

SECTION VI

ITEM 81

Rounds I & II

Wording: You mentioned that you have not volunteered through or for an organization since January 1, 2004. Have you ever volunteered through or for an organization? (Response options: Yes, No, DK)

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 82

Rounds I & II

Wording: How long ago did you volunteer?

1. **Within the last 2 years, but not in the last 12 months** (January 2000 – December (2003)
2. **Three to five years ago** (January 2000 – December 2002)
3. **More than five years ago** (1999 or earlier)
4. **Don't know**

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 83

Rounds I & II

Wording: What is the main reason you didn't volunteer through or for an organization last year? [DO NOT READ]

1. Burn out
2. Didn't enjoy previous volunteer experience
3. Family responsibilities/child care
4. Health or medical problems
5. Lack of time
6. Lack of information
7. Lack of transportation
8. Lack of paid expenses
9. Moved in the last year
10. No one asked
11. No longer a member of the organization
12. No longer required to volunteer
13. Not relevant to current life situations
14. Opportunities available didn't match interests or skills
15. Wasn't interested
16. Other/specify _____

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

SECTION VII

ITEM INTRO

Rounds I & II

Wording: Now I'd like to ask you some questions about your experiences with volunteering in general.

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEMS 84-90

Rounds I & II

Wording: Do members of your family do any kind of volunteer work in the community? (Response options: Yes, No, DK, Refused)

[IF YES] **Who?** (Any others?) [DO NOT READ, MARK ALL THAT APPLY]

	Yes	No
Q 85 Mother	1	0
Q 86 Father	1	0
Q 87 Brothers and/or sisters	1	0
Q 88 Uncles and/or aunts	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Q 89 Grandparents	1	0
Q 90 Other _____	1	0

General Comments/Issues

There were no apparent conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. It is important to note that the level of accuracy of these answers is unknown. In speaking with a parent of one of our respondents after the interview, we found out that the respondent reported “no” for this question, when in fact the parent actually does a great deal of volunteer work. It is likely this type of error will be relatively common.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 91

Rounds I & II

Wording: Have you ever asked a friend or relative to volunteer? ? (Response options: Yes, No, DK, Refused)

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEMS 92-96

Rounds I & II

Wording: Have you heard of the following national and international service programs? [ROTATE]

	Yes	No	DK	RF
Q92. AmeriCorps	1	0	8	9
Q93. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)	1	0	8	9
Q94. Peace Corps	1	0	8	9
Q95. ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps)	1	0	8	9
Q96. U.S.A. Action Corps	1	0	8	9

IF Q92-96=1, ASK Q92A-Q96A. OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q97.

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEMS 92A-96A

Rounds I & II

Wording: Would you say that your impression of [fill Q92-96] is very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, very negative, or that you haven't heard enough about the organization to have such an impression?

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	No Impression	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	DK	RF
Q92A. AmeriCorps	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
Q93A. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
Q94A. Peace Corps	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
Q95A. ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps)	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
Q96A. U.S.A. Action Corps	5	4	3	2	1	8	9

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 97

Rounds I & II

Wording: First, I'd like to ask you whether any incentives, such as free housing, an allowance to pay for living expenses, college credit, or a college scholarship would motivate you to spend a year working on service projects. Or would you say that you'd be willing to serve without any of the incentives, or that you would not be interested in spending a year working on service projects regardless of the incentives?

- 2.) One or more of the incentives would greatly increase interest
- 1.) Would be interested in serving without any of these incentives – Skip to Q99
- 0.) Would not be interested in serving, even with incentives – Skip to Q103
- 8.) Don't know – Skip to Q103
- 9.) Refused – Skip to Q103

General Comments/Issues

Round I: Respondents were eventually able to formulate and report an opinion. Because this question included so many multiple segments (many questions posing as one survey item), it was perceived by respondents as overly complex. Consequently, respondents often had a difficult time remembering what the question was initially asking and requested that the interviewer repeat the question in its entirety. This question is simply too long for respondents to reasonably remember all of the details included within the question context.

