

Lesson Title: Polling Pitfalls

Handout #2: Polling Inquiry

Name _____

Period: _____

When analyzing a public opinion poll there are a variety of factors to examine as indicated in *The Poll Dance*. Complete the chart questions to examine three different polls available at <http://www.pollingreport.com/>. Answer the questions below for all three polls on a selected topic.

Topic of the polls: _____

	Poll 1	Poll 2	Poll 3
Title of the Poll			
Does the title of the poll appear to be biased? Explain.			
Does the title accurately reflect the poll topic? Explain.			
Who/what organization conducted the poll? (authorship)			
Does the source of the poll appear to be biased or have a motive? Explain.			
How can you learn more about the person or organization behind the poll? (sourcing)			

How was the sample selected?			
What is the sample size in the poll?			
Is the sample size large enough to make a generalization? Explain.			
Are the questions asked in an unbiased manner? Explain. (leading questions)			
Are the answer choices clear and neutral? Explain. (leading questions)			
Are the poll conclusions supported by the polling results? Explain.			

Reflection: In a paragraph, summarize your overall impression of polling and the polls examined.