

Study Materials for: Could Your Candidate Shoot Someone on 5th Avenue And Not Lose Votes? Identifying “Lines in the Sand” in Ingroup Candidate Transgressions

Before completing the 70 trials, participants completed a brief demographics section. Demographic questions were put first in the survey so that participants who identified as Republican would only see scenarios where Republican candidates transgressed, and participants who identified as Democrat would only see scenarios where Democratic candidates transgressed. In order to achieve this (i.e., participants only reading about scenarios in which the ingroup transgressed), display logic and piped-text were used in Qualtrics.

Demographic Section

What is your gender?

Answer options:

- Male
- Female
- Other

What is your age in years? Please enter your age in the text box below

What is your race/ethnicity?

- African American
- Asian
- Caucasian
- Latino
- Native American
- Other

If you had to choose, would you identify as a Republican or a Democrat?

- Republican
- Democrat

Are your beliefs generally liberals or conservative?

- Liberal
- Conservative
- Neutral/Neither

....If Neutral/Neither is Selected

If you had to say which way you lean, would you say you are more liberal or conservative?

- Lean toward liberal
- Lean toward conservative
- Neutral/neither

....If Liberal is selected

To what extent are your political beliefs liberal?

- slightly
- moderately
- much

-very much

....If Conservative is selected

To what extent are your political beliefs conservative?

-slightly

-moderately

-much

-very much

After completing the demographic section, participants read the study directions, and then began the 70 trials.

Introduction:

Hello! Welcome to the study. Below are the directions for the study task:

Deciding who to vote for in major political elections is often not easy. Sometimes both candidates are appealing, and other times both candidates have major flaws. When both candidates possess flaws, we have to weigh the cost and benefits between the two options, and choose the candidate that is overall the best (or least worst).

In the following section you will be presented with 70 '**candidate conundrums**'. A candidate conundrum is a circumstance with two qualities: **(1) It involves a candidate who you favor, but (2) That candidate has done something wrong**; specifically, the candidate has committed some sort of transgression in which they have violated a social norm, an ethical moral or principle, or law.

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You will be presented with 60 candidate conundrums. Each conundrum will have two candidates. The first candidate will be from the political party you oppose, while the other candidate will be from the party you support. **However, the candidate from your party will have committed a transgression, and you will have to determine whether this flaw can be overlooked when deciding who to vote for.**

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The purpose of this study is very transparent: **We want to know how bad transgressions have to be for you to consider voting for a candidate that is not in your party.** Many of the scenarios will appear similar, and it will often be difficult to make a decision. Some will seem very bad to you, whereas others will seem small and relatively unimportant. Therefore, we ask for your **patience** and honesty when going through these scenarios.

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The task: Each candidate conundrum is an important election that will determine whether the Democrats or Republicans gain control of the House of Representatives.

For each conundrum, your candidate will have committed some level of transgression. Rather than thinking about the technicalities of the transgression, just think "would I still vote for someone who did this?"

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You can assume the **other candidate has not committed any crime or transgression**, and has a platform representative of the average candidate in their party.

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One last note: Candidates will be referred to as "they" in order to remain gender neutral. For this study, we are not testing how gender impacts perceptions.

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Great! The instructions are complete. Are you ready to begin the scenarios? Remember there are quite a few, but we really appreciate and value your patience!

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Below is the format for all 70 transgression trials. After reading the transgression information, participants then chose to vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate. The presentation of transgressions was randomized.

Transgression Trial Section

Who do you vote for?

*Remember, this is an important election that will determine whether Republicans or Democrats gain majority of the House.

There is a potential concern about the REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRATIC candidate: They planted a bomb in a public building. The bomb exploded and 20 people were killed.

Which candidate would you choose to vote for, the Democratic candidate, or the Republican candidate?

Answer options:

- Democratic candidate
- Republican candidate

Below are the remaining 70 transgressions with the corresponding Transgression Severity Score (TSS)

Transgression Label	TSS	rank	Full transgression
marijuse_1.3	0.495544338	1	They have marijuana for their own use.
dance_00	0.509202522	2	When they were in college, they worked as a dancer at a Gentleman's club.
hooky_0.2	0.743509765	3	They were caught playing hooky from school before they were 16.
marij_1.4	0.828015064	4	They smoke marijuana.
office10_00	0.881954971	5	They stole \$10 worth of office supplies from their place of work.
dice_0.5	0.88536122	6	They took part in a dice game in an alley.
stole_100	0.976349979	7	They stole merchandise worth \$100 from a department store.
stole10_00	1.01494035	8	They stole 10 dollars of snacks from a concession stand at a recreation center.
black_00	1.128722284	9	They dressed up in blackface for a Halloween costume when they were in college.
runaway_.08	1.139772393	10	When they were 16 years old they ran away from home.
heroin_00	1.14113609	11	They person used heroin 10 years ago.
bike_00	1.15624619	12	In high school, they stole a locked bike and sold it.
loud_1.1	1.170261715	13	They disturbed the neighborhood with loud, noisy behavior.
drunk_1.7	1.289142836	14	When they were 16, they were drunk in public.
prost_00	1.2929203	15	They purchased the services of a prostitute on three separate occasions.
knife_2.4	1.406028945	16	They knowingly carry an illegal knife.
drnkpub_00	1.408409578	17	Over the age of 21, they were arrested for drunk and disorderly behavior in public.
drugs_8.5	1.438858659	18	They sold marijuana to others for resale.
cheat_00	1.469969209	19	They cheated on their federal income tax return and avoided paying 500 dollars in taxes.
drnkpubm_00	1.521530341	20	When they were over the age of 21, they were arrested multiple times for being drunk and disorderly in public.
tax_00	1.572406868	21	They cheated on their Federal income tax return and avoided paying \$1,000 in taxes.
speed_00	1.580582877	22	They got a 500 dollar speeding ticket for driving recklessly.
steal500_00	1.591287265	23	When in college, they stole \$500 dollars worth of the merchandise on display at a department store.
smuggle_10.5	1.622628426	24	They smuggled marijuana into the country for resale.
fightdad_00	1.674217946	25	As a teenager, they got in a physical altercation with their father. The father required treatment from a doctor.
embezzle_00	1.679700381	26	They embezzled \$300 from their employer
sext_00	1.710625015	27	They sent unwanted sexually explicit text messages to coworkers.