Recommendation(s)

Round I: It is our recommendation that this question be unfolded into separate questions (see Round II recommendation) so that respondents do not grapple with remembering what the question is asking and what the closed-ended/detailed response options are to answer this question. We suggested that the sponsor consider a multi-question wording strategy like the one we propose below, however this question was not put into the CATI instrument in time for the Round II testing.

General Comments/Issues

Round II: Because the question's lead-in is very long, respondents often asked for the entire question or the response options embedded in the question to be reread. This type of respondent behavior is indicative of respondents not able to grasp the response task because important ideas or qualifiers are buried or easy to miss within the question.

Recommendation(s)

Round II: We recommend unfolding the question as follows:

A. Would incentives, such as free housing, an allowance to pay for living expenses, college credit or a college scholarship, motivate you to spend a year working on service projects? [Yes, No (Skip) Don't know (Skip), Refused (Skip)]

B. (Ask this question only if R answers YES to previous item; otherwise skip R to the next question)

Please tell me which of the following incentives, if any, would motivate you to spend a year working on service projects:

- 1) Free housing [Yes, No, Don't Know, Refused]
- 2) An allowance to pay for living expenses [Yes, No, Don't Know, Refused]
- 3) College credit [Yes, No, Don't Know, Refused]
- 4) A college scholarship [Yes, No, Don't Know, Refused]
- 5) Other (specify)_____
- 6) Not interested in working on service projects regardless of incentives

C. (Ask all R's this item except R's who select Response option #6 from previous item)

Would you say that you would be willing to work on service projects without incentives such as free housing, an allowance to pay for living expenses, college credit or a college scholarship? [Yes, No, Don't know, Refused]

However, if unfolding this question is not an option, then it is our recommendation for the sponsor to consider an alternative question strategy that breaks the question tasks down into simpler, manageable sections in order to aid respondent comprehension.

Sponsor's Feedback

Recommendation not adopted.

Final Wording:

97A. First, I'd like to ask you whether any incentives, such as free housing, an allowance to pay for living expenses, college credit or a college scholarship, would motivate you spend a year working on service projects? [Yes, No]

97B. Would you be willing to serve without any of the incentives? [Yes, No]

This wording reflects changes made independently by the sponsor and without input from the Statistical Research Division. As such, this question has not been subjected to Census Bureau pretesting standards.

ITEMS 98/98A-E

Rounds I & II

Wording: Of the following incentives that might be available to you if you spent a year working on service projects – free housing, an allowance of \$12,000 to help pay for living expenses, college credit, job training, or a \$5,000 college scholarship – which one or ones would motivate you to spend a year working on service projects?

[RECORD RESPONSES IN Q102A-E. REPEAT INCENTIVES OPTIONS AS NECESSARY]

	Yes	No	DK	RF
Q98A.) Free housing	1	0	8	9
Q98B.) A living allowance of \$12,000 for one year	1	0	8	9
Q98C.) College course credit	1	0	8	9
Q98D.) Job training/skills	1	0	8	9
Q98E.) A \$5,000 college scholarship	1	0	8	9

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 99

Rounds I & II

Wording: At what point would you be interested in doing this service work for a year? [DO NOT READ]

- 1.) Immediately
- 2.) After graduating from high school
- 3.) During college
- 4.) After college
- 5.) At any time
- 6.) Depends/Specify
- 7.) Other
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 100

Rounds I & II

Wording: Which would you prefer the most: serving in your own community, another community in the U.S., or overseas?

- 1.) Serving in own community
- 2.) Serving in another community in the U.S.
- 3.) Serving overseas
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 101

Rounds I & II

Wording: If you decided to spend a year working on service projects, would you prefer to take a position where you worked on group projects with a team or a position where you worked on individual projects?

- 1.) Work on group projects
- 2.) Work on individual projects
- 3.) [VOLUNTEERED] Both group projects and individual projects
- 4.) [VOLUNTEERED] Doesn't matter
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEMS 102-102A

Rounds I & II

Wording: If you decided to spend a year working on service projects, what community issue would you be most interested in working on?

