



**Please Give Us Your Advice About Questions to be Included in
Two Upcoming National Longitudinal Studies Surveys**

October 19, 2006

We are writing to ask for your advice about questions about politics to be included in National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) in 2008.

The ANES/NLS Partnership

The National Longitudinal Surveys are run by the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) at the Ohio State University. Since the 1960s, CHRR has conducted longitudinal surveys with nationally representative national panels of adults and children. This work has been funded by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and other agencies.

In 2005, the American National Election Studies (ANES) announced a new collaboration with the National Longitudinal Surveys. ANES purchased time on two NLS surveys (The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, also known as the NLSY79, and the Children of the NLSY (CNLSY) Young Adult component), one of which was fielded in 2006.

The ANES-NLS collaborations allow scholars to compare attitudes, beliefs, and behavior across generations within families and allow researchers to study how individuals change across the lifespan.

ANES Questions on the CNLSY

Four minutes of ANES questions were included in the 2006 CNLSY survey, and four minutes of ANES questions will be included in the 2008 CNLSY survey.

In 2006, ANES questions are being administered to CNLSY respondents ages 21 or older. In 2008, they will be administered to all Young Adult respondents, subject to OMB approval for those aged 15-20. ANES users will have access to all of the data collected on these respondents in 2006 and 2008 and all of the data collected *on these respondents in all previous years of the study.*

The CNLSY survey began in 1986 by collecting data biennially on all children born to female NLSY79 (an NLS panel study started in 1979) respondents. In 2002, CNLSY respondents ranged in age from birth to 32 years old. Beginning in 1994, children under age 15

have completed various cognitive, socio-emotional, and physiological assessment instruments during each survey, and information about the child has been obtained from the child's mother as well.

Children of NLSY79 respondents who are at least 15 years old, referred to as "Young Adults," are regularly administered NLSY79-style questionnaires that gather information on a wide range of topics. The number of Young Adult respondents has grown as the CNLSY sample has aged, from 980 in 1994 to 4,238 in 2002. Standard measurements in the Young Adult survey include household structure, religious experiences, dating and marriage, schooling, military experience, employment, fertility, physical and mental health, income and financial assets, self-esteem, attitudes toward risk-taking, parent/child relations, computer use, substance use, criminal activity, sexual activity, participation in community activities, and cognitive skills.

The four minutes of ANES questions that were included in the 2006 CNLSY survey were selected based on advice we got from a wide range of scholars and are listed at the end of this announcement. Because the 2006 CNLS interviews are still being conducted, we cannot yet report on the results obtained with those questions.

In the 2008 CNLSY, we can run all of the 2006 questions again or we can run only some of those questions again and add new ones instead to fill our four minutes. We are seeking your advice about what questions to ask (and if new ones, which ones to remove from the 2006 set).

ANES Questions on NLSY79

ANES will also purchase one minute of interview time on the 2008 survey of the NLSY79 respondents. This survey includes a large sample of adults, including the mothers of the CNLSY79 Young Adult respondents. All of the NLSY79 respondents have been interviewed many times in the past, and they are scheduled to be interviewed many more times in the future. We expect to be able to ask about four questions in this one minute. We are seeking recommendations about what these four questions should be.

How to Give Advice

To remain in accordance with the NLS planning calendar, we must receive all advice from you by November 1, 2006. ANES personnel can propose questions on a wide range of topics of interest to election scholars. But we cannot ask questions about respondents' past voting behavior or preferences among candidates who might run for elected office in the future.

Please send all of your advice about questions to ask (and not ask) to:
anes@electionstudies.org

Sincerely,

Jon A. Krosnick and Arthur Lupia
Principal Investigators
The American National Election Studies

Appendix. ANES Questions for the 2006 CNLS Young Adult Survey

Below are the questions to be included in the 2006 CNLSY survey. Below some questions, we have inserted notes to explain how the question will be administered or why it will be asked in a particular way.

1. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick or they just didn't have time or for some other reason. Which of the following statements best describes you: One, I did not vote in the 2004 U.S. presidential election. Two, I thought about voting in the 2004 U.S. presidential election, but didn't. Three, I usually vote, but didn't vote in the 2004 U.S. presidential election. Or four, I am sure I voted in the 2004 U.S. presidential election.

1. I DID NOT VOTE IN THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
2. I THOUGHT ABOUT VOTING IN 2004, BUT DIDN'T
3. I USUALLY VOTE, BUT DIDN'T IN 2004
4. I AM SURE I VOTED

2. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as {ROT_PARTY}, an Independent, or what?

In this question, the placeholder {ROT_PARTY} is for the terms "Democrat" or "Republican." The order in which these terms appear in the question is rotated randomly to reduce response order effects. So, some respondents hear "Republican" first, while others hear "Democrat" first.

2A. A strong {party} or a not very strong {party}?

In this version of the follow up question, respondents who answered "Republican" or "Democrat" are asked about the strength of their partisan attachment.

2B. What party?

In this version of the follow-up question, respondents who did not choose one of the parties in the initial question are given an opportunity to enter another party name.

2C. Do you think of yourself as {ROT_CLOSER}, or equally close to both?

This version of the follow-up is asked of respondents who indicated no party preference. ROT_CLOSER is a place holder for the term "closer to the Democratic party, closer to the Republican party" or its inverse. Again, the order is rotated randomly to reduce response order effects.

3. How often do you follow what's going on in politics? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

To reduce response order effects, on questions with this set of responses we rotate responses so that some respondents read

4. How often does the federal government do what most Americans want it to do? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

5. How often is politics so complicated that you don't really understand what's going on? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

6. Do you think that people should have to work hard in order to get ahead in life, or should people be able to get ahead in life without having to work hard?

Following the logic stated above, the order of this question and the next are rotated randomly.

7. Do you think that every American should have the same opportunities to succeed in life, or that it's ok for some people to have more opportunities to succeed than others do?

8. Generally speaking, how often can you trust other people? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

9. During the last two years, did you ever work as a volunteer for a political candidate running for national, state, or local office and got no pay at all or only a very small amount of pay for your work, or did you never do this?

10. During the last two years, did you ever contribute money to a political candidate, a political party, a political action committee, or any other organization that supported political candidates, or did you never do this?

11. During the last two years, did you ever work with others in your community or neighborhood to deal with some community issue or problem, or did you never do this?

12. During the last two years, did you ever contact a government official in person, by phone, or by letter about a problem or issue, or did you never do this?

13. When you were growing up, how often did you hear the adults in your household talking about politics? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

14. When you were growing up, did your mother think of herself mostly as {ROT_PARTY}, an Independent, or what?

14 A. What party?

15. How often did she follow what was going on in politics? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

16. Think about your father, stepfather, or someone else who was most like a father to you when you were growing up. Did he think of himself mostly as {ROT_PARTY}, an Independent, or what?

16 A. What party?

17. How often did he follow what was going on in politics? Always, most of the time, about half the time, once in a while, or never.

NOTE: Mother and father questions are asked differently here because in order to enter the sample, CNLSY respondents must have had a mother figure who is known to the CNLSY researchers, whereas some respondents did not have a father figure growing up.