

AP Government – Poll Analysis

In groups, look at the polls and surveys below. These are all examples of poorly designed polls that either mislead the people taking the poll or have misleading results. For each poll or survey, record as many reasons as you can as to why the poll is so misleading.

Poll # 2 – CNN Official Website Poll 9.9.09

Quick Vote

Will Congress pass most of President Obama's health care proposals this year?

Yes
 No

VOTE or see results

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SAMPLE

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article »

Reasons _____

Poll # 3 – Phi Delta Kappa / Gallup Annual Poll Released September 2009

TABLE 16a. Most public school teachers have tenure; that is, after a two- or three-year period, they receive what amounts to a lifetime contract. Do you

Approve
Disapprove
Don't know

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COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE

Adults	%
No children in school	61
Independent	34
Undesignated	2

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DESIGN

All findings for the 2009 PDK/Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews with a national sample of adults aged 18 and older. A national cross-section of households was sampled to yield a representative survey across all segments of the population in telephone-owning households. A four-call design was used to complete an interview with each intended respondent. A Random Digit Dialing (RDD) technique was used to ensure the inclusion of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers.