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Libbie Sue Lowery
Independent Study

Completed as part of requirement for
"contracted" major in Communicative Arts
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Grade for Independent Study A

Grace E. Gibson, Advisor

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no. 4

RESEARCH DESIGN

HYPOTHESIS: I propose to study Pembroke State University students' reaction to the pardoning of Mr. Nixon. Through this survey I would attempt to obtain information which would be processed to determine the percentage favoring and opposing the pardon, their political party, sex, and race.

SAMPLING DESIGN: The poll will be conducted among college students. There ought to be a one to one correspondence between the number of students and questionnaires once the questionnaires are returned. One week would be allowed in order to poll all students in the various classes.

In order for a student to conduct this poll it will be necessary to obtain from the registrar's office a list of all students. A sufficient number of questionnaires to correspond to the number of students should be duplicated.

The questionnaire would be distributed to the professors (who would participate) to be administered in all their classes. Students should not answer the questionnaire more than once. Therefore each professor would keep a list of students who have taken the test which is to be returned with the questionnaires. At the end of the week the student conducting the poll gathers the questionnaires. He must check the lists of names who have answered the questionnaires against the list from the registrar's office for duplications.

Since this poll is designed to poll college students it is advisable that the poll be circulated by the student doing the polling to other universities in order to make a comparison or evaluation of college students response to the presidential pardon.

Poll Questionnaire

Students--this is a poll questionnaire for a college opinion survey. This is a study of the reasons pro and con concerning the pardon of Mr. Nixon.

Please check the correct block below. If you have already taken this questionnaire please do not answer it twice.

Check the appropriate answer Male___ Female___

Class classification: Freshman___ Sophomore___ Junior___ Senior___

Age category: 18-30___ 30-40___ 40-?___

Race: White___ Black___ American Indian___ Other___

Political party: Democratic___ Republican___ Independent___
Other political party___
Not affiliated with political party___

1. Did you approve of the presidential pardon of Mr. Nixon?
Yes___ No___

If yes please check the main reason for your decision. If no see number two below.

___mercy-His forced resignation was sufficient humiliation.

___Mr. Nixon's contributions outweighed failures

___Pursuing the issue would be divisive for the country

___Nixon's health would have been threatened

___Watergate had already consumed too much of the legislators' time

2. If no, please check the main reason for your decision

___The pardon circumvents the judicial process

___A system of equal justice should be preserved

___President Ford may be involved in a cover-up

3. Do you feel that the pardon should have been delayed until all judicial procedures involving Mr. Nixon in the presidency had been completed. Yes___ No___

If yes check the main reason for your choice.

___To insure that the legal process could work

___To insure that truth comes out

- ___To protect system of equal justice
- ___To demonstrate mercy but allow justice to work
- ___To demonstrate that the cover-up has ended
- ___Not to influence the trials of the other Watergate defendants

Assumptions

There are three assumptions about this poll which I believe will be correct. (1) Over half of the respondents will be Democratic. (2) In regard to the pardon most will oppose it. (3) The main reason for their opposition will be to protect equal justice procedure.

What I've Learned

I have learned to scrutinize more closely the polls which are being taken and the polls which are reported. I am very skeptical of their findings until I know the research design used in conducting the poll. SP!

I have learned that polls may be taken to reveal whatever the pollster desires for it to reveal. The pollster needs only to design the research design to meet his needs.

In designing this poll questionnaire I've learned the different poll questionnaires and which is appropriate for particular polls.