

A National Survey of Social-Networking Groups

The First Amendment Center commissioned the Public Relations Program at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., to conduct a national telephone survey on social-networking groups such as Facebook and MySpace. In order to have a random sample, the FAC purchased random-digit-dial telephone numbers from Survey Sampling Inc. for the entire United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Under the supervision of Belmont Professor Pam Parry, 25 students called from Oct. 10, 2006, to Nov. 2, 2006. The students amassed a sample size of 727 U.S. adults 18 years or older. The survey has a sampling error of plus-or-minus 4%. Below are the questions and the tallies for each one:

Oct. 10, 2006

Interviewer's Name: _____ **Last Four Digits of Number:** _____
Date: _____ **Time:** _____

HELLO, I'm (insert name) calling from Belmont University. As part of a class project, we are conducting a national study of adults 18 and older on behalf of the First Amendment Center. The Center plans to use the overall results as part of a national report on the Internet. The entire survey will take less than ten minutes of your time. Your participation is completely voluntary. Shall we begin?

1. Do you have daily access to the Internet? **(Read all response categories.)**

1) Yes	72.2%
2) No	27.6%
9) DK/NA	0.1%

2. How many times a day do you access the Internet?

1) None	26.1%
2) One Time	17.1%
3) Two to Four Times	25.9%
4) Five to Nine Times	9.2%
5) Ten or More Times	16.4%
9) DK/NA	5.4%

3. Have you heard of the Internet social networking groups called Facebook or MySpace?

1) Yes	58.5%
2) No	40.2%
9) DK/NA	1.4%

If No, Skip to Question 7. If Yes, proceed with Question 4 and following.

4. If yes, do you or anyone in your household participate in social-networking groups like Facebook or MySpace?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 22.7% |
| 2) No | 35.8% |
| 9) DK/NA | 41.5% |

5. Have you ever been the victim of an untrue and/or offensive comment on one of these sites?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 4.0% |
| 2) No | 50.2% |
| 9) DK/NA | 45.8% |

6. Would you consider taking legal action if you believed you were misrepresented on one of these sites?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 31.5% |
| 2) No | 15.7% |
| 9) DK/NA | 52.8% |

7. Generally speaking, do you think the government should restrict or regulate free speech on the Internet?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 32.5% |
| 2) No | 52.1% |
| 9) DK/NA | 15.4% |

8. Does the First Amendment give Americans the right to say anything they want to about anyone at any time on the Internet?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 32.6% |
| 2) No | 54.5% |
| 9) DK/NA | 12.9% |

9. Do you think public school officials ought to have the authority to punish students who post untrue and/or offensive materials about the school on a social networking site, even if they use their computers at home?

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1) Yes | 48.3% |
| 2) No | 38.1% |
| 9) DK/NA | 13.6% |

10. Have you ever used the Internet site Wikipedia?

1) Yes	23.9%
2) No	74.0%
9) DK/NA	2.1%

11. Moving away from the Internet, let's discuss a couple recent developments in the news. Katie Couric recently took the reigns at the "CBS Evening News." In September, she became the first woman to be a solo anchor of one of the three network news broadcasts. Do you think a woman can be as effective as a national anchor for a major network as a man?

1) Yes	90.0%
2) No	5.0%
3) Maybe	2.8%
9) DK/NA	2.3%

12. Was Katie Couric, herself, a good choice to be a solo anchor at the "CBS Evening News?"

1) Yes	56.1%
2) No	16.5%
9) DK/NA	27.4%

13. Where do you primarily get your news?

1) Major networks	23.0%
2) Cable news	16.8%
3) Newspapers	9.4%
4) Magazines	0.8%
5) Radio	3.6%
6) Internet	5.4%
7) A real mixture of all media	37.8%
8) Do not follow the news anywhere	1.5%
9) DK/NA	1.8%

14. Do you trust your local newspaper as an accurate source of news?

1) Yes	57.8%
2) No	31.5%
9) DK/NA	10.7%

***** WE ARE ALMOST DONE. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE IF WE HAVE AN ACCURATE NATIONAL SAMPLE. YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. AND YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION AND ANSWERS WILL NOT BE IDENTIFIED OR SHARED.**

15. Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic identification?

1) BLACK (or AFRICAN-AMERICAN)	6.7%
2) HISPANIC	3.7%
3) AMERICAN INDIAN	1.1%
4) WHITE	79.6%
5) ASIAN	1.7%
6) MIXED RACE	3.6%
7) SOMETHING ELSE	1.5%
9) DK/NA	2.1%

16. Taking together all the members of your household, is your family income this year, before taxes...

1) LESS THAN \$10,000	4.7%
2) BETWEEN \$10 AND \$20,000	7.7%
3) BETWEEN \$20 AND \$30,000	6.5%
4) BETWEEN \$30 AND \$40,000	12.0%
5) BETWEEN \$40 AND \$50,000	10.3%
6) BETWEEN \$50 AND \$60,000	8.8%
7) BETWEEN \$60 AND \$70,000	4.7%
8) OR ABOVE \$70,000	23.7%
9) DK/NA	21.7%

17. Which category includes the highest level of education you have completed? Is the highest level of education you have completed....

1) LESS THAN 12 TH GRADE	8.5%
2) A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	20.5%
3) SOME COLLEGE COURSES	32.7%
4) A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY	25.7%
5) A MASTER'S OR DOCTOR'S DEGREE FROM A UNIVERSITY	11.3%
9) DK/NA	1.2%

18. What is your age?

1) 18-25	12.1%
2) 26-29	4.5%
3) 30-39	15.5%
4) 40-49	21.7%
5) 50-59	20.8%
6) 60 and older	23.7%
9) DK/NA	1.7%

19. What state do you live in? _____ Sorted By Regions _____

1) Northeast	16.6%
2) Midwest	24.3%
3) South	40.4%
4) West	18.2%
9) DK/NA	0.4%

20. **DON'T ASK:** Is the respondent male or female?)

1) MALE	37.3%
2) FEMALE	60.9%
9) DK/NA	1.8%

THAT'S IT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Student researchers included: Lisa Bates, Laura Buchanan, Nikkia Bullard, Lindsey Bunt, Mackenzie Fischer, Carrie Griggs, Madeline Hagan, Jessica Haines, Rebecca Hill, Val Horton, Jacklyn Johnston, Kristin McCarter, Christina McGhie, Erin Mullen, Ben Palos, Stephanie Phalor, Molly Reed, Jessica Reuter, Callie Riggs, Anne Roberts, Crystal Sparks, Grace Stewart, Sara Taylor, Emily Telford, Shandra West, and Terry Winnett.