

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2007 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 10-15, 2007
N=1708

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 13 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.14 Now, as I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month, tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE WITH ITEM b ALWAYS FOLLOWING ITEM a] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	46	40	8	5	1=100
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*=100
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100

Q.14 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
April 11-16, 2003 ¹	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ²	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100
b. The execution of Saddam Hussein	31	33	21	14	1=100
December, 2003, <i>Capture of Saddam Hussein</i>	44	37	14	5	*=100
August, 2003 <i>Killing of Hussein's two sons</i>	45	35	13	6	1=100
c. The death and memorial services of Gerald Ford	25	37	24	13	1=100
June, 2004 <i>Death and svcs. of Ronald Reagan</i>	40	30	17	11	2=100
May, 1994 <i>Death and funeral of Richard Nixon</i>	36	37	17	10	*=100
d. The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia	17	32	27	23	1=100
August, 1998 <i>U.S. strikes/Afghanistan & Sudan</i> ³	44	35	13	8	*=100
e. News about the incoming Democratic leaders in Congress	25	38	20	16	1=100
December, 2006	29	36	19	15	1=100
February, 1995 <i>New Republican leaders</i>	19	32	23	26	*=100
f. Unusual winter weather	39	35	15	10	1=100
December, 1998 <i>Unseasonable weather patterns</i>	39	35	13	12	1=100

QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 36 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

-
- 1 From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."
 - 2 From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."
 - 3 In August 1998, the item was worded: "U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan."

ASK ALL:

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.37 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
January, 2007	40	51	9=100
December, 2006	42	51	7=100
Mid-November, 2006	41	51	8=100
Late October, 2006	43	47	10=100
Early October, 2006	45	47	8=100
Early September, 2006	49	43	8=100
August, 2006	45	46	9=100
July, 2006	44	50	6=100
June, 2006	49	44	7=100
April, 2006	47	46	7=100
March, 2006	45	49	6=100
February, 2006	51	44	5=100
January, 2006	45	47	8=100
December, 2005	47	48	5=100
Late October, 2005	48	45	7=100
Early October, 2005	44	50	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7=100
July, 2005	49	44	7=100
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
April 10-16, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 8-9, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	72	20	8=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	25	6=100

Q.37 CONTINUED...

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
March 25-27, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 23-24, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	71	22	7=100
Late January, 1991	77	15	8=100

Q.38 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? [READ IN ORDER]

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
January, 2007	7	28	32	30	3=100
December, 2006	4	28	37	27	4=100
Mid-November, 2006	6	26	34	30	4=100
Late October, 2006	5	30	34	25	6=100
Early October, 2006	8	29	33	25	5=100
Early September, 2006	8	39	28	20	5=100
August, 2006	8	33	32	23	4=100
June, 2006	16	37	25	18	4=100
April, 2006	13	34	29	21	3=100
March, 2006	9	34	30	21	6=100
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.39 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
January, 2007	46	48	6=100
December, 2006	44	50	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	46	48	6=100
Late October, 2006	46	47	7=100
Early October, 2006	47	47	6=100
Early September, 2006	47	47	6=100
August, 2006	48	46	6=100
June, 2006	50	45	5=100
April, 2006	48	48	4=100
March, 2006	44	50	6=100
February, 2006	50	46	4=100
January, 2006	48	48	4=100
December, 2005	49	46	5=100
Early October, 2005	47	48	5=100
Mid-September, 2005	51	45	4=100
July, 2005	52	43	5=100
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 ⁴	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

IF “KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ” (1 IN Q.39) ASK:

Q.40 Do you think more troops are needed in Iraq right now, or do you think there are already enough troops there to do the job?

	Dec <u>2006</u>	Mid- Nov <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	April <u>2006</u>	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	June <u>2004</u>	Early Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
25 More troops needed	17	17	15	13	13	16	18	29	32	34
14 Have enough there to do the job	20	20	24	27	26	27	23	26	21	25
* Reduce number of troops (VOL.)	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*
<u>7</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
46%	44%	46%	48%	48%	47%	52%	51%	63%	58%	64%

4 In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: “Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?”

IF “BRING TROOPS HOME” (2 IN Q.39) ASK:

Q.41 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

		Mid-					
		Dec	Nov	Aug	April	Jan	Dec
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
16	Remove all troops immediately	18	16	15	18	14	17
30	Gradual withdrawal over the next year or two	32	31	30	29	32	28
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	*	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
48%		50%	48%	46%	48%	48%	46%

ASK ALL:

ROTATE Q.42 AND Q.43

Q.42 Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?