no_permit_2.1	1.746556361	28	They were found firing a rifle for which they knew they had no permit
welfare_8.3	1.850462433	29	They illegally received welfare checks of \$200.
cocaine_00	1.860996437	30	In college, a person sold cocaine to others for resale.
cheat_4.8	1.877025616	31	They cheated on their federal income tax return.
gamble_3.5	1.907357608	32	They ran a place where they permitted gambling to occur illegally.
liquor_5.5	1.919548759	33	They ran a place where liquor was sold without a license.
loan_5.3	1.923347656	34	They loaned money at an illegally high rate.
stolen_5.1	1.951774508	35	They knowingly bought stolen property from the person whole stole it.
fightstranger_00	1.955543442	36	They got in a physical altercation with a stranger at a bar. The stranger required treatment from a doctor.
expose_4.7	2.036269496	37	They exposed themselves in public.
steal_9.7	2.086964574	38	They broke into a display case in a store and stole \$1,000 worth of merchandise.
sex_1.6	2.129174103	39	When they were over 16 years of age, they had sexual relations with a willing female under 16.
fire_00	2.188619167	40	They intentionally set fire to an old building they owned to collect insurance money.
drunkdrv_00	2.306446474	41	They were arrested for driving an automobile under the influence of alcohol.
porn_5.7	2.331042436	42	As a theatre owner, they knowingly showed pornographic movies to a minor.
lies_11.4	2.347856705	43	They knowingly lied under oath during trial.
launder_9.4	2.383042999	44	As a public official, they took \$1,000 of public money for their own use.
assault_00	2.395989998	45	They were accused of sexual assault in college.
dr_cheat_14.1	2.405260962	46	When they were a doctor, they cheated on claims they made to a federal health insurance plan for patient services.
Paid_crime_21.7	2.458532095	47	They paid another person to commit a serious crime.
hitmom_15.9	2.508893162	48	As a teenager they beat their mother with their fists. The mother required hospitalization.
cheats_13.5	2.566896882	49	When they were a doctor, they cheated on a plan they made to a Federal health insurance plan for patient services. They gained \$10,000.
paywit_12.2	2.752094565	50	They paid a witness to give false testimony in a criminal trial.
jd_bribe_15.7	2.762806058	51	As a county judge they took a bribe to give a light sentence to a criminal case.
gunpoint_21.0	2.834859228	52	They robbed a victim of \$1,000 at gunpoint. The victim was wounded and required hospitalization.

fire_build_24.9	2.865530357	53	They intentionally set fire to a building causing \$100,000 worth of damage.
bribe_13.9	2.895207003	54	When they were a legislator, they took a bribe from a company to vote for a law favoring the company.
narc_ring_33.8	2.944023459	55	They ran a narcotics ring.
entice_25.2	2.944561628	56	They enticed a minor into their car for immoral purposes.
bribe_10k_16.9	2.985785618	57	When they were a legislator, they took a bribe of \$10,000 from a company to vote for a law favoring the company.
beatchild_22.9	3.269592324	58	They beat their young child with their fists. The child required hospitalization.
auto_reck_19.5	3.300754131	59	They killed a victim by recklessly driving an automobile.
badoil_17.8	3.422080731	60	They were a store owner who knew that a shipment of cooking oil was bad, but sold it anyway. Only one bottle was sold and the purchaser died.
pollute_13.0	3.43266149	61	As the owner of a factory, they knowingly got rid of the factory waste in a way that polluted the water supply of a city.
rape_noinj_25.8	3.560631041	62	They forcibly raped a woman. No other physical injury occurred.
stab_39.2	3.748969828	63	They stabbed their spouse. As a result, the spouse died.
int_inj_35.6	3.749634298	64	They intentionally injured a victim. As a result, the victim died.
gunrob_43.2	4.085140316	65	They robbed a victim at gun point. The victim struggled and was shot to death.
child_beat_47.8	4.345256857	66	They beat their young child with their fists. As a result, the child died.
factory20_39.1	4.41846669	67	They owned a factory that knowingly got rid of its waste in a way that polluted the water supply of a city. As a result, 20 people die.
rape_52.8	4.424237881	68	They owned a factory that knowingly got rid of its waste in a way that polluted the water supply of a city. As a result, 20 people die.
bomb_inj_30.5	4.467407411	69	They planted a bomb in a public building. The bomb exploded and 20 people were injured, but no medical treatment was required.
bomb.71	6.834653685	70	They planted a bomb in a public building. The bomb exploded and 20 people were killed.

After completing all 70 trials, participants responded to a brief attention check, reported what they thought the study was about, were debriefed, and then were compensated for their participation.