

Service Learning Project I

Hours 4

1. Public Opinion

Public opinion polls can give voice in the preferences of the people between elections. These preferences may relate to the distribution of power between the national government and the states, and the future role of the nation in the world. Furthermore public opinion, whether expressed through scientifically conducted opinion polls or directly over the internet, can reflect the public's view on specific policy actions in a way that elections cannot. What role, then, does public opinion play in the changing American political system? Is it truly the voice of the people, or is it an instrument to be manipulated by politicians and interest groups? Can political leaders count on public opinion to provide guidance on their actions, or are the results of most opinion polls too ephemeral to be useful?

The very character of public opinion polls may limit their usefulness. After all, the pollster wrote the connection, called the respondents, and perhaps forwarded the results to the politicians. Public opinion, as gathered by polls, is not equivalent to constituents' letters to their representatives or to ballots cast in an election. In fact, polls may be flawed in a number of ways.

Project Questions:

1. Key Notes: Please write 5 most important analytical Notes in the above study Material;

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

2. In United States, how in a trial is decided that the person is guilt or innocence?

3. Would it be fairer to a person on trial to have his or her case decided by a scientifically conducted poll of public opinion?