

KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS
YOUTH ACTIVITY SURVEY – FINAL TOPLINE

Q1 Please tell us if you are

33	Currently in high school
27	Currently attending or graduated from college
<u>40</u>	None of the above
100	

Based on those answered “none of the above” to Q1:

Q2 Have you ever attended college?

32	Yes
68	No
<u>*</u>	Refused ¹
100	

(N=518)

**IN CLASS ACTIVITIES: CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY
(N=312, unless otherwise noted)**

I’d like to ask you about activities that students can do in school, and then I’ll ask you about some activities outside of school.

HS1 First, how much are you enjoying high school:

41	Like it a lot
28	Like it a little
10	Dislike it a little
8	Dislike it a lot
<u>13</u>	Don’t know/Mixed
100	

HS2 Does your school have a student government?

69	Yes	[go to HS2A]
8	No	[go to HS3]
<u>23</u>	Don’t know	[go to HS3]
100		

¹ “Refused” was not an option that appeared on the screen; it is included in the topline to indicate when a respondent skipped a question.

Based on those who say their school has a student government:

HS2A This school year, have you served as an officer or representative, run for office, or worked on a campaign for your student government?

12 Yes
87 No
1 Don't know
100
(N=217)

Based on those who say their school has a student government:

HS2B How much attention do you pay to what your student government does:

23 A lot or some
37 A little
38 Not much or none
2 Don't know
100
(N=108)²

HS3 During this school year, have you had any courses that required you to pay attention to government, politics, or national issues?

63 Yes
34 No
3 Don't know
100

HS4 Last year, did you have any courses that required you to pay attention to government, politics, or national issues?

52 Yes [go to HS5]
43 No [if no or dk in HS3, go to HS7; otherwise, go to HS5]
5 Don't know [if yes in HS3, go to HS7; otherwise, go to HS7]
* Refused [if yes in HS3, go to HS7; otherwise, go to HS7]
100

² This sample size is smaller than the previous question due to an error in the original fielding of this question. HS2B was not asked of all eligible respondents. Knowledge Networks re-contacted the missing respondents and re-asked this question, but did not receive responses from the full subgroup.

Based on those who answered “yes” in HS3 and/or HS4:

HS5 Were any of these courses required for graduation?

83	Yes
14	No
<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=224)

Based on those who answered “yes” in HS3 and/or HS4:

HS6 As a result of these courses, would you say your interest in things like politics and national issues:

11	Increased a good deal
37	Increased some
41	Stayed the same
8	Decreased
<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=224)

HS7 During your high school years, please check off any of the following you have done:

38	a.	Written a letter to someone you did not know
80	b.	Given a speech or an oral report
51	c.	Taken part in a debate or discussion in which you had to persuade someone about something
7	d.	Don't know
5		Refused

HS8 Does your school arrange or offer any service activities or volunteer work that students can participate in?

75	Yes
7	No
17	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

HS9 Is participation in a service activity or volunteer work required for students in your school, for example, do all students have to do a certain number of hours of community service or volunteer work before graduating?

21 Yes
68 No
10 Don't know
1 Refused
100

HS10 Now think about things you have done *outside of high school*. Which of the following organized activities have you participated in? [Check all that apply]

44 a. Organized sports
37 b. Religious youth groups
1 c. Political clubs (i.e., Young Democrats or Republicans)
5 d. Boys/Girls Club
1 e. Model United Nations
* f. Boy's/Girl's State
2 g. FFA/FHA
3 h. 4-H
8 i. YMCA
14 j. Scouts
11 k. Other _____ [specify]
14 l. Don't know
12 Refused

HS11 How much influence do you think that students in your high school have on how the school is run?

14 Great deal of influence
28 Moderate amount of influence
29 Just a little influence
22 No real influence
7 Don't know
* Refused
100

IN CLASS ACTIVITIES: CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS AND COLLEGE GRADUATES ONLY (N=336, unless otherwise noted)

I'd like to ask you about activities that students can do in school, and then I'll ask you about some activities outside of school.

