

Chapter 1

Public Opinion in Democratic Societies

1

Basic terms (part I): democratic societies

- Society
 - A collection of individuals that interact
- Politics
 - The process of conflict resolution
- Law
 - The rules & principles used to resolve conflict
- Government
 - Law makers, enforcers, & adjudicators

2

The ends or goals of democratic government

Balance two competing values

1. Individual freedom or liberty with
2. Collective goods:
 - Order
 - Equality

3

The means that democracies use to achieve their ends

1. Constitutional limits on government power
2. Authoritarian or totalitarian powers

4

Prerequisites of representative government:

1. Freedoms of expression
 - Religion
 - Speech
 - Press
 - Assembly/petition
2. Widespread respect for the rights of others
3. Widespread belief that the political system is legitimate

5

Basic terms (part II): public opinion

- Public
 - Mass public
 - Normal times
 - Crisis times
 - Attentive/Issue publics
- Opinion
 - Latent
 - Public

6


Public opinion & politics

		Perceived Costs	
		Distributed	Concentrated
Perceived Benefits	Distributed	Majoritarian Politics	Entrepreneurial Politics
	Concentrated	Client Politics	Interest-Group Politics

7

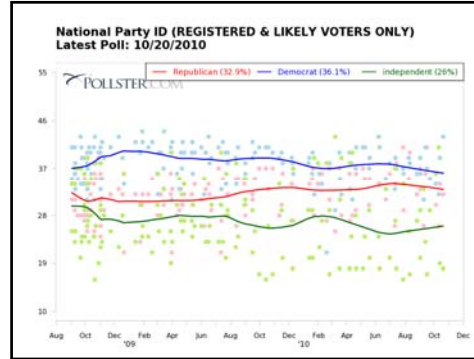
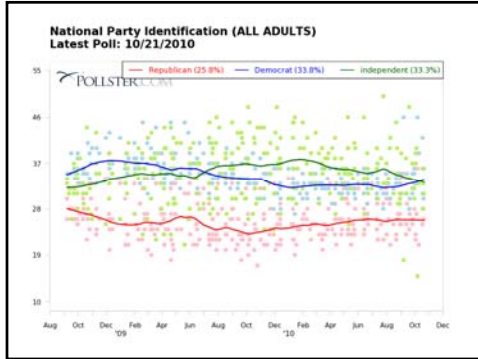
Instant polling:

using clickers in the classroom



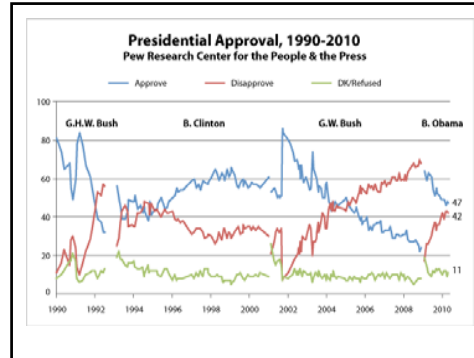
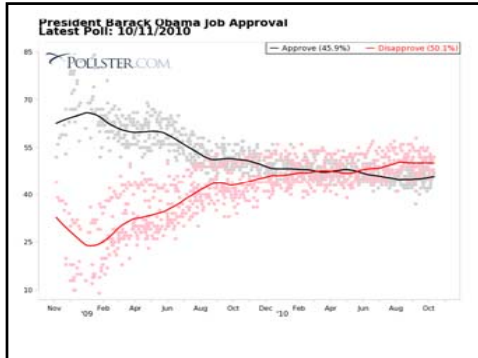
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a:

- A. Republican,
- B. Democrat,
- C. Independent?



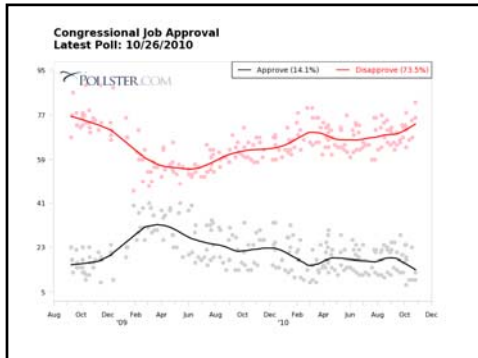
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

- A. Approve
- B. Disapprove



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

- A. Approve
- B. Disapprove



Do you favor or oppose the U.S. war in Afghanistan?

- A. Favor
- B. Oppose
- C. Not sure

