For online publication only:

The Demand for News: Accuracy Concerns versus Belief Confirmation Motives

Felix Chopra, Ingar Haaland, and Christopher Roth

G   Experimental instructions

This section contains screenshots of the key experimental instructions.

G.1 Experiment 1: Right-wing biased news

G.1.1 Pre-treatment questions

This study is conducted by nonpartisan researchers from the University of Bergen, University of Bonn, and the University of Cologne. You must be of at least 18 years of age to participate in this study. If you do not fulfill these requirements, please do not continue any further.

You are not allowed to participate in this study more than once. If you experience a technical error or problem, do not try to restart or retake the study. Rather, send us an email with a description of your problem and we will get back to you. If you have any questions regarding this study, please email ingar.haaland@uib.no.

I have read and understood the above and want to participate in this study.

○ Yes

○ No

→

Please indicate your gender.

○ Male

○ Female

What is your age?

[ ]

Which category best describes your highest level of education?

○ Eighth grade or less

○ Some high school

○ High school degree/GED

○ Some college

○ 2-year college degree

○ 4-year college degree

○ Master's degree

○ Doctoral degree

○ Professional degree (JD, MD, MBA)

Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?

○ African American/Black

○ Asian/Asian American

○ Caucasian/White

○ Native American, Inuit or Aleut

○ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

○ Other

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

○ Yes

○ No

What was your family's gross household income in 2020 in US dollars?

○ Less than $15,000

○ $15,000 to $24,999

○ $25,000 to $49,999

○ $50,000 to $74,999

○ $75,000 to $99,999

○ $100,000 to $149,999

○ $150,000 to $200,000

○ More than $200,000

Who did you vote for in the 2020 presidential election?

○ Donald Trump

○ Joe Biden

○ Other

○ Did not vote

In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

○ Republican

○ Democrat

○ Independent

→

Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or weak Republican?

○ Strong Republican

○ Weak Republican

Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or weak Democrat?

○ Strong Democrat

○ Weak Democrat

In politics, as of today, do you lean towards the Republican Party or lean towards the Democratic Party?

○ The Republican Party

○ The Democratic Party

What is your region of residence?

○ **Northeast** (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT, NJ, NY,PA),

○ **Midwest** (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)

○ **South** (DE, DC, FL, GA,MD, NC, SC, VA, WV, AL, KY, MS, TN, AR, LA, OK, TX)

○ **West** (AZ, CO, ID, NM, MT, UT,NV, WY, AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)

What is your current employment status?

○ Full-time employee

○ Part-time employee

○ Self-employed or small business owner

○ Unemployed and looking for work

○ Student

○ Not in labor force (for example: retired or full-time parent)

Are you liberal or conservative?

○ Very liberal

○ Liberal

○ Neither liberal nor conservative

○ Conservative

○ Very conservative

→

Which of the newspapers below have you read at least once during the last 12 months? Please check all that apply.

- [ ] Breitbart
- [ ] BuzzFeed News
- [ ] Boston Herald
- [ ] Chicago Sun-Times
- [ ] Daily Mail
- [ ] Drudge Report
- [ ] InfoWars
- [ ] Los Angeles Times
- [ ] New Republic
- [ ] Newsmax
- [ ] New York Daily News
- [ ] New York Post
- [ ] Palmer Report
- [ ] The Denver Post
- [ ] The Huffington Post
- [ ] The Mercury News
- [ ] The New York Times
- [ ] The Wall Street Journal
- [ ] The Washington Post
- [ ] The Washington Times
- [ ] USA Today
- [ ] I have not read any of the newspapers above during the last 12 months

→

How interested are you in economic news?

○ Very interested

○ Interested

○ Somewhat interested

○ Not interested

○ Not at all interested

→

Do you currently subscribe to any newsletters?

○ Yes

○ No

→

G.1.2 Treatment: Right-wing biased news

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On February 26, 2021, after the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **but not** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

○ The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **and** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

→

The article, published in **The Boston Herald** on February 26, 2021, reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

→

G.1.3 Treatment: Unbiased news

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On March 2, 2021, after the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **but not** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

○ The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **and** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

→

The article, published in **The Boston Herald** on March 2, 2021, reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **and** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

→

G.1.4 Post-treatment outcomes

We would like to offer you the opportunity to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

Our **Weekly Economic Policy Newsletter** will cover the **top three articles about economic policy** published in **The Boston Herald**.