C1 First, how much are you enjoying [did you enjoy] college:

56 Like it a lot
29 Like it a little
4 Dislike it a little
1 Dislike it a lot
10 Don't know/Mixed
100

C2 How much attention do you pay [did you pay] to what your student government does:

11 A lot or some
27 A little
56 Not much or none
6 Don't know
100

C3 Last year, or while you were in college, did you have any courses that required you to pay attention to government, politics, or national issues?

40 Yes
47 No [go to C6]
11 Not in school last year [go to C6]
2 Don't know [go to C6]
100

Based on those you took courses that required attention to politics (yes in C3):

C4 Were any of these courses required for graduation?

75 Yes
18 No
7 Don't know
100
(N=131)

Based on those you took courses that required attention to politics (yes in C3):

C5 As a result of these courses, would you say your interest in things like politics and national issues:

20	Increased a good deal
27	Increased some
48	Stayed the same
4	Decreased
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=131)

C6 Do any of your classes require you to keep up with politics or government, either by reading the newspaper, watching TV, or going onto the Internet?

27	Yes
71	No
2	Don't know
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

C7 This year, or while you were in college, did you attend any speeches, informal seminars, or teach-ins about politics or national issues?

20	Yes
78	No
2	Don't know
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

C8 Does your school arrange or offer any service activities or volunteer work that students can participate in?

68	Yes
9	No
<u>23</u>	Don't know
100	

C9 Is participation in a service activity or volunteer work required for students in your school, for example, do all students have to do a certain number of hours of community service or volunteer work before graduating?

11 Yes
73 No
16 Don't know
100

C10 How much influence do you think that students at your college have on how the school is run?

11 Great deal of influence
26 Moderate amount of influence
28 Just a little influence
17 No real influence
18 Don't know
100

IF EVER ATTENDED OR CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE, ASK:

C11 Which of the following activities did you participate in while in college
[Check all that apply]

5 a. Student government
8 b. Ethnic or religious organization—Hispanic students; Hillel
2 c. Political organization—Young Democrats or Republicans
13 d. Fraternity/Sorority
10 e. Subject oriented group—Science/History
12 f. Athletic/sports
13 g. Honor society
10 h. Other _____[specify]
51 i. None of the above
2 j. Don't know
2 Refused
(N=515)

ASK FULL SAMPLE:

C12 In general, if you could choose, would you rather have a career working for

- 21 government
 - 34 a for-profit business
 - 9 a nonprofit organization?
 - 35 Don't know
 - 1 Refused
- 100

C13 Which of the following organized activities have you participated [did you participate] in while in high school? [Check all that apply]

- 45 a. Organized sports
- 22 b. Band
- 11 c. Student council/Student government
- 10 d. Yearbook committee
- 5 e. Debate
- 10 f. Cheerleading/Drill Team/Tall Flags/Other spirit organization
- 12 g. Drama club
- 14 h. Foreign language clubs
- 6 i. Dance club
- 6 j. Newspaper
- 10 k. Service club
- 16 l. Other _____ [specify]
- 24 m. None of the above
- 1 n. Don't know
- 1 Refused

Community Service/Volunteer Activities

V1 Thinking about the last few years, have you spent time participating in any community service or volunteer activity, or haven't you had time to do this? By volunteer activity, I mean not just belonging to a service organization, but actually working in some way to help others for no monetary pay.

