**Name:**

**Date:**

**School:**

**Facilitator:**

8.03 Public Opinion and Polls

**I. Public Opinion: Voice of the People**

Answer the following questions using information from the lesson including the video.

1. What is public opinion?
2. What role should public opinion play in a democracy?
3. What role does it play in democracy?
4. What are the consequences of relying heavily on polls to understand public opinion?

**II. Polls: What do the numbers tell us?**

Answer the following questions as you study the presentation [Polls: What do the numbers tells us?](https://web.archive.org/web/20181215220943/http:/www.learner.org/interactives/statistics/howrandom.html) from Annenberg Learning.

1. What is a random sample?
2. Why is it necessary to use a random sample when polling?
3. What is a margin of error?
4. Considering the margin of error, does candidate Fletcher really have a slight lead? Why or why not?
5. What is a confidence interval?
6. How can the results of exit polls go wrong?

**III. Gallop Poll Analysis**

Visit the [Gallup](http://www.gallup.com/poll/trends.aspx) website and choose any two polls listed on the Trends A-Z web page to study.

Poll #1

1. Copy and paste poll results here:
2. What is the topic of the poll you have chosen?
3. What are the results of the poll?
4. What is the margin of error for the poll?

Poll #2

1. Copy and paste poll results here:
2. What is the topic of the poll you have chosen?
3. What are the results of the poll?
4. What is the margin of error for the poll?