

ICPSR 2165

**ABC News Between Debates  
Horserace Poll, October 1996**

*ABC News*

Data Collection Instrument

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Political and Social Research  
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ABC NEWS BETWEEN DEBATES HORSERACE POLL

71. Can you tell me whether you are registered to vote at your present address or not?

110

Yes	1
No	2 (SKIP TO DEMOS AND TERMINATE)
DK/No opinion	8 (SKIP TO DEMOS AND TERMINATE)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO DEMOS AND TERMINATE)

\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: IF 2, 8, OR 9 (NOT REGISTERED) TO Q. 905, ASK Q. 909 (EDUCATION), 910 (YOB), 918 (RACE) AND 921 (SEX) ONLY AND TERMINATE\*\*

72. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 1996 presidential election this November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50 or less that you will vote?

207

Certain to vote	1
Probably vote	2
Chances 50-50	3
Less than 50-50	4
(VOL) Don't think will vote	5
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAMES\*\***

73. The candidates in November's presidential election are (Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the Democrats), (Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, the Republicans), and (Ross Perot and Pat Choate, the Reform Party candidates). Suppose the election were being held today, for whom would you vote?

208

Bill Clinton, the Democrat	1 (SKIP TO Q.74.1)
Bob Dole, the Republican	2 (SKIP TO Q.74.1)
Ross Perot, the Reform Party Candidate	3 (SKIP TO Q.74.1)
(VOL) None	4
(VOL) Other	5
(VOL) Wouldn't vote	6 (SKIP TO Q.74.1)
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS Q.73\*\***

74. Do you lean more towards (Bill Clinton), (Bob Dole) or (Ross Perot)?

210

Bill Clinton	1
Bob Dole	2
Ross Perot	3
(VOL) None	4
(VOL) Other	5
(VOL) Wouldn't vote	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

**\*\*Author Note: IF QUESTION 73=1,2,OR 3, ASK QUESTION AND REPRES CANDIDATE RESPONDENT CHOSE IN Q.73. IF Q. 73=4,5,D,R AND Q. 74=1,2,3 REPRES CANDIDATE RESPONDENT CHOSE IN Q.74. IF Q. 73 OR Q. 74 =6 SKIP TO Q. 75. IF Q. 74 = 4,5,6,D,R SKIP TO Q. 75\*\***

74.1 The election is November fifth. Will you definitely vote for (REPRES CANDIDATE NAME FROM Q.73 OR 74 ) on Election Day, or is there a chance you'll change your mind and vote for (REPRES OTHER CANDIDATE NAME) OR (REPRES OTHER CANDIDATE NAME) or someone else? (IF CHANCE, then ask:)Is there a good chance you'll change your mind or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

311

Definitely voting for candidate	1
Good chance will change mind	2
Pretty unlikely chance will change mind	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAMES IN PARENTHESES\*\***

75. Thinking about the U.S. House of Representatives election in November, 1996 in the Congressional District where you live, if that election were being held today, for whom would you vote: (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate)?

312

Democrat	1 (SKIP TO Q.101)
Republican	2 (SKIP TO Q.101)
(VOL) Neither	3
(VOL) Wouldn't vote	4 (SKIP TO Q.101)
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS Q.75\*\***

76. Who would you lean toward, (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate)?

313

Democrat	1
Republican	2
(VOL) Neither	3
(VOL) Wouldn't vote	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

101. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling his job as president?

314

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

102. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the nation's economy?

315

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

103. Are you better off or worse off financially now than you were four years ago?

316

Better off	1
Worse off	2
About the same (VOL)	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

104. Do you think the government can reduce the federal budget deficit and cut taxes at the same time or not?

317

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

105. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling foreign affairs?

318

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

106. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the situation between Israel and the Palestinians?

319

Approve	1
Disapprove	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

107. On another subject, Did you happen to watch the first presidential debate on television or listen to it on radio Sunday?