- 30 YES, Have done it in last 12 months
 - 16 YES, But have not done it in last 12 months [go to V9]
 - 44 No, Have not done it in last couple of years [go to V9]
 - 9 Don't know if have done it in last couple of years [go to V9]
 - 1 Refused [go to V9]
- 100

Based on those who have volunteered in the last 12 months (yes to V1):

V2 Please mark all the types of groups you have worked for without pay in the last 12 months:

- 43 a. A religious group
- 11 b. A health organization
- 22 c. A civic or community organization, or a group providing social services
- 6 d. A group involved with the arts
- 19 e. A group involved with education
- 1 f. A political organization or candidates running for office
- 11 g. An environmental organization
- 19 h. A child or youth program, such as day care centers
- 25 i. An organization to help the poor, elderly or homeless
- 12 j. A recreation group
- 18 k. Other (please specify)_____
- 4 l. None

(N=329)

[Sequence V3-V8 asked of each of three groups mentioned in V2]

V3. Thinking about your work for (*type of group*) over the last 12 months-- Is this something you do on a regular basis, or just once in a while?
(Answers for individual groups coded v3_a through v3_k)

Summary of all groups:

- 53 Did on a regular basis
- 46 Did just once in a while
- 1 Don't know

100

(N=329)

V4 And when was most recent time you worked for (*type of group*):
(Answers for individual groups coded v4_a through v4_k)

Summary of all groups:

- 32 In the last week
- 25 In the last month
- 38 In the last 12 months
- 5 Don't know/Can't remember
- * Refused

100

(N=329)

V5 When you were working for [group], how many hours per week were you working? (*Answers for individual groups coded v5_a through v5_k*)
(average number of hours for each group)

- 6.39 a. A religious group (n=97)
- 12.16 b. A health organization (n=25)
- 6.57 c. A civic or community organization, or a group providing social services (n=48)
- 11.62 d. A group involved with the arts (n=9)
- 9.69 e. A group involved with education (n=45)
- 4.35 f. A political organization or candidates running for office (n=4)
- 18.85 g. An environmental organization (n=16)
- 17.51 h. A child or youth program, such as day care centers (n=47)
- 6.92 i. An organization to help the poor, elderly or homeless (n=39)
- 6.43 j. A recreation group (n=20)
- 7.93 k. Other (please specify) (n=43)

V6 Was your work with [group] arranged or organized by school?
(*Answers for individual groups coded v6_a through v6_k*)

Summary of all groups:

34	Yes	[ASK V6A-C]
64	No	[go to V7]
<u>2</u>	Don't know	[go to V7]
100		

(N=315)

V6A-C based on those who say their work was arranged by school (yes in V6):

V6A Have you had a chance to talk about your service experience or volunteer work in class or in a group session with other students?
(*Answers for individual groups coded v6a_a through v6a_k*)

Summary of all groups:

52	Yes
46	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=110)

V6B Has your service activity contributed toward your grade in any class?
(Answers for individual groups coded v6b_a through v6b_k)

Summary of all groups:
38 Yes
61 No
1 Don't know
100
(N=110)

V6C Has your service activity or volunteer work been required for graduation?
(Answers for individual groups coded v6c_a through v6c_k)

Summary of all groups:
24 Yes
73 No
3 Don't know
100
(N=110)

V7 Why did you first start to work with this particular (*type of group..*)
Check all that apply
(Answers for individual groups coded v7a_a through v7a_k, v7b_a through v7b_k, v7c_a through v7c_k, etc.)

Summary of all groups:
30 a. A family member (other than myself) was already involved
6 b. Someone in my household was (or I was) getting services from this group
42 c. I was asked to help by a friend
24 d. I was deeply concerned about the issue
13 e. It was required for school
13 f. I was made to do it (by parents, law, someone else)
33 g. Just fell into it--no real reason
9 h. Don't know
1 Refused
(N=315)

V8 When you initially got involved, who made the first contact?
(Answers for individual groups coded v8_a through v8_k)

Summary of all groups:
28 They contacted me
43 I contacted them
20 Someone else put us together
8 Don't remember
1 Refused
100

(N=315)

BASED ON TOTAL SAMPLE (N=1166):

V9 Thinking about the last few years, have you spent time volunteering to help an individual on a 1on 1 basis for no monetary pay?