_____ Open-Ended Response

- 8.) Don't Know
- 9.) Refused

Q102A.) [OPEN ENDED RESPONSE OPTIONS TO Q102]

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.) Community or economic development | 9.) Homelessness |
| 2.) Community outreach | 10.) Housing rehabilitation/relocation |
| 3.) Disaster preparation/relief | 11.) Hunger |
| 4.) Education | 12.) Job development/placement |
| 5.) Care of the elderly | 13.) Neighborhood revitalization |
| 6.) Entrepreneurship/minority business | 14.) Public safety |
| 7.) Environment | 15.) Technology/digital divide |
| 8.) Health | 16.) Other |

General Comments/Issues

Although it appears that this is a two-part question, 102A only serves to identify the response categories that the interviewer will use to code the open-ended answer provided by the respondent in question 102. This question elicits open-ended answers from respondents that are already included as response options in Item 102A. Respondents were able to provide their answers fairly quickly, indicating that this information was salient knowledge for respondents.

Recommendation(s)

No recommendations.

SECTION VIII

ITEM 103

Rounds I& II

Wording: Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

3.) A great deal

2.) Somewhat

1.) Not at all

8.) Don't know

General Comments/Issues

Round I: Respondents were able to answer this question with ease; however, respondents often doubted the relevance of this question in relation to the questions asked of them from previous sections. One female respondent stated that, "she was not expecting a discussion about politics to be a part of a volunteerism survey."

Recommendation(s)

Round I: It is our recommendation that an introductory lead-in statement be developed to transition respondents into this module of questions about politics so that respondents are not so "caught off guard" concerning the significance and legitimacy of the content matter for this series of questions.

General Comments/Issues

Round II: See comments from Round I.

Recommendation(s)

Round II: No further recommendations.

Sponsor's Feedback

Recommendation not adopted.

ITEM 104

Rounds I & II

Wording: **Do you ever discuss politics with your parents or other adults in your household?**

- 1.) Yes
- 0.) No - Skip to Q106
- 8.) Don't know - Skip to Q106
- 9.) Refused - Skip to Q106

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 105

Rounds I & II

Wording: **How many days in the past week did you talk about politics with your parents or other adults?**

- _____ Number [1-7]
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 106

Rounds I & II

Wording: Do you ever discuss politics with your friends?

- 1.) Yes
- 0.) No - Skip to Q108
- 8.) Don't know - Skip to Q108
- 9.) Refused - Skip to Q108

General Comments/Issues

The majority of respondents answered "yes" to this question. Respondents were able to answer this question quickly and confidently.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 107

Rounds I & II

Wording: How many days in the past week did you talk about politics with your friends?

- _____ Number [1-7]
- 8.) Don't know
 - 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

Answers varied for respondents. As would be expected, older respondents typically talked more about politics than the younger respondents. There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 108

Rounds I & II

Wording: Would you say that you have recently been taking a good deal of interest in current events and what's happening in the world today, some interest, or not very much interest?

- 3.) A good deal
- 2.) Some
- 1.) Not very much
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Final Wording:

How much interest have you been taking recently in current events and what's happening in the world today: a good deal of interest, some interest, or not very much interest?

This wording reflects changes made independently by the sponsor and without input from the Statistical Research Division. As such, this question has not been subjected to Census Bureau pretesting standards.

ITEM 109

Rounds I & II

Wording: Thinking about the problems you see in your community, how much difference do you believe YOU can personally make in working to solve problems you see – a great deal of difference, some difference, a little difference, almost no difference, or no difference at all?

- 5.) A great deal of difference
- 4.) Some difference
- 3.) A little difference
- 2.) Almost no difference
- 1.) No difference at all
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 110

Rounds I & II

Wording: Now I'd like to ask to ask you some questions on how much you trust different groups of people. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

- 3.) People can be trusted
- 1.) You can't be too careful
- 2.) [VOLUNTEERED] Depends
- 0.) [VOLUNTEERED] Neither
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

Round I: Some questions can unintentionally influence the judgment of respondents due to the sensitive nature of the topic that the question raises. This survey item caused many respondents to question the motive or intent of this question. Many respondents were hesitant in responding to this question because of the ambiguous meaning of the phrase "trust different groups of people." Those parents who asked for a copy of the questionnaire prior to giving their consent, were also skeptical about the appropriateness of this question because the phrase "different groups of people" suggests that a negative discussion about various racial/ethnic groups will ensue.