	Has a clear <u>plan</u>	Doesn't have <u>a clear plan</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
January, 2007	22	70	8=100
Mid-November, 2006	19	74	7=100
March, 2006	23	70	7=100
December, 2005	28	66	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	30	63	7=100
July, 2005	27	64	9=100
February, 2005	32	61	7=100
Early October, 2004	35	55	10=100
Early September, 2004	36	55	9=100
August, 2004	36	58	6=100
July, 2004	34	59	7=100
June, 2004	37	55	8=100
Late April, 2004	36	54	10=100
Early April, 2004	32	57	11=100
December, 2003	44	45	11=100
October, 2003	35	54	11=100
September, 2003	32	58	10=100

Q.43 Do you think Democratic leaders in Congress have a clear plan for how to deal with the situation in Iraq, or don't you think so?

		Mid-Nov <u>2006</u>	Mid-Sept <u>2005</u> ⁵
20	Have a clear plan	22	18
68	Don't have a clear plan	65	71
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100

5 In Mid-September 2005 the question was worded “Do you think Democratic leaders in Congress have a clear alternative for how to deal with the situation in Iraq, or don't you think so?”

Q.44 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

	Should set a <u>timetable</u>	Should not set <u>timetable</u>	(VOL) Should <u>get out now</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
January, 2007	59	35	1	5=100
December, 2006	58	34	2	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	56	36	1	7=100
Late October, 2006	54	37	2	7=100
Early October, 2006	53	39	2	6=100
Early September, 2006	47	45	1	7=100
August, 2006	52	41	1	6=100
June, 2006	52	42	2	4=100
April, 2006	53	40	2	5=100
March, 2006	55	39	1	5=100
January, 2006	50	42	2	6=100
December, 2005	56	38	1	5=100
Early October, 2005	52	43	1	4=100
Mid-September, 2005	57	37	1	5=100
July, 2005	49	45	*	6=100

NO QUESTION 45

QUESTIONS 46-51 ASKED JANUARY 11-15, 2007, FOLLOWING BUSH SPEECH [N=1384]:

Q.46 Do you think the presence of American forces in Iraq does more to **[READ AND ROTATE]**?

- 43 Strengthen the Iraqi government by giving them needed support
- OR
- 43 Weaken the Iraqi government by making them too dependent on us
- 3 Both (VOL.)
- 11 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

More generally,...

Q.47 Do you think that America's safety from terrorism depends upon our success in the war in Iraq, or does it not depend upon our success in Iraq?

--NBC/WSJ--
Based on Registered Voters
Mid-Oct Early Oct

<u>All</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
37	35	Depends upon our success in Iraq	37	37
57	59	Does not depend upon our success in Iraq	58	57
<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100		100	100

(N=1138)

Q.48 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about George W. Bush's new plan that will send an additional 21,000 U.S. troops to Iraq? **[READ]**

43 A lot
 43 A little
 13 Nothing at all
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

Q.49 Do you favor or oppose Bush's plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq?

31 Favor
 61 Oppose
8 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

IF 'OPPOSE' (2 IN Q.49) ASK [N=803]:

Q.50 Do you think Congress should try to block Bush's plan by withholding funding for the additional forces, or not?

69 Should try to block the plan
 22 Should not
9 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL, JANUARY 11-15, 2007 [N=1384]:

Q.51 The Iraqi government plans to take over responsibility for security in all of Iraq's provinces by November. How confident are you that the Iraqi government will be able to do this? **[READ]**

5 Very confident
 34 Somewhat confident
 33 Not too confident
 23 Not confident at all
5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No</u> Preference	(VOL.) <u>Other</u> Party	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>
January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100
December, 2006	25	35	32	5	*	3=100
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	3	*	3=100
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100

PARTY CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>Party</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	1	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
<i>Yearly Totals</i>						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/ Other/DK		
1996	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>33</u>	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	Refused <u>to lean</u>
January, 2007	12	17	12=41%
December, 2006	11	17	12=40%
Mid-November, 2006	9	18	12= 39%
Late October, 2006	10	17	15=42%
Early October, 2006	12	15	12=39%
September, 2006	10	15	11=36%
August, 2006	12	14	11=37%
July, 2006	11	14	13=38%
June, 2006	10	16	11=37%

PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
April, 2006	12	17	10=39%
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%