

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. | | | |

