



PRIMARY SOURCE READING 3-B

George W. Bush's War Speech Reaction Poll

Interpreting the Source

George Gallup began taking public opinion polls in the 1930s. His namesake company, the Gallup Poll (officially called the American Institute of Public Opinion), still organizes and reports public opinion polls today. Although many polls take place during election season, other polls are used by Gallup and news organizations to determine public opinion about specific events throughout the year. This poll measures the public response to President George W. Bush's November 2005 speech explaining his strategy for achieving victory in Iraq.



Reader's Dictionary

population: a group of individual persons from which samples are taken for statistical measurement

methodology: a particular procedure

N: the total number of observations

Guided Reading

As you read, note the way in which Gallup phrases questions.

Field Date: 11/30/2005–11/30/2005

Population: National Adults

Number of Questions: 17

Sponsor: CNN/USA Today/Gallup

Methodology: Outbound Telephone

Question 1

How would you rate the job George W. Bush has done handling the situation in Iraq—as—Very good, Good, Poor, or Very Poor?

	%	N
Very good	14.37	88
Good	29.27	180
Poor	24.91	153
Very poor	29.19	180
DON'T KNOW	2.05	13
REFUSED	0.22	1

Question 2

Do you think George W. Bush does—or does not—have a plan that will achieve victory for the United States in Iraq?

	%	N
Yes, does	41.06	253
No, does not	54.57	336
DON'T KNOW	4.06	25



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Question 3

If you had to choose, which do you think is the better approach for deciding when the U.S. should withdraw its troops from Iraq—To withdraw U.S. troops only when certain goals are met, or To withdraw U.S. troops by a specific date and stick to that timetable, regardless of conditions in Iraq at that time?

	%	N
To withdraw U.S. troops only when certain goals are met	59.21	365
To withdraw U.S. troops by a specific date and stick to that timetable, regardless of conditions in Iraq at that time	35.33	218
DON'T KNOW	3.66	23
REFUSED	1.80	11

Question 4

Just your best guess, do you think each of the following is likely—or unlikely—to happen in Iraq in the next few years? How about—Iraq will be able to prevent terrorists from using the country as a base of operations for planning attacks against the United States?

	%	N
Likely	33.04	203
Unlikely	62.67	386
DON'T KNOW	4.16	26
REFUSED	0.14	1

Source: Questionnaire Profile, "George W. Bush's War Speech Reaction Poll." The Gallup Poll®, 2005

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

- Naming** Who represents the population of this poll?
- Clarifying** What percentage of the respondents think that George W. Bush does have a plan that will achieve victory in Iraq?
- Reporting** What techniques does the Gallup organization use to encourage people to respond to the questions?
- Critical Thinking: Analyzing** If you were working for President Bush, how could you use these poll numbers to show support for the president and his policies?