

Polling and public opinion



Question #1) What other factors influence how reliable polling data is Some other factors that can influence the reliability of polling data are what kind of interest the polling committee has in a certain outcome of the poll, when the poll was taken for example if the poll pertains to a certain subject the is important in the political election year, the sample size of the poll, the margin allotted for error and how the questions are worded for example if the poll is on the death penalty than how it is worded can affect the outcome of the poll. Question #2) How has the collection of public opinion data changed over the years At first it was all done in person. Door to door polls were conducted. Now it is all done by phone. They generate a random sample by using a program named the random digit dialer setting. This setting randomly generates phone numbers and then a person calls the number unless the number is unlisted then the computer drops the last two digits and puts two new ones in. Then that number is called.

The data is entered into a computer than analyzed later. Question #3) What changes would you expect to see in the collection of public opinion data over the next several years I think that the internet would be a good way because you can reach out to anyplace in the world for a sample, but I think that some of the data could be unreliable. They would have to design a way that the person taking the poll can only do it once so that the data is accurate. I think that there are going to be several changes to how we take polls due to the rapid changing of technology.

Question #4) How much do interest groups influence the rule making process Interest groups pay a lot of attention to the development of rules in agencies. Power lies within any given interest group because they have

acute knowledge of what the government does and what influences certain members. Question #5) How does the issue of gun control exemplify the power that interest groups have in impacting society Some interest groups feel that gun ownership is a fundamental right guaranteed to us by the second amendment while others say that the second amendment does not guarantee anyone the right to own a gun but that its only purpose is to make sure of the readymen of militia. It is all in how you interpret the amendment. It can be interpreted in civilian favor by having the right to defend yourself and your home and also hunting for food. Others seem to think that it is only used for the guarantee that the National Guard can own weapons outside of the military.