If you say "Yes" below, we will message you the newsletter on your Prolific account on a weekly basis over the next month.

Would you like to subscribe to the newsletter?

○ Yes

○ No

Note: You can access the articles included in the newsletter for free by visiting the Boston Herald website. We select the top three stories based on their readership. We, as nonpartisan academic researchers, provide the newsletter as a free service for people to stay informed about the most important news related to economic policy. The newsletter is a completely non-commercial product.

→

How accurate do you expect the newsletter to be?

○ Very accurate

○ Accurate

○ Somewhat accurate

○ Inaccurate

○ Very inaccurate

How trustworthy do you expect the newsletter to be?

○ Very trustworthy

○ Trustworthy

○ Somewhat trustworthy

○ Not trustworthy

○ Not trustworthy at all

What quality would you expect the newsletter to have?

○ Very high quality

○ High quality

○ Medium quality

○ Low quality

○ Very low quality

What kind of political bias do you expect the newsletter to have?

○ Very right-wing biased

○ Somewhat right-wing biased

○ Not biased

○ Somewhat left-wing biased

○ Very left-wing biased

How entertaining do you expect the newsletter to be?

○ Very entertaining

○ Entertaining

○ Somewhat entertaining

○ Not entertaining

○ Not entertaining at all

Do you expect the newsletter to have a simple or complex message?

○ Very simple

○ Simple

○ Neither simple nor complex

○ Complex

○ Very complex

Do you expect the newsletter to be easy or difficult to understand?

○ Very easy

○ Easy

○ Neither easy nor difficult

○ Difficult

○ Very difficult

→

Do you favor or oppose the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill?

○ Strongly favor

○ Favor

○ Neither favor nor oppose

○ Oppose

○ Strongly oppose

→

Republican Healthcare Bill

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Republican Healthcare Bill to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the Republican Healthcare Bill, **Republicans** claimed that the bill would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the Republican Healthcare Bill would **decrease the deficit by $119 billion** and **leave 23 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would decrease the deficit by $119 billion **but not** that it would leave 23 million more people uninsured.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave 23 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by $119 billion.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave 23 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by $119 billion.

→

Do you think the researchers behind this study are politically biased?

○ Very right-wing biased

○ Somewhat right-wing biased

○ Not biased

○ Somewhat left-wing biased

○ Very left-wing biased

Do you think the researchers behind this study are trustworthy?

○ Very trustworthy

○ Somewhat trustworthy

○ Neither trustworthy nor untrustworthy

○ Somewhat untrustworthy

○ Very untrustworthy

→

You said "Yes" to subscribe to our **Weekly Economic Policy Newsletter.**

Can you briefly explain why you wanted to subscribe to the newsletter?

→

You said "No" to subscribe to our **Weekly Economic Policy Newsletter.**

Can you briefly explain why you did not want to subscribe to the newsletter?

→

If you had to guess, what would you say was the purpose of this study?

→

If there are any remarks that you would like to make or clarifications that you would like to obtain, please do let us know by writing them into the field below.

→

G.2 Experiment 2: Left-wing biased news

G.2.1 Treatment: Left-wing biased news

Senate Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion **but not** that it would leave over 20 million more people uninsured.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

21

The Boston Herald article about the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

G.2.2 Treatment: Unbiased news

House Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the House Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the House Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the House Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion **but not** that it would leave over 20 million more people uninsured.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

23

The Boston Herald article about the House Republican Healthcare Plan reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

G.3 Post-treatment outcomes

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **but not** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

○ The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **and** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

→

Do you favor or oppose the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill?

○ Strongly favor

○ Favor

○ Neither favor nor oppose

○ Oppose

○ Strongly oppose

→

G.4 Experiment 3: Open-ended motives

G.4.1 Treatment 1: No bias (minimum wage bill)

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On March 2, 2021, after the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **and** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

Why do you think that The Boston Herald reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **and** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty? Please answer in two to three full sentences.