Recommendation(s)

Round I: It is our recommendation that the sponsor drop this question due to the sensitive reaction it elicits from respondents. Since specific data is collected regarding "trusting people in ones' neighborhood" and "trusting the police in ones' local community (see next two items), this item is unnecessary.

General Comments/Issues

Round II: See comments from Round I cognitive testing.

Recommendation(s)

Round II: No further recommendations.

Sponsor's Feedback

Recommendation not adopted.

ITEM 111

Rounds I & II

Wording: Next we'd like to know how much you trust different groups of people. First, think about [GROUP]. Generally speaking, would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

People in your neighborhood

[CLARIFY IF NECESSARY: How about in general?]

- 4.) Trust them a lot
- 3.) Trust them some
- 2.) Trust them only a little
- 1.) Trust them not at all
- 5.) (VOLUNTEERED) Does not apply
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 112

Rounds I & II

Wording: (How about) The police in your local community (would you say that you can trust them a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?)

- 4.) Trust them a lot
- 3.) Trust them some
- 2.) Trust them only a little
- 1.) Trust them not at all
- 5.) (VOLUNTEERED) Does not apply
- 8.) Don't know

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 113

Rounds I & II

Wording: How much of the time do you think you can trust the FEDERAL or NATIONAL government to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or hardly ever?

- 4.) Just about always
- 3.) Most of the time
- 2.) Only some of the time
- 1.) Hardly ever
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

Round I: There were some respondents (mostly respondents 15 years old and younger) who were unsure of how to respond to this question. For such respondents, this question seemed “out of place” in relation to the other questions. Additionally, younger respondents (age 15 years and under) expressed that they did not feel equipped to answer this question because it required them to express an opinion or an attitude on a topic that has low salience for many of them.

Recommendation(s)

Round I: It is our recommendation that this survey item be asked only of respondents ages 16 years and older. Older respondents are more likely to be able to report an answer confidently, premised on salient opinions and experiences rather than premised on wild guesses.

General Comments/Issues

Round II: Please refer to the comments discussed in Round I.

Recommendation(s)

Round II: No further recommendations.

Sponsor's Feedback

Recommendation not adopted.

ITEM 114

Rounds I & II

Wording: IF Q2=1, How much of the time do you think you can you trust the teachers and adults at your school to do what is right?" [IF Q2=0, Ask When you were in school, how much of the time did you trust the teachers and adults at your school to do what is right?]

- 4.) Just about always
- 3.) Most of the time
- 2.) Only some of the time
- 1.) Hardly ever
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

There were no conceptual or administrative problems to report for this question item. This item worked as intended.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

ITEM 115

Round I

Wording: Now I'd like to ask you how you feel about the future. Considering everything, would you say you feel generally optimistic about the future of our country, or generally pessimistic, or that you're uncertain about our country's future?

- 3.) Generally optimistic
- 2.) Uncertain
- 1.) Generally pessimistic
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

Most of the younger respondents were unfamiliar with the terms optimistic and pessimistic. In order for them to answer the question, the interviewer had to provide a definition. Without the assistance of the interviewer, many respondents would be unable to answer this question on their own.

Recommendation(s)

We recommend that the sponsor revise some of the vocabulary in this question to accommodate younger students, or students who do not understand the meaning of terms such as “optimistic” and “pessimistic.” We recommend that these terms be replaced with simpler terms such as “positive” and “negative.”

Round II

Wording:

Now I'd like to ask you how you feel about the future. Considering everything, would you say you feel generally positive about the future of our country, or generally negative, or that you're uncertain about our country's future?

- 3.) Generally positive
- 2.) Uncertain
- 1.) Generally negative
- 8.) Don't know
- 9.) Refused

General Comments/Issues

The question seemed to work well and all respondents were able to accurately define what they thought was meant by positive and negative.

Recommendation(s)

No further recommendations.

Sponsor's Feedback

Recommendation adopted.