YALE UNIVERSITY SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SURVEY A
We are interested in understanding more about high school students’ interest in politics and government. This is not a quiz and we do not expect you to know all of the answers. Your responses are confidential; no one at your school – not even your teacher – will see what you write. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to.

Thanks for your help.

Name ________________________________
Teacher ______________________________
School ________________________________
Period/Time ____________________________
Date ________________________________
Yale University Survey of High School Students

Your interest in politics

1. How interested are you in politics and current events?
   _____ Very interested
   _____ Somewhat interested
   _____ Not at all interested

2. Name a topic in the news that really interests you:

3. How often do you talk about politics at home?
   _____ A lot
   _____ Sometimes
   _____ Almost never

4. In general when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a
   _____ Republican
   _____ Democrat
   _____ Independent
   _____ None of these

5. Here are some ways that people get their news and information. Please check which of these things you have done over the past week:
   _____ Read a newspaper
   _____ Watched news on television
   _____ Listened to the news on the radio
   _____ Read news on the Internet
   _____ None of these
Political opinions and beliefs

6. Serving on a jury is a major hassle. I hope I never get called to serve. Agree_____ Disagree_____

7. I would never pay taxes if I didn’t have to. Agree _____ Disagree _____

8. If there were a presidential election this year – and I were old enough – I definitely would vote. Agree _____ Disagree _____

Here is a list of actions people might take, or things people might do, to express their views. For each one, please mark whether you have done it or not.

9. Contacted or visited a public official—at any level of government – to express your opinion. Yes_____ No_____

10. Signed a petition. Yes_____ No_____

11. Refused to buy a product because of the practices of the company that produces it. Yes_____ No_____

12. In the last month, have you volunteered your time for a community service? Yes_____ No_____

If so, what was it? ____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Here are two short stories about events that could happen. Imagine that they are happening to you. For each one, write your reaction in two or three sentences.

13. You are in a park with friends. A man with a megaphone walks around shouting threatening and insulting things about gays and minorities. Is that against the law? Should it be?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
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14. You are walking down the sidewalk and, without warning, a police officer grabs you and pushes you against the wall – even though you haven't done anything. What are your rights at that moment?

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Please write a sentence or two about what the following terms mean.

15. Commerce Clause

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16. Symbolic speech

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17. Militia

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How politics and government work

18. The President has the power to declare a state of emergency and suspend laws in the case of war. True_____ False_____ 

19. If Congress passes a law and the President vetoes it, Congress can enact it anyway with a two-thirds majority vote. True_____ False_____ 

20. The Constitution created a weaker central government than the Articles of Confederation. True_____ False_____ 

21. So long as all the students at a public school are the same religion, that school can begin the school day with a prayer. True_____ False_____ 

22. The government cannot place any limits on freedom of speech. True_____ False_____ 

23. Juries can find a defendant not guilty if they think the law that was broken is unjust. True_____ False_____ 

24. Only the Ninth Amendment protects personal liberty. True_____ False_____ 

25. Here is a list of public responsibilities. For each of these, match the job with the governmental body that carries it out. You may use letters more than once, and may use more than one letter per question if necessary. 

   A. Local (town or city) government 
   B. State government 
   C. Federal government 

   ________ Sets the school bus schedule 
   ________ Puts out fires inside town limits 
   ________ Administers driver's license tests 
   ________ Issues passports 
   ________ Creating laws 

26. What is the legal voting age in your state? __________
Please tell us about yourself

27. How long have you lived in your present city or town? _____years

28. Do you have a job during the school year? Yes_____ No_____

29. About how many hours do you spend doing homework on an average school night? _____hours

30. Who lives at home with you (mother, brothers, sisters, aunts, parent’s friend, grandparent, etc.)
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

31. What language or languages are spoke at home? _____________________

32. Please mark the highest level of education that your mother attained:
   _____ Elementary School
   _____ Middle School
   _____ High School
   _____ College
   _____ Graduate School

33. What is your birth date? _____    ___  ____, month  date  year

34. After high school, do you plan to
   _____ Get a job
   _____ Attend school full-time
   _____ Attend school part-time and work
   _____ Join the military
   _____ Do something else. If so, please explain.
                                                                                   
                                                                                   
                                                                                   

Thank you for participating in this survey. We want to assure you, again, that the information that you have provided will remain confidential. It will be used by researchers to help design courses and lessons for high school students about politics and government.