

Practice with Identifying Ideologies

EU: PMI-4 - Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.

Instructions: For each of the profiles listed below, you will work with your partner to determine the most likely ideology of the voter in question. Reach a consensus together and write a short explanation of why you chose the ideology you chose using information from the notes and the profile.

1. Julie read an article about a proposal to raise taxes in her state to help the increased numbers of people who were out of work. She thinks this is a bad idea because she thinks her taxes are high enough, and she is having trouble making ends meet herself.
2. Wanda is active in the church and very religious. She works in her church to help the indigent and supports a candidate in the upcoming election who wants to increase taxes on businesses to help pay for shelters for the homeless and abused women.
3. Will learned about Johnson's War on Poverty in school last week. He's not sure how he feels about it. His biggest problem with it was the expansion of the powers of the federal government. He thinks that is really an intrusion into the rights of the states. He is usually not in favor of big government programs.
4. A case came up around an issue of freedom of speech in another state. Cindy supports that freedom, but thinks it should have limits. The issue was about a foreigner who immigrated to the U.S. fifteen years ago and was saying bad things about the U.S. government in public. The person had become a U.S. citizen, but she thinks if the person doesn't like it here, he should just go back home.
5. Max often keeps up with foreign affairs and has been watching the news from Syria. President Trump has said that he intends to withdraw troops by the end of the year. Max thinks we need to fight the terrorists over there to make it less likely they will attack us over here. This is probably a top priority as to how he will vote in the next election.
6. Sue works hard and is thankful that she got some tax cuts from the Republican tax plan, but she also wonders whether a lot of that money shouldn't best be spent helping to build more schools. She read the other day that schools have been struggling and need more funding, and as she gets older she also worries about money that may or may not be there for Social Security. She'd rather the money we pay in taxes go to fund these programs.
7. Alex is concerned about certain harmful chemicals in the water supply. There is a big power plant a few miles away and he worries about what kinds of chemicals it might be putting into the air and water. He sits down at his computer to email his

representatives in Congress about his concerns, and thinks a lot more should be done to make sure more restrictions are put on those kinds of plants.

8. Lynn lives in a border city and is worried about the influx of illegal immigrants across the Southern border. She supports Trump's plan to build a wall and recent actions separating children from their parents, but believes that doesn't actually go far enough. She would support making all immigration into the United States illegal until the threat of terrorism and violence has been eradicated.
9. "Do you believe in big government?" someone asked Sally. "No," she said. "I think government should be as small as possible and should only provide essential services and leave everything else to individuals to handle for themselves."
10. John has been watching a news report about a repeat offender. The prosecutor was talking about putting him away for life, but John thought it strange the convict had not gone through any rehabilitation programs. Maybe if he had, there might be a chance to turn the man into somewhat of a productive member of society rather than to have the state pay to keep him imprisoned for so many years, possibly life.
11. Lisa thinks that a same sex couple would be just as good parents if they both loved the child as a heterosexual couple. She thinks that family values includes having two loving parents for a child and therefore states should allow same sex couples to adopt children without regard to their sexuality.
12. Rick strongly favors the use of medical marijuana to help ease the pain of some cancer patients. He is angry at the federal government overriding the law his state passed and thinks the issue should be decided at the state and even local level.
13. Robert is a big Hollywood actor. He adores French culture, owns a home in Paris, and speaks fluent French. He thinks the French pay too much money in taxes, and always tells his French friends that's why he loves America, it is the land that allowed him the opportunity to get rich.
14. Phil believes that people who are able to work should get jobs, and if they choose not to, they should not expect to get assistance from the rest of society, and especially not from the government which is too involved in our lives anyway.
15. After the Supreme Court ruling which overruled her state's prohibition on gay marriage, Allison was outraged. She plans to vote for a candidate for Congress who will introduce a constitutional amendment proposal that will define marriage as between one man and one woman only throughout the country.
16. "Do you believe in big government?" someone asked Joe. "Sure do. I think the government should protect us from danger and also make sure certain traditions are upheld. If they have to tax us more to pay for it, that's o.k. Too."