

Objectives: Why is voter turnout in the US less than 50%? What experiences with the political system have affected people's voting habits and decisions? What experiences with the voting process have affected people's voting habits and decisions? How do people feel about voting as a result of their position in the political system?

Key lines of inquiry:

Voting habits and behaviours
Relationship to political systems
Relationship to voting process

Introduction:

Hi, my name is ---- and this is ----. We are students at the New School/Parsons (which is part of the New School). We are doing a project about the voting habits of the American public with the presidential election coming up. We are speaking to eligible voters. Would you be willing to speak to us for 5-10 minutes?

Follow-up:

We are less interested in your political leaning, we are more interested in why you and people in your family or community vote or don't vote.

Warm up questions:

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you live and what brought you here?

Main questions:

1. What is your experience of voting in America?

Based on what they say, follow up questions may include:

1. Why have you chosen to vote in the past?/ Why have you chosen not to vote in the past?
 - a. Ask for examples of experiences or observations that have driven your voting behaviour?
 - b. Ask how those experiences and observations have made the respondent feel
 - c. Keep asking why they have felt that way (5 why's)
 - d. Optional: Ask how they feel their experience is similar or different to others in the country/their community/their family etc.
2. In what ways do you feel like the political system represents or does not represent you?
 - a. What experiences or observations have led you to that conclusion?
3. How do you feel about the voting process?
 - a. What experiences or observations have led you to that conclusion?
 - b. Probe: voter registration, election day

Closing out:

1. Do you have anything else you would like to share?
2. Do you have any questions for us?

Housekeeping:

1. The information you have shared with us will be used in a school project. We would love to get a picture of you to go with your opinions, is that ok?
2. Any material that is published on a website or public forum will be anonymized and your pictures will not be included.