23 YES, Have done it in last 12 months
10 YES, But have not done it in last 12 months [go to P1]
54 No, Have not done it in last couple of years [go to P1]
12 Don't know if have done it in last couple of years [go to P1]
1 Refused
100

Based on those who have volunteered one-on-one in the last 12 months (yes to V9):

V10 The last time you did this did you help a:

42 a. Family member
63 b. Friend
33 c. Stranger
12 d. Other
1 e. Don't know

100

(N=261)

V11 Was your work in one-on-one volunteering arranged or organized by school?

12 Yes
85 No [go to P1]
3 Don't know [go to P1]

100

(N=261)

V11A & V11B based on those who say their work was arranged by school:

V11A Has your activity contributed toward your grade in any class?

22	Yes
75	No
<u>3</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=32)

V11B Has your volunteer work, to help on a one on one basis, been required for graduation?

3	Yes
<u>97</u>	No
100	

(N=32)

**Precursors: Knowledge/Opportunity/Skills/Attitudes & Orientations
Parents, Discussion, Media Exposure, Inward/Outward Orientation/Attitudes
ASKED OF FULL SAMPLE(N=1166, unless otherwise noted.)**

P1 Which of the following three statements best describes you:

31	I follow the news closely most of the time, whether or not something important or interesting is happening
34	I follow the news closely ONLY when something important or interesting is happening
30	I rarely follow the news closely.
4	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

P2A and P2B each asked of HALF sample:

P2A How often do you talk about current events or things you have heard about in the news with your *friends*: very often, sometimes, rarely or never?

15	Very often
48	Sometimes
31	Rarely
5	Never
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

(N=586)

P2B How often do you talk about current events or things you have heard about in the news with members of your *family*: very often, sometimes, rarely or never?

20	Very often
46	Sometimes
27	Rarely
5	Never
2	Don't know
*	Refused
<u>100</u>	

(N=580)

P3 based on those who answer “very often” or “sometimes” in P2A/B:

P3 When you do talk about current events and the news, how often does that include items about politics or government.

13	Very often
54	Sometimes
27	Rarely
5	Never
1	Don't know
*	Refused
<u>100</u>	

(N=767)

P4 How often was politics discussed in your house when you were growing up?

12	Very often
31	Sometimes
35	Rarely
15	Never
7	Don't know
*	Refused
<u>100</u>	

P5 Do you happen to know which party now has the most members in the House of Representatives in Washington?

32	Republican Party
20	Democratic Party
48	Don't Know
*	Refused
<u>100</u>	

P6 How closely do you follow news that come from each of the following areas...?

	Very Closely	Some- what Closely	Not very Closely	Don't Know	Ref.
a. Religion	7	24	60	8	1=100
b. Politics	7	33	52	6	2=100
c. Entertainment	23	45	27	4	1=100
d. Sports	24	28	41	5	2=100
e. Computers and the Internet	12	30	49	7	2=100

ATTITUDES

WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR REACTION TO SOME STATEMENTS. PLEASE INDICATE THE STATEMENT THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW YOU FEEL.

A1A and A1B each asked of half sample

A1A

24	Politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on OR
55	I can usually understand what's going on in politics and government
21	Can't choose
*	Refused
100	
(N=586)	

A1B

40	Politics and government operate by rules I really don't understand OR
18	Politics and government operate by rules that I find clear and easy to understand
41	Can't choose
1	Refused
100	
(N=580)	

A2A and A2B each asked of half sample

A2A

45	A person who wants to make a speech in my community against churches and religion should be allowed OR
23	A person who wants to make a speech in my community against churches and religion should be prevented from doing so
31	Can't choose
1	Refused
100	
(N=586)	

A2B

28	A book that says women are inferior to men and should have fewer rights should be kept out of the public libraries OR
34	A book that says women are inferior to men and should have fewer rights should be available at public libraries
37	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

A3A and A3B each asked of half sample

A3A

14	Most people who are my age have similar values OR
77	People my age hold a variety of different values
9	Can't choose
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

(N=586)

