

Survey question wording and topline

**2022 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 114 – SCIENCE TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 13-18, 2022
N=10,588**

ASK ALL:

CONF How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A great deal of confidence</u>	<u>A fair amount of confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Elected officials					
Sep 13-18, 2022	2	26	50	21	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	2	22	52	23	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	4	32	47	15	1
Apr 20-26, 2020	3	33	49	14	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	4	32	50	14	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	33	48	15	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	3	22	52	23	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	3	24	54	19	1
b. Journalists					
Sep 13-18, 2022	6	38	36	19	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	6	34	36	24	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	9	37	31	23	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	9	39	33	19	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	41	28	16	<1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>The news media</i>					
Jan 7-21, 2019	9	38	34	19	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	10	38	33	19	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	8	32	35	25	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	5	33	40	21	1
c. The military					
Sep 13-18, 2022	29	48	17	6	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	25	49	18	7	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	44	13	4	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	38	45	13	4	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	36	46	14	4	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	41	41	12	4	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	39	41	15	4	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	33	46	15	5	1

CONF CONTINUED ...

	<u>A great deal of confidence</u>	<u>A fair amount of confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
d. Religious leaders					
Sep 13-18, 2022	12	41	31	16	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	12	43	30	15	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	45	29	12	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	17	46	26	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	13	44	30	12	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	15	47	27	11	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	9	40	34	16	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	13	39	32	14	1
e. Business leaders					
Sep 13-18, 2022	4	35	46	14	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	4	36	45	15	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	5	41	41	12	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	5	43	41	11	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	6	40	43	11	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	39	43	14	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	5	40	42	13	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	4	37	44	14	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY					
[N=5,311]:					
f. Medical scientists					
Sep 13-18, 2022	30	50	16	4	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	29	49	17	5	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	40	45	12	2	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	43	46	9	2	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	52	11	2	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	24	60	12	3	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY					
[N=5,277]:					
g. Scientists					
Sep 13-18, 2022	28	49	18	5	1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	29	49	17	5	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	45	13	3	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	39	48	10	2	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	35	51	11	2	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	33	49	14	3	<1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	27	52	17	5	<1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	21	55	18	4	1

NO ITEM H

CONF CONTINUED ...

	<u>A great deal of confidence</u>	<u>A fair amount of confidence</u>	<u>Not too much confidence</u>	<u>No confidence at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
i. Public school principals for grades K-12					
Sep 13-18, 2022	15	53	23	8	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	14	51	26	9	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	21	54	19	6	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	28	55	14	3	<1
Jan 7-21, 2019	21	56	18	4	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	25	55	16	4	<1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Public school principals and superintendents for grades K-12</i>					
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	22	55	17	5	1
May 10-Jun 6, 2016	13	53	27	7	1
j. Police officers					
Sep 13-18, 2022	21	49	22	8	<1
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	20	49	22	9	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	26	48	19	7	<1
Apr 20-26, 2020	24	54	17	4	<1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	30	48	16	5	<1

OTHER QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

SCI_US1 Thinking about all the important goals for the United States, how important do you think it is for the U.S. to be a world leader in scientific achievements?

Sep 13-18,
2022

54	Very important
37	Somewhat important
7	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Thinking about all the important goals for the United States, how important do you think it is for the United States to be a world leader in scientific achievements? Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

Oct 1-28,
2019

69	Very important
24	Somewhat important
3	Not too important
3	Not at all important
1	DK/Refused

ASK ALL:

SCI_US2 Do you think government investments in scientific research aimed at advancing knowledge are usually... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 13-18,
2022

81	Worthwhile investments for society over time
18	Not worth the investments
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: In your opinion, are government investments in scientific research aimed at advancing knowledge usually worthwhile for society over time, or are they not worth the investment?

Oct 1-28,
2019

82	Yes, they are worthwhile for society over time
15	No, they are not worth the investment
3	DK/Refused

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

SCI3 In your opinion, do you think government investments in the following usually pay off in the long run, or are they not worth it? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Government investments usually pay off in <u>the long run</u>	Government investments usually aren't <u>worth it</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Basic scientific research Apr 23-May 6, 2018	77	22	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: In your opinion, do government investments in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** usually pay off in the long run, or are they not worth it?

	<u>Yes, pay off in the long run</u>	<u>No, aren't worth it</u>	<u>DK/Ref (VOL.)</u>
a. Basic scientific research			
Aug 15-25, 2014	71	24	5
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	73	18	9

ASK ALL:

SCI_US3 When it comes to scientific achievements, compared with other countries around the world, do you think the United States is... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Sep 13-18,

2022

14	Gaining ground
38	Losing ground
47	Staying in about the same place
1	No answer

RANDOMIZE POLICY1/POLICY1B AND POLICY2**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=5,311]:**

POLICY1 Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Scientists should take an active role in public policy debates about scientific issues</u>	<u>Scientists should focus on establishing sound scientific facts and stay out of public policy debates</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-18, 2022	48	51	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	60	39	2
Jan 7-21, 2019	60	39	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=5,277]:

POLICY1B Do you think scientists have... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Sep 13-18,

2022

19	Too much influence in public policy debates
45	Not enough influence in public policy debates
35	About the right amount of influence in public policy debates
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
POLICY2

Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[DO NOT RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

	Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues	Public opinion should NOT play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues because these issues are too complex for the average person to understand	No answer
Sep 13-18, 2022	49	49	2
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	43	55	2
Jan 7-21, 2019	54	44	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: Which of these statements best describes your views, even if neither is exactly right?

	Aug 15-25, 2014
(One) Public opinion should play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues, [OR]	60
(Two) Public opinion should NOT play an important role to guide policy decisions about scientific issues because these issues are too complex for the average person to understand	35
Neither/Both (VOL.)	2
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

ASK ALL:
POLICY3

In general, would you say scientific experts are... **[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**

	Usually BETTER at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	Usually WORSE at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	NEITHER BETTER NOR WORSE at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people	No answer
Sep 13-18, 2022	41	10	47	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	7	45	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	45	7	48	1

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY (XFORM=1) [N=5,311]:

RQ2_F1A How much, if anything, do you know about what medical research scientists do?

Sep 13-18,
2022

13	A lot
64	A little
22	Nothing at all
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:**ASK ALL:***Medical research scientists conduct research to investigate human diseases, and test methods to prevent and treat them.***ASK ALL:**

RQ2_F1A How much, if anything, do you know about what medical research scientists do?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 30-Dec 12, 2021	13	64	22	1
Jan 7-21, 2019	16	67	17	<1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY (XFORM=2) [N=5,277]:

RQ2_SCI How much, if anything, do you know about what scientists do?

Sep 13-18,
2022

21	A lot
66	A little
13	Nothing at all
1	No answer

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED