Popular Culture and Style

**Question:** Do you approve or disapprove of women of any age wearing slacks in public, that is, for example, while shopping?

- **Approve:** 34%
- **Disapprove:** 39%
- **Indifferent:** 22%

1/2-7/48

**Question:** As you probably know, Bermuda shorts are knee-length pants which are usually worn with knee-length socks. Do you approve or disapprove of women wearing Bermuda shorts on the streets?

- **Approve:** 28%
- **Disapprove:** 64%

6/3-8/55

**Question:** Do you happen to have a television set in your own home?

- **Yes:** 52%
- **No:** 48%

5/30-6/4/53

**Question:** Where do you usually get the news of the day first—from newspapers, radio, or TV?

- **Newspapers:** 36%
- **Radio:** 42%
- **TV:** 23%

5/17-22/57

**Question:** Where did you get most of your information or news about...[a news event or happening of recent days]...from magazines, radio, newspapers, or television?

- **Magazines:** 9%
- **Radio:** 31%
- **Newspapers:** 63%
- **TV:** 5%

5/17-22/57

**Question:** What sport do you, yourself, enjoy watching most?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4/9-14/48

**Question:** Speaking in terms of their day to day activities, do you approve or disapprove of women in this community wearing shorts (in hot weather) on the street?

- **Approve:** 21%
- **Disapprove:** 75%

6/16-21/51

**Question:** Do you think children of grade school age should or should not be taught to stand up when guests who are older come into a room?

- **Should:** 68%
- **Should not:** 24%

2/28-3/5/52

**Question:** Do you happen to have a television set in your own home, or not?

5/30-6/4/53

**Question:** Did you happen to take any form of exercise yesterday?...What?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking, shopping</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work/Housework</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing with children/dog</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = less than 1%

1/6-11/56
Social Issues

**Question:** Do you think Negroes should or should not be required to occupy a separate part of a train or bus when travelling from one state to another?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3/5-10/48

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose having Negro and white troops throughout the US...armed services live and work together—or should they be separated as they are now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Together</th>
<th>Separated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5/4-6/2/48

**Question:** Scientists are reported to be working on a drug that may be able to turn colored skins white. If such a drug were developed, people with colored skins who wanted to do so could turn (bleach) their skins white. Do you think this would be a good thing or a bad thing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9/4-9/49

**Question:** The US Supreme Court has ruled that racial segregation in all public schools is illegal. This means that all children, no matter what their race, must be allowed to go to the same schools. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5/21-26/54

**Question:** The Supreme Court has also ruled that racial segregation on trains, buses and in public waiting rooms must end. Do you approve or disapprove of this ruling?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7/18-23/57

**Question:** Generally speaking, do you think integration should be brought out gradually, or do you think every means should be used to bring it about in the near future?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gradually</th>
<th>Near future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9/19-24/57

**Question:** Some people say that the only solution to the present trouble in Arkansas would be to wait until next year before trying to integrate the schools. Do you think they should wait or should they admit the nine Negro children now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wait</th>
<th>Admit now</th>
<th>Never integrate (vol.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9/19-24/57

**Question:** You hear some talk these days about young people in America going to the dogs. In general, would you say that young people today are more level-headed and have more common sense than young people did, say, 25 years ago, or not as much?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No opinion</th>
<th>More</th>
<th>Not as much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6/16-21/51

**Question:** Do you think any dope is being sold to teenagers in this city (community)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>49%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>19%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6/16-21/51

**Question:** Have you heard or read anything about the selling of narcotics (dope) such as opium, to young teenage people in this country?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>88%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6/15-21/51

**Question:** Do you think the government in Washington is putting on too much pressure or not enough pressure to bring about integration in the schools?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too much</th>
<th>About right (vol.)</th>
<th>Not enough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, APRIL/MAY 1997
Public Policy

Question: At present, the minimum wage that can be paid to workers in every state in most businesses and industries is 40 cents an hour. Would you approve or disapprove of raising this minimum to 75 cents an hour?

- Approve: 61%
- Disapprove: 34%
- 8/14-19/49

Question: At present, the minimum wage that can be paid to workers in every state in most businesses and industries is 75 cents an hour. Would you approve or disapprove of raising this minimum to $1.00 an hour?

- Approve: 59%
- Disapprove: 33%
- 9/12-17/53

Question: Would you like to see the US go more in the direction of a welfare state or less in the direction of a welfare state?

- No opinion: 6%
- More: 26%
- As is: 14%
- Less: 53%
- 9/28-10/2/49

Question: Some people say federal income taxes must be increased immediately to pay for the present war in Korea and to re-arm the US. Do you agree or disagree?

- No opinion: 20%
- Agree: 51%
- Disagree: 29%
- 7/30-8/4/50

Question: To reduce taxes, would you favor cutting down our atom bomb production now?

- Don't know: 11%
- Yes: 2%
- No: 77%
- May-July 1954

Question: It has been suggested that both prices and wages should be frozen at their level of June 25, the day the war in Korea started. Do you think this is a good idea or a poor idea?

- Poor idea: 27%
- Fair idea: 9%
- Good idea: 55%
- No opinion: 9%
- 7/30-8/4/50

Question: It has been suggested that plans should be worked out now for total mobilization of all US citizens—that is, in case of another war, every able-bodied person would be told what war work he would have to do. Do you think Congress should or should not work out such plans now?

- Should not: 41%
- Should: 53%
- No opinion: 5%
- 7/9-14/50

Question: As things stand today, do you think the federal laws governing labor unions are too strict or not strict enough?

- Too strict: 13%
- About right: 27%
- Not strict enough: 39%
- No opinion: 21%
- 5/11-16/52

Question: Some states have passed right-to-work or open-shop laws that say each worker has the right to hold his job in a company, no matter whether he joins a labor union or not. If you were asked to vote on such a law, would you vote for it or against it?

- Vote against: 27%
- Vote for law: 63%
- No opinion: 10%
- 7/18-23/57

Question: Do you think membership in the Communist party in this country should be forbidden by law?

- Should: 80%
- Should not: 15%
- 1/1-5/51

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the methods used by Senator Joseph McCarthy?

- Approve: 31%
- Disapprove: 59%
- 3/28-4/2/53
Gallup on American Opinion

The Economy

Question: During the past year, have you or your family felt, at any time, that you could not get enough to eat?

- Yes: 13%
- No: 87%

12/10-15/48

Question: As you know, 'standard of living' is a term used to describe how people are able to live—that is, the things they have and can buy and do. In general, would you say your standard of living today is going up or going down?

- Going up: 61%
- Going down: 22%
- No change: 16%

8/26-31/51

Question: Would you say you worry a lot, or very little, about any of these things...having enough money in your old age?

- A lot: 20%
- Some: 18%
- Little: 41%
- None: 21%

6/4-9/50

Question: Compared with six months ago, would you say you (or your family) were finding it easier, or harder, to make both ends meet?

- Easier: 67%
- Harder: 25%
- Same: 8%

9/17-22/50

Question: Do you think there will be more people out of work or fewer people out of work in this community in the next six months?

- More: 22%
- Fewer: 24%
- Same: 54%

2/1-5/53

Question: Do you think there will be another serious business depression in the US during the next four years?

- More: 47%
- Fewer: 14%
- Same: 32%

11/1-5/53

Question: Do you think there will be another serious business depression in the US during the next four years—that is, between now and 1957?

- More: 35%
- Fewer: 21%
- Same: 26%

8/8-13/57

Question: During the next four years do you think there will be another serious business depression, or not?

- Yes: 15%
- No: 56%

8/3-8/56
**Foreign Affairs**

**Question:** Do you think the hydrogen bomb has made another world war more likely, or less likely?

- **No opinion:** 11%
- **More likely:** 20%
- **Less likely:** 54%
- **No difference:** 15%

*4/8-13/54*

**Question:** If the United States gets into an all-out war with Russia, do you think we should drop atom bombs on Russia first, or do you think we should use the atom bomb only if it is used on us?

- **No opinion:** 13%
- **Only if US bombed:** 20%
- **Drop first:** 67%

*1/14-19/51*

**Question:** In general, who do you think is winning the cold war—Russia or the United States?

- **No opinion:** 7%
- **Russia:** 32%
- **Neither one:** 30%
- **United States:** 34%

*11/3-8/48*

**Question:** A United States Senator has suggested that the United States should pledge that we will never use the atomic bomb in warfare until some other nation has used it on us. Do you agree or disagree with this suggestion?

- **Agree:** 20%
- **Disagree:** 5%
- **Outlaw bomb:** 70%

*7/2-7/49*

**Question:** Do you think the United States and her Western European allies should stay in Berlin, even if it means war with Russia—or should the United States give up Berlin to the Russians?

- **Stay in Berlin:** 80%
- **Give up Berlin:** 11%
- **No opinion:** 9%

*7/16-21/48*

**Question:** Do you think the United States made a mistake in going into the war in Korea, or not?

- **No opinion:** 14%
- **Yes:** 35%
- **No:** 51%

*2/28-3/5/52*

**Question:** Here are four different courses of action which we might take in Korea. Which one of them do you think is best?

- **Send more US troops to Korea:** 6%
- **Agree to Russian truce plans and bring US troops home:** 7%
- **Train enough South Korean troops to do the fighting and hold US troops in reserve:** 50%
- **Bomb Manchuria and go all out:** 24%
- **Other/No opinion:** 14%

*3/28-4/2/53*

**Question:** Which presidential candidate—General Eisenhower or Governor Stevenson—do you think could handle the Korean situation best?

- **No opinion:** 19%
- **Eisenhower:** 67%
- **Stevenson:** 9%

*8/10-15/52*
Gallup on American Opinion

Presidents, Parties, and Ideology

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Truman is handling his job as president?

1/2-7/48
- No opinion: 15%
- Approve: 56%
- Disapprove: 29%

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Eisenhower is handling his job as president?

6/19-24/48
- No opinion: 17%
- Approve: 41%
- Disapprove: 42%

6/12-17/49
- No opinion: 15%
- Approve: 58%
- Disapprove: 27%

7/13-18/52
- No opinion: 12%
- Approve: 29%
- Disapprove: 59%

7/25-30/53
- No opinion: 15%
- Approve: 73%
- Disapprove: 12%

1/6-11/56
- No opinion: 12%
- Approve: 76%
- Disapprove: 12%

Question: Do you consider yourself to be a conservative or a liberal in your political views?

3/19-24/48
- Conservative: 38%
- Liberal: 29%
- Undecided: 33%

3/26-31/50
- Conservative: 26%
- Liberal: 32%
- Neither: 15%
- No opinion: 25%

5/12-17/55
- Conservative: 32%
- Liberal: 35%
- Don't know: 33%

Question: Taking everything into account, would you say that you are more of a liberal or more of a conservative in politics?

Party Identification

6/19-24/48
- Republican: 37%
- Democrat: 41%
- Independent: 22%

6/15-20/52
- Republican: 35%
- Democrat: 39%
- Independent: 26%

6/29-7/4/50
- Republican: 30%
- Democrat: 53%
- Independent: 14%

8/3-8/56
- Republican: 35%
- Democrat: 45%
- Independent: 19%