A3B

54	My generation is unique and distinct from other generations OR
29	There is nothing particularly unique or distinct about my generation.
16	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU AGREE MORE WITH THE FIRST OR SECOND STATEMENT BELOW:

A4

36	There are generally clear guidelines to what is right and wrong OR
52	What's right for one person doesn't mean it's right for everybody.
12	Can't choose
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

A5A and A5B each asked of half sample:

A5A

39	Politics is mostly a scam OR
16	Politics is mostly honest people trying to do the best they can.
45	Can't choose
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

(N=586)

A5B

43	Government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves OR
27	Government is generally run for the benefit of all
29	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

A6A and A6B each asked of half sample:

A6A

55	Most people try to take advantage of others if given the chance OR
21	Most people try to be fair in their dealings with others
23	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=586)

A6B

31	Most people try to take advantage of me if given the chance OR
46	Most people try to be fair in their dealings with me
22	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

A7

31	Most of the time people try to be helpful OR
52	Most of the time people are just looking out for themselves
17	Can't choose
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

A8

41	I do things out of duty - because I'm supposed to do them OR
34	I do things only when I want to do them
24	Can't choose
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

A9A and A9B each asked of half sample:

A9A

46	I am personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society OR
16	Making things better for society is a job for other people and government
38	Can't choose
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	
(N=586)	

A9B

39	I am personally responsible for getting involved to make things better for society
32	Making things better for society is a job for those people who choose to take it on
27	Can't choose
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	
(N=580)	

GOVERNMENT RELEVANCE & INFLUENCE QUESTIONS

G1 How much of an impact do you think decisions made by the government have on your daily life?

37	A Lot
35	Some
15	A little
4	None
9	Don't know
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

G2 And how much of a difference could you make in what government does if you tried-- a lot, some, a little, or none?

7	A Lot
22	Some
32	A little
20	None
18	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

G3a and G3b each asked of half sample:

G3a Imagine you went to a community meeting and people were standing up to make comments and statements. Do you think you could make a comment or a statement at a public meeting?

41	Yes—would be comfortable
28	Yes—but would be uncomfortable
17	No would not want to make a statement
14	Don't Know
<u> </u> *	Refused
100	

(N=586)

G3b Suppose there was some issue you felt needed action in your community. Do you think you would be able to call someone on the phone you had never met before to explain the problem and ask for help?

27	Yes—would be comfortable
38	Yes—but would be uncomfortable
17	No would not want to make a statement
17	Don't Know
<u> </u> 1	Refused
100	

(N=580)

VOTING AND PARTICIPATION

Based on those who are at least 18 years old:

VP1 Many are not registered to vote because they are too busy or move around often. Would official state records show that you...

48	Are now registered to vote in your precinct or election district
31	Are <i>not</i> now registered to vote in your precinct or election district
21	Don't know what records would show
<u> </u> *	Refused
100	

(N=833)

Based on those who are at least 18 years old and who are registered:

VP2 In the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore:

63 Did you vote
21 Did you *not* vote
4 Or can't you recall whether you voted?
12 Not eligible to vote
100
(N=396)

VP3 Have you ever received any request directed to you personally to work for or contribute money to a candidate for public office, a party group, political action committee, or any other organization that supports candidates?

9 Yes, within last 12 months
6 Yes, but not within last 12 months [go to VP4]
70 No, haven't done it [go to VP4]
14 Don't know [go to VP4]
1 Refused [go to VP4]
100

VP3A based on those who have received requests (yes in VP3):

VP3A. Thinking back to the last time someone asked you to work or contribute money to an organization that supports candidates, can you recall who asked you?
[CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY] (*Response categories are coded VP3a_1, VP3a_2, VP3a_3, VP3a_4, VP3a_5, VP3a_6, VP3a_7, VP3a_8, in order they appear below.*)

14 Yes, friend
7 Yes, relative
3 Yes, co-worker
30 Yes, stranger
17 Yes, other
14 No, can't recall
9 Don't know
15 Refused
100
(N=119)

VP4 Have you ever received any request directed to you personally to work for or contribute money to an issue or cause not related to a candidate, political party, or political action committee?

