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## **Abstract**

The 1998 Pilot Study of the American National Election Study included a very brief and economical social network battery which solicited information regarding the respondents' self identified networks of political discussion. In this report, and in the accompanying appendix, we explore the battery's analytic potential for understanding the influence of socially communicated political expertise. The ANES battery is based entirely on the perceptions of survey respondents regarding the characteristics of their identified discussants, without any validating information taken from the discussants themselves. We explore the utility of such a battery by comparing the ANES results to other studies that *do* include this validating information. The underlying question is whether it is analytically valuable to implement a social network battery based entirely on the respondents' perception.