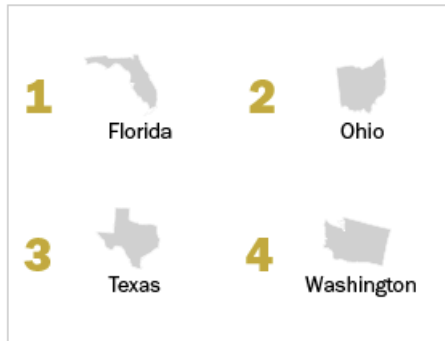
Which is President Obama's nominee to be the new Secretary of State?

- <1> 1
- <2> 2
- <3> 3
- <4> 4



Who is this?

- <1> Chris Christie
- <2> Scott Walker
- <3> Newt Gingrich
- <4> Rush Limbaugh



In which of these states did voters in 2012 approve the legalization of same-sex marriage?

- <1> 1
- <2> 2
- <3> 3
- <4> 4



This graph shows the trend in what national statistic?

- <1> The unemployment rate
- <2> The inflation rate
- <3> The corporate tax rate
- <4> The high school graduation rate

< 1 unrelated item >



Which one is Elizabeth Warren, the new senator from Massachusetts?

- <1> 1
- <2> 2
- <3> 3
- <4> 4

< 13 unrelated items >

*Substantive Manipulation Check 1*

To the best of your knowledge, what is John Wilson's partisanship?

- <1> Republican
- <2> Democrat
- <3> Independent
- <4> Don't know

*Instructional Manipulation Check*

When a big news story breaks people often go online to get up-to-the-minute details on what is going on. We want to know which websites people trust to get this information. We also want to know if people are paying attention to the question. To show that you've read this much, please ignore the question and select ABC News and The Drudge Report as your two answers. That's right, just ignore the question below and select these two options only.

When there is a big news story, which is the one news website you would visit first? (Please only choose one)

- <1> New York Times website
- <2> Huffington Post
- <3> Washington Post website
- <4> CNN.com
- <5> FoxNews.com
- <6> MSNBC.com
- <7> The Drudge Report
- <8> Google News
- <9> ABC News website

- <10> CBS News website
- <11> NBC News website
- <12> Yahoo! News
- <13> The Associate Press (AP) website
- <14> Reuters website
- <15> National Public Radio (NPR) website
- <16> USA Today website
- <17> New York Post Online
- <18> None of these websites

< 2 unrelated items >

*Substantive Manipulation Check 2*

As you may know, a number of members of congress have pledged not to take earmarks and have successfully given up earmarks for the past two years. To the best of your knowledge, is Senator Bill Nelson (FL) one of them?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No
- <3> Don't know

*Bogus Item 2*

Are you currently using a computer or other electronic device?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

< 34 unrelated items >

Are you registered to vote?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

< 1 unrelated item >

How frequently do you use public transportation?

- <1> I do not use public transportation
- <2> Several times per year
- <3> Once a month
- <4> Several times per month
- <5> Once a week
- <6> Several times weekly
- <7> Daily

What racial or ethnic group or groups best describes you?

- <1> White
- <2> Black



- <3> Asian
- <4> Native American
- <5> Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

What is the last grade or class that you have completed in school?

- <1> high school or less
- <2> 1 year of college
- <3> 2 years of college
- <4> 3 years of college
- <5> 4 years of college
- <6> 5 years of college
- <7> More than 5 years of college

What is your current grade point average (GPA)?

- <1> 3.5-4.0
- <2> 3.0-3.4
- <3> 2.5-2.9
- <4> 2.0-2.4
- <5> Below 2.0

#### *Sexual Partners*

We realize that the following question may be sensitive. Keeping in mind that your response is completely anonymous, please respond as accurately as possible. How many sexual partners have you had in your lifetime?

<text box>

#### *Self-Reported Effort*

How closely have you been paying attention to what the questions on this survey actually mean?

- <1> Not closely at all
- <2> Not too closely
- <3> Somewhat closely
- <4> Very closely
- <5> Extremely closely

#### *Self-Reported Distractions*

While taking this survey, did you engage in any of the following behaviors? Please check all that apply.

- <1> Use your cell phone
- <2> Browse the internet
- <3> Talk with another person
- <4> <Internet only> Watch TV
- <5> <Internet only> Listen to music

#### *Survey Experience*

In the past 7 days, approximately how many surveys have you taken?

<Drop down menu with options ranging from 0 to 100>

Have you ever taken surveys through Amazon's Mechanical Turk?

<1> Yes

<2> No

< 4 unrelated items and debriefing >