13 Yes, within last 12 months
5 Yes, but not within last 12 months
62 No, haven't done it
19 Don't know
1 Refused
100

VP5 Have you ever participated in a walk, run, or bicycle ride for a charitable cause?

9 Yes, within last 12 months
26 Yes, but not within last 12 months
57 No, haven't done it
7 Don't know
1 Refused
100

VP6 Have you ever written a letter to a newspaper or government official?

6 Yes, within last 12 months
16 Yes, but not within last 12 months
72 No, haven't done it
5 Don't know
1 Refused
100

VP7 Have you ever worked together informally with some one or some group to solve a problem in the community where you live?

7 Yes, within last 12 months
14 Yes, but not within last 12 months
71 No, haven't done it
7 Don't know
1 Refused
100

VP8 Sometimes people hear things they don't like about products or companies--such as certain brands of clothing that have been made by people in sweatshops. They might avoid buying that product in the future in order to register a protest or send a message to the company who makes the product. Have you ever avoided buying something in order to register a protest or send a message?

14 Yes, within last 12 months
13 Yes, but not within last 12 months
60 No, haven't done it
12 Don't know
1 Refused
100

VP8a asked only of those who said, "yes, within the last 12 months" in VP8:

VP8a What did you do?

Insert categorized open ends

VP9 Have you ever attended a meeting of your town or city council or neighborhood organization?

6 Yes, within last 12 months
13 Yes, but not within last 12 months
76 No, haven't done it
4 Don't know
1 Refused
100

No VP10.

VP11a and VP11b were each asked of a half sample:

VP11a I'd like to ask about signing petitions related to a political or social issue that was important to you. First, have you ever signed an e-mail petition, such as an e-mail message that you add your name to and forward on to others you know?

10 Yes, within last 12 months
8 Yes, but not within last 12 months
73 No, haven't done it
9 Don't know
* Refused
100
(N=586)

VP11b Have you ever signed an e-mail petition, such as an e-mail message that you add your name to and forward on to others you know?

13	Yes, within last 12 months
5	Yes, but not within last 12 months
74	No, haven't done it
6	Don't know
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

VP12a and VP12b were each asked of a half sample:

VP12a And how about any other kind of petition -- have you ever signed a written petition related to a political or social issue that was important to you?

11	Yes, within last 12 months
18	Yes, but not within last 12 months
63	No, haven't done it
8	Don't know
<u>*</u>	Refused
100	

(N=586)

VP12b How about a paper or written petition? Have you ever signed a paper or written petition?

16	Yes, within last 12 months
24	Yes, but not within last 12 months
53	No, haven't done it
6	Don't know
<u>1</u>	Refused
100	

(N=580)

VP13 Have you ever gone to an internet site to help you find out how to volunteer for a cause or group?

6	Yes, within last 12 months
5	Yes, but not within last 12 months
81	No, haven't done it
6	Don't know
<u>2</u>	Refused
100	

VP14 Is there any other way you have been involved in some political activity in the last year that has not been covered on this survey?

If yes, answer in the box below

No

insert categorized verbatims

VP15 Please check off all the words below that come to mind when you hear the word POLITICS

- | | | |
|----|----|---------------------|
| 17 | a. | Interesting |
| 35 | b. | White Guys in Suits |
| 53 | c. | Lying |
| 47 | d. | Boring |
| 45 | e. | Confusing |
| 29 | f. | Necessary |
| 26 | g. | Public service |
| 63 | h. | Power |
| 7 | i. | Ensures opportunity |
| 33 | j. | Favoritism |
| 73 | k. | Government |
| 8 | l. | Irrelevant |
| 40 | m. | For the rich |
| 7 | n. | Responsive |
| 48 | o. | Corrupt |
| 36 | p. | Democracy |
| 29 | q. | Partisan bickering |
| 5 | r. | None of the above |