**Think about the United States in the year 2050.** In this imagined future, the United States may have changed in various ways and may be the same in others. Your task is to imagine what this future world might be like. You might picture what everyday life might be like for someone like you living in the United States. **Below, we ask you to describe different possibilities for the future, focusing on the United States.**

1. Imagine the **best possible** future for 2050. Think about what has changed from where we are today. Write a few bullet points about what this future looks like for the United States.

1. Thinking about the years between now and 2050, what would have to happen for the best possible future that you described in Question 1 to come true?

1. Imagine the **worst possible** future for 2050. Think about what has changed from where we are today. Write a few bullet points about what this future looks like for the United States.

1. Thinking about the years between now and 2050, what would have to happen for the worst possible future that you described in Question 3 to come true?
2. Now imagine what you believe to be the **most likely** future of the United States in 2050. Think about what has changed from where we are today. Write a few bullet points about what this future looks like for the United States.

1. Thinking about the years between now and 2050, what would have to happen for the most likely future that you described in Question 5 to come true?

1. In the most likely 2050 United States that you described in Question 5, what are the positive features of that future?

1. In the most likely 2050 United States that you described in Question 5, what are the negative features of that future?
2. What makes you feel **hopeful** about the future?

1. What makes you feel **despair** about the future?

1. What **inspires** you to make the future better?

1. On a scale from 1 (very poor) to 7 (excellent), how would you rate the general quality of life for someone like you living in the United States **today**?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very poor |  |  |  |  |  | Excellent |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

1. On a scale from 1 (much worse) to 7 (much better), how do you imagine life for someone like you living in the United States will be in the **future** compared to today?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Much worse |  |  | About the same |  |  | Much better |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

1. On a scale of 1 (no influence) to 5 (complete influence), how much **influence** do you think the following groups have in shaping the future of the United States?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No influence |  |  |  | Complete influence |
| Individuals | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Voters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Scientists and engineers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| U.S. government | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| U.S. corporations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Nonprofits | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Lobbyists | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Other countries | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Activists | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Labor unions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Farmers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Religious groups | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Billionaires | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. On a scale of 1 (much less influence) to 5 (much more influence), how much influence do you think the following groups **should have compared to how much influence they currently have** in order to make a better future more likely?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Much less influence |  |  |  | Much more influence |
| Individuals | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Voters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Scientists and engineers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| U.S. government | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| U.S. corporations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Nonprofits | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Lobbyists | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Other countries | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Activists | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Labor unions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Farmers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Religious groups | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Billionaires | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. Please list any other groups with sizeable influence on the future that you can think of and were not mentioned in Questions 14 and 15.
2. Please allocate 100 points across the following four categories according to how much of an **impact** you believe each category will have in shaping the future. (A value of 0 would indicate that the category will not have any impact, and higher values indicate greater impact.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Advances in science and technology |  | Personal behaviors and values |  | Government policies and economics |  | Corporate and business practices |  |  |
|  | + |  | + |  | + |  | = | 100 |

1. How **important** is the issue of climate change to you personally?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all important | Not too important | Somewhat important | Very important | Extremely important |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. How **worried** are you about climate change?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all worried | Not too worried | Somewhat worried | Very worried | Extremely worried |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. How much do you think climate change will **negatively impact you personally**?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all | Only a little | A moderate amount | A great deal |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

1. How much do you think climate change will **negatively impact the lives of future generations of people**?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all | Only a little | A moderate amount | A great deal |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

1. How often do you engage in group or individual activities (e.g., voting, volunteering, participating in a march or protest, contacting government officials, etc.) aimed at addressing an issue of public concern? Choose the option that best describes you.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Never | A few times a year | Monthly | Weekly | Daily |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. What is your gender?     ❑ Male ❑ Female ❑ Non-Binary/Other
2. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you an international student?     ❑ Yes     ❑ No
4. Is your permanent address in Indiana?     ❑ Yes     ❑ No
5. What is/are your major(s)?
6. What is your current student category?

☐ First year

☐ Sophomore

☐ Junior

☐ Senior

☐ Masters

☐ PhD

1. Which term best describes your general political beliefs?

☐ Very conservative

☐ Somewhat conservative

☐ Moderate

☐ Somewhat liberal

☐ Very liberal

1. Do you have any additional thoughts or comments you would like to share with us?

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

**Please turn to the next page for further instructions.**

Survey Discussion

In the next part of the exercise, we are going to have a recorded, partnered discussion of your survey. Find a partner who has a survey that is the same color as yours. **Once you have a partner, share with your partner the “most likely future” that you described in Questions 5-8.**

We need to have a recording of the conversations that takes place in this part of the study. One of you use your smartphone as a recording device and record your conversation. Receiving extra credit for participating depends on my receiving an audio file from your discussion group.

As soon as you press record, state your survey number (found on the first page of the survey) and your partner’s survey number.

Each partner should spend 2-3 minutes describing what their 2050 most likely future world is like and what developments they think might lead to this future.

* Describe your most likely future of the United States in 2050. Think about what has changed from where we are today.
* What would have to happen for the most likely future to come true?
* What are the positive outcomes in that future?
* What are the negative outcomes in that future?

After each partner has shared their most likely future, please take 2-3 minutes to **discuss any similarities or differences between these futures that you observe**.

When your conversation is done, please stop the recording and then email the audio file to Joe Kantenbacher (jwkantne@iu.edu) immediately. Then hand your paper surveys to Joe and sign the participation sheet.