→

G.4.2 Treatment 2: Right-wing bias (minimum wage bill)

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On February 26, 2021, after the CBO published its report, The Boston Herald published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

Why do you think that The Boston Herald reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty? Please answer in two to three full sentences.

G.4.3 Treatment 3: No bias (healthcare plan)

House Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the House Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the House Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the House Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

The article reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

Why do you think that The Boston Herald reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion? Please answer in two to three full sentences.

G.4.4 Treatment 4: Left-wing bias (healthcare plan)

Senate Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

The article reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

Why do you think that The Boston Herald reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion? Please answer in two to three full sentences.

→

G.5   Experiment 4: Beliefs about newsletter characteristics

G.5.1   Left-wing bias: Prior (control)

House Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the House Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the House Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the House Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion **but not** that it would leave over 20 million more people uninsured.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

○ The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

31

G.5.2 Left-wing bias: Prior (treatment)

Senate Republican Healthcare Plan

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In 2017, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan to repeal and replace Obamacare.

When debating the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan, **Republicans** claimed that the plan would decrease the federal deficit without increasing the number of people without health coverage. **Democrats**, by contrast, claimed that the plan would fail to decrease the deficit and increase the number of people without health coverage.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan would **decrease the deficit by over $100 billion** and **leave over 20 million more people uninsured**.

After the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the plan.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

- The article reported that the bill would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion **but not** that it would leave over 20 million more people uninsured.

- The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

- The article reported that the bill would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

32

G.5.3 Right-wing bias: Prior (control)

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On March 2, 2021, after the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **but not** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

○ The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **and** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

→

G.5.4 Right-wing bias: Prior (treatment)

Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is Congress's nonpartisan provider of cost and benefit estimates for legislation.

In February 2021, the CBO analyzed the consequences of the Democrats' $15 Minimum Wage Bill.

When debating the $15 Minimum Wage Bill, **Democrats** claimed that the bill would reduce poverty without reducing employment. **Republicans**, by contrast, claimed that the bill would fail to reduce poverty and reduce employment.

In its published report, the CBO estimated that the bill would **lift 900,000 people out of poverty** and **reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs**.

On February 26, 2021, after the CBO published its report, **The Boston Herald** published an article about the economic impact of the bill.

If you had to guess, how do you think the article reported about the CBO findings?

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **but not** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

○ The article reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

○ The article reported that the bill would lift 900,000 people out of poverty **and** that it would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs.

→

G.5.5 Left-wing bias: Information provision (control)

The Boston Herald article about the House Republican Healthcare Plan reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **and** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

G.5.6 Left-wing bias: Information provision (treatment)

The Boston Herald article about the Senate Republican Healthcare Plan reported that the plan would leave over 20 million more people uninsured **but not** that it would decrease the deficit by over $100 billion.

→

G.5.7 Right-wing bias: Information provision (control)

The article, published in **The Boston Herald** on March 2, 2021, reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **and** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

→

G.5.8 Right-wing bias: Information provision (treatment)

The article, published in **The Boston Herald** on February 26, 2021, reported that the bill would reduce employment by 1.4 million jobs **but not** that it would lift 900,000 people out of poverty.

→

G.5.9 Post-treatment outcomes

On the next page, we will ask you some questions about a weekly newsletter that we have offered to Prolific participants in the past.

You will not be able to subscribe to the newsletter, but we are interested in learning what you think about it.

→

Our **Weekly Economic Policy Newsletter** covers the **top three articles about economic policy** published in **The Boston Herald**.

Note: Subscribers can access the articles included in the newsletter for free by visiting the Boston Herald website. We select the top three stories based on their readership. We, as nonpartisan academic researchers, have provided the newsletter as a free service for people to stay informed about the most important news related to economic policy. The newsletter is a completely non-commercial product.

What kind of political bias do you expect the newsletter to have?

◯ Very right-wing biased

◯ Somewhat right-wing biased

◯ Not biased

◯ Somewhat left-wing biased

◯ Very left-wing biased

How accurate do you expect the newsletter to be?

◯ Very accurate

◯ Accurate

◯ Somewhat accurate

◯ Inaccurate

◯ Very inaccurate

→

How trustworthy do you expect the newsletter to be?

○ Very trustworthy

○ Trustworthy

○ Somewhat trustworthy

○ Not trustworthy

○ Not trustworthy at all

Do you expect the newsletter to have a simple or complex message?

○ Very simple

○ Simple

○ Neither simple nor complex

○ Complex

○ Very complex

What quality would you expect the newsletter to have?

○ Very high quality

○ High quality

○ Medium quality

○ Low quality

○ Very low quality

How entertaining do you expect the newsletter to be?

○ Very entertaining

○ Entertaining

○ Somewhat entertaining

○ Not entertaining

○ Not entertaining at all

→

G.6 Auxiliary Experiment 1: Beliefs about biases across outlets

This survey collection includes basic demographic questions as in the main experiments, but we only include the sceenshots for the main screen below. We randomized the order of outlets.

G.6.1 Perceptions of biases across outlets

What kind of political bias do you expect the news outlets below to have?

	Strong left-wing bias	Some left-wing bias	No bias	Some right-wing bias	Strong right-wing bias	Unsure
New York Post	○	○	○	○	○	○
Chicago Tribune	○	○	○	○	○	○
MSNBC	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Washington Post	○	○	○	○	○	○
Axios	○	○	○	○	○	○
The New York Times	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Wall Street Journal	○	○	○	○	○	○
Tampa Bay Times	○	○	○	○	○	○
Los Angeles Times	○	○	○	○	○	○
Fox News	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Boston Herald	○	○	○	○	○	○
The Washington Times	○	○	○	○	○	○

→

G.7 Auxiliary Experiment 2: Validation Experiment

This experiment follows the structure of the main experiments. Respondents are informed about how The New York Times reported about a CBO report in the context of either the Minimum Wage Bill or the House Healthcare Plan. We randomize whether people are told about the Minimum Wage Bill or the House Healthcare Plan and, across treatments, respondents are told that The New York Times reported both statistics. The instructions are virtually identical to the "No bias" versions of Experiment 1 and Experiment 2 except that we have replaced The Boston Herald with The New York Times. Below, we include screenshots for the main outcomes.

G.7.1 Newsletter outcome

We would like to offer you the opportunity to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

Our **Weekly Economic Policy Newsletter** will cover the **top three articles about economic policy** published in **The New York Times**.

If you say "Yes" below, we will message you the newsletter on your Prolific account on a weekly basis over the next four weeks.

Would you like to subscribe to the newsletter?

○ Yes

○ No

Note: You can access the articles included in the newsletter for free by visiting The New York Times website (up to 10 articles per month). We select the top three stories based on their readership. We, as nonpartisan academic researchers, provide the newsletter as a free service for people to stay informed about the most important news related to economic policy. The newsletter is a completely non-commercial product.

→

G.7.2 Introduction to BDM mechanism

Your valuation of a product

On the next screen, we will ask you about your valuation of a product (that is, how much you would be maximally willing to pay for the product). Your decision **may have real consequences** so please pay close attention to the example below.

An example to illustrate the decision

Suppose the product in question is a 12-month subscription to **Spotify**, which normally costs $99. We will ask you for the **maximum amount** that you would be willing to pay for the 12-month subscription.

You will not have to use your own money to buy the 12-month Spotify subscription. After you stated your valuation, the computer will randomly pick a dollar amount between 1 and 99. If this dollar amount is higher than your valuation, then the dollar amount will be paid out to you. If the dollar amount is lower than your valuation, then you will receive a 12-month subscription to Spotify.

For instance, if the random number is 50 and your stated valuation is $60, you will receive the 12-month Spotify subscription. If the random number is 50 and your stated valuation is $40, you will receive a $50 bonus.

Is it optimal to state my true valuation?

Yes. The rule ensures that it is in **your best interest to state the maximum amount of money** you would be willing to pay for the product.

▼ Click **here** if you want to know why it is in your best interest.

> This rule means that it is in your best interest to state the maximum amount of money you would be willing to pay for the product. To see why, consider the case where you selected a number smaller than your true valuation. Then there is a chance that the computer picks a dollar amount that is larger than your chosen amount, but smaller than your true valuation. Receiving this dollar amount means that you would have been better of stating your true valuation, which would have resulted in you receiving the product.

Which of the statements below are true? Please tick all that apply.

☐ Given the payment rule, it is in my best interest to state my true valuation for the product.

☐ My decