

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**POST-TERRORIST ATTACK**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**September 13 - 17, 2001**  
**N =1200**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 How closely have you been following news about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington – very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	<u>July 1996<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>June 1995<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Jan 1991<sup>3</sup></u>
74 Very closely	69	58	67
22 Fairly closely	23	32	28
3 Not too closely	6	8	4
1 Not at all closely	2	2	1
* Don't know/Refused	*	*	0
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington?

85	Approve
6	Disapprove
9	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

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<sup>1</sup> In July 1996 the question was worded: “the crash of a Paris-bound TWA plane off the coast of New York.”

<sup>2</sup> In June 1995 the question was worded: “the Oklahoma City bombing.”

<sup>3</sup> In January 1991, the question was worded: “How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?”

**Q's 3a-3f ASKED SEPTEMBER 14 - 17, 2001 ONLY [N=868]:**

Q.3a How good a job has George W. Bush done in SPEAKING TO THE NATION about the terrorist attacks... excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

45	Excellent
38	Good
10	Only fair
4	Poor
<u>3</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Q.3b What about Secretary of State Colin Powell...How good a job has he done in SPEAKING TO THE NATION about the terrorist attacks... excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

43	Excellent
35	Good
9	Only fair
2	Poor
<u>11</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Q.3c How good a job has New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani done in SPEAKING TO THE NATION about the situation in New York City after the terrorist attacks... excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

58	Excellent
29	Good
5	Only fair
1	Poor
<u>7</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=416]:**

Q.3dF1 Do you favor or oppose taking military action, including the use of ground troops, to retaliate against whoever is responsible for the terrorist attacks?

82	Favor
8	Oppose
<u>10</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

Q.3eF1 Once their mission starts, how long do you think it will take for U.S. forces to kill or capture those responsible for the terrorist attacks? Will it be a matter of days, weeks, months or years?

7	Days
11	Weeks
31	Months
38	Years
2	Never (VOL)
<u>11</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=452]:**

Q.3f2 Do you favor or oppose taking military action, including the use of ground troops, to retaliate against whoever is responsible for the terrorist attacks, even if it means that U.S. armed forces might suffer thousands of casualties?

77	Favor
9	Oppose
<u>14</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		<u>Jan 1991<sup>4</sup></u>
56	Excellent	36
33	Good	42
6	Only fair	15
3	Poor	5
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
100		100

Q.5 In your opinion, which TV network is doing the best job of covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon? (**READ AND ROTATE**)

		<u>Jan 1991<sup>5</sup></u>
14	ABC	12
11	NBC	7
7	CBS	7
24	CNN	61
12	The Fox News Cable Channel	--
5	MSNBC	--
1	CNBC	--
9	All/None/Other	--
<u>17</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>13</u>
100		100

Q.6 Have you yourself felt depressed by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?

		<u>Jan 1991<sup>6</sup></u>
71	Yes	50
27	No	49
<u>2</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

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4 In January 1991, the question asked about "covering the War in the Gulf."

5 In January 1991, the question asked about "covering the War in the Gulf." In Mid-September 2001, Fox News Cable Channel, MSNBC and CNBC were added to the list of networks.

6 In January 1991, the question asked about "the Gulf War."

Q.7 Have you had any difficulty concentrating on your job or your normal activities because of the way you feel about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?

**BASED ON THOSE ANSWERING "YES" IN Q.6**

		<u>Sept 2001</u>	<u>Jan 1991<sup>7</sup></u>
49	Yes	59	30
<u>51</u>	No/Don't Know	<u>41</u>	<u>70</u>
100		100	100

(N=845)

Q.8 Have you had any trouble sleeping because of the way you feel about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?

**BASED ON THOSE ANSWERING "YES" IN Q.6**

		<u>Sept 2001</u>	<u>Jan 1991</u>
33	Yes	42	26
<u>67</u>	No/Don't Know	<u>58</u>	<u>74</u>
100		100	100

(N=845)

Q.9 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the terrorist attacks on TV. For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement?<sup>8</sup>

		<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	I can't stop watching news about the terrorist attacks	24	39	30	4	3=100
	January, 1991	11	39	48		2=100
b.	I feel sad when watching TV coverage of the terrorist attacks	47	45	5	1	2=100
	January, 1991	22	52	25		1=100
c.	It's frightening to watch the terrorist attacks	33	44	19	2	2=100
	January, 1991	17	50	32		1=100
d.	It tires me out to watch coverage of the terrorist attacks	12	33	43	8	4=100
	January, 1991	6	28	64		2=100

<sup>7</sup> For Q.7 and Q.8 in January 1991, the question was asked about "the war."

<sup>8</sup> In January 1991 the question asked about "watching coverage of the war on TV."

Q.10 As a result of the terrorist attacks are you **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)**?<sup>9</sup>

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. reading newspapers more closely	46	54	*=100
January, 1991	51	48	1=100
b. keeping the TV or radio tuned to the news	81	19	*=100
January, 1991	81	18	1=100
c. checking the Internet for news updates	33	66	1=100
d. considering canceling an airplane trip	24	73	3=100
January, 1991	14	85	1=100
e. considering canceling a trip to a major city	21	77	2=100
January, 1991	11	89	0=100
f. praying more	69	30	1=100
January, 1991	65	35	0=100

**Q's 10g-10if ASKED SEPTEMBER 14 - 17, 2001 ONLY [N=868]:**

Q.10g In order to curb terrorism in this country, do you think it will be necessary for the average person to give up some civil liberties, or not?

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>April</u>
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
55 Yes, it will be necessary	29	30	49
35 No, it will not be necessary	62	65	43
<u>10</u> Don't Know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.10h What concerns you more right now? That the government will fail to enact strong, new anti-terrorism laws, or that the government will enact new anti-terrorism laws which excessively restrict the average person's civil liberties?

	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>April</u>
	<u>1995</u>
39 Fail to enact strong laws	40
34 Enact laws that restrict civil liberties	44
10 Neither <b>(VOL)</b>	4
<u>17</u> Don't Know/Refused	<u>12</u>
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

<sup>9</sup>

In January 1991 the question was worded "As a result of the war in the Gulf are you..."

Q.10i Would you favor or oppose the following measures to curb terrorism: **(READ AND ROTATE)**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Requiring that all citizens carry a national identity card at all times to show to a police officer on request	70	26	4=100
b. Allowing the CIA to contract with criminals in pursuing suspected terrorists overseas	67	22	11=100
c. Allowing the CIA to conduct assassinations overseas when pursuing suspected enemies of the U.S.	67	22	11=100
d. Allowing the U.S. government to take legal immigrants from unfriendly countries to internment camps during times of tension or crisis	29	57	14=100
e. Allowing the U.S. government to monitor your personal telephone calls and e-mails	26	70	4=100
f. Allowing the U.S. government to monitor your credit card purchases	40	55	5=100

Q.11 How many children between and including the ages of five and twelve, if any, are living in your household?<sup>10</sup>

	<u>Jan 1991</u>
71 None	73
14 One	14
15 More than one	13
* Don't know/Refused	==
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

**IF HAVE CHILD BETWEEN FIVE AND TWELVE IN THE HOUSEHOLD (Q11=2,3) [N=331]:**

Q.12 (Has/have) your (child/children) been following news about the terrorist attacks closely?

	<u>Jan 1991</u> <sup>11</sup>
48 Yes	69
51 No	29
<u>1</u> Don't Know/Refused	<u>2</u>
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

<sup>10</sup> The words "and including" were added in Mid-September 2001.

<sup>11</sup> In January 1991, Q.12-Q.14 asked about "the war."

Q.13 Have you been trying to restrict how much coverage of the terrorist attacks your (child/children) (watch/watches)?

		<u>Jan 1991</u>
54	Yes	30
46	No	69
*	Don't Know/Refused	1
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>

Q.14 (Has/have) your (child/children) expressed any fears about the terrorist attacks?

		<u>Jan 1991</u>
46	Yes	43
54	No	57
0	Don't Know/Refused	*
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.15 How have you been getting most of your news about the terrorist attacks? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? **[ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]**

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER FIRST OR SECOND RESPONSE IN Q15 (Q15A=1 or Q15B=1)**

Q.16 Do you get most of your news about the terrorist attacks from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and the Fox News Channel? **[ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE]**

		Early								
		Sept 2001 <sup>12</sup>	Feb 2001	Oct 1999	Jan 1999	Jan 1996	Sept 1995 <sup>13</sup>	Jan 1994	Sept 1993	Jan 1993
90	Television	74	76	80	82	88	82	83	83	83
30	Network TV news	20	20	22	--	--	--	--	--	39
17	Local TV news	26	25	31	--	--	--	--	--	30
45	Cable news <sup>14</sup>	34	35	35	--	--	--	--	--	38
2	Other	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	2
2	Don't know	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	1
11	Newspapers	45	40	48	42	61	63	51	60	52
14	Radio	18	16	19	18	25	20	15	17	17
*	Magazines	6	4	5	4	8	10	10	9	5
5	Internet <sup>15</sup>	13	10	11	6	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other (VOL)	1	2	2	2	1	5	3	3	1
1	Don't know/Refused	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	*	1

<sup>12</sup> 1993 to 2001 trend based on question wording: "How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues?"

<sup>13</sup> In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

<sup>14</sup> Beginning in October 1999, "cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" was substituted for "CNN."

<sup>15</sup> Beginning in February 2001, "Internet" was substituted for "computer online sources."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.17 Do you or any of your friends or relatives know someone who is missing, hurt or killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, or the plane crash outside of Pittsburgh?

20	Yes
79	No
1	Don't Know/Refused
100	

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**ABOUT THIS SURVEY**

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,200 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period September 13-17, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For questions asked only during the field period of September 14-17 (N=868), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=416) or Form 2 (N=452), the sampling error is plus or minus 5.5 percentage points. For results based on the parents of children aged 5-12 (N=331), one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.