320

Yes	1 (SKIP TO Q.109)
No	2 (GO TO Q.108)
Don't know	8 (SKIP TO Q.112)
Refused	9 (SKIP TO Q.112)

108. Well, then, have you heard or read anything about Sunday's debate since then?

321

Yes	1 (GO TO Q.109)
No	2 (SKIP TO Q.112)
Don't know	8 (SKIP TO Q.112)
Refused	9 (SKIP TO Q.112)

\*\*Author Note: IF Q. 107 OR 108 =1 THEN ASK Q. 109 OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q. 112\*\*

109. Who, in your opinion, won the debate?

322

Clinton	1
Dole	2
(VOL) None/a draw/ a tie	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

110. In the debate, did Clinton do a better job than you expected, a worse job or what?

323

Better job	1
Worse job	2
(VOL)About what I expected	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

111. In the debate, did Dole do a better job than you expected, a worse job or what?

324

Better job	1
Worse job	2
(VOL)About what I expected	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

112. Do you think that the Clinton ads about Dole have been mostly fair, or mostly unfair?

325

Mostly fair	1
Mostly unfair	2
(VOL)Haven't seen any yet	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9



113. Do you think that the Dole ads about Clinton have been mostly fair, or mostly unfair?

326

Mostly fair	1
Mostly unfair	2
(VOL)Haven't seen any yet	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

\*\*Author Note: If Q. 113=3 and 112 =3 skip to q. 115\*\*

114. Do the campaign ads of both candidates make you less likely or more likely to vote in the election, or don't they have any effect on your intention to vote?

327

More likely	1
Less likely	2
Don't have an effect	3
(VOL)Haven't seen any yet	4
Don't know	8
Refused	9

\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE LIST\*\*

115. If you had to choose, which of these two qualities is more important in a president:

A. Someone who has the highest personal character

OR

B. Someone who understands the problems of people like you

328

Statement A: Highest personal character	1
Statement B: Understands the problems	2
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

116. If elected, do you expect your candidate for president to be: (READ ITEMS):

329

A great president	1
An above-average president	2
Only an average president or	3
A worse-than-average president	4
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

117. Do you expect life for the next generation of Americans to be better than life today, worse than life today, or about the same?

330

Better	1
Worse	2
About the same	3
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

118. If the presidential election in the year 2000 were being held today and the candidates were Gore, the Democrat, and Kemp, the Republican, for whom would you vote?

331

Gore	1
Kemp	2
(VOL) Neither	3
(VOL) Other	4
(VOL) Wouldn't vote	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: REPRES TIME ACCORDING TO TIME ZONE OF RESPONDENT.  
REPRES "ON WEDNESDAY" ON ALL DAYS, EXCEPT REPRES "TOMORROW" ON  
TUESDAY\*\*

119. As you may know, the vice presidential debate is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 9, from (6/7/8/9) p.m. to (7:30/8:30/9:30/10:30) p.m. in your time zone. This debate will be televised by all the major TV networks. Are you planning to watch some or all of the debate (on Wednesday/tomorrow) night?

234

Yes, plan to watch debate	1
No, do not plan to watch debate	2 (SKIP TO DEMOS)
DK/No Opinion	8 (SKIP TO DEMOS)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO DEMOS)

\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: REPRES "WEDNESDAY" ON ALL NIGHTS, EXCEPT REPRES  
"TOMORROW" ON TUESDAY\*\*

120. Since you were randomly selected as part of our survey, we would like to call you back (Wednesday/tomorrow) evening shortly after the debate. The call would only take one minute and would help us in analyzing reaction to the debate. It would come no more than an hour after the debate. Would you mind if we called you back?

213

Yes, can call	1
No, can NOT call	2 (SKIP TO DEMOS)
DK/No Opinion	8 (SKIP TO DEMOS)
NA/Refused	9 (SKIP TO DEMOS)

121. So that I know who to ask for when we call back, may I have just your first name? (IF RESPONDENT REFUSES, ASK FOR INITIALS)

214-33

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\*\*AUTHOR NOTE:IF 2, 8, OR 9 (NOT REGISTERED) TO Q. 71, ASK Q.909 (EDUCATION), 910 (YOB), 918 (RACE) AND 921 (SEX) ONLY AND TERMINATE\*\*

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers.

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:  
(READ LIST)

106

A Democrat	1
A Republican	2
An Independent	3
Or what?	4
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

908. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, liberal, moderate, conservative, or very conservative?

113

Very liberal	1
Liberal	2
Moderate	3
Conservative	4
Very conservative	5
(VOL)Don't think in those terms	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

114

8th grade or less	1
Some high school	2
Graduated high school	3
Some college	4 (ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF IT WAS, CIRCLE CODE 3, FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
Graduated College	5
Post-graduate	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

910. In what year were you born?

115-18

\_\_-\_\_-\_\_-\_\_ ?  
DK/No opinion 8888  
NA/Refused 9999

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?

(IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(IF "NO," ASK:) are you white, black, or some other race?

128

White	1
Black	2
White Hispanic	3
Black Hispanic	4
Hispanic (no race given)	5
Other Race	6
NA/Refused	9

921. RESPONDENT'S SEX:

159

Male	1
Female	2

\*\*\*END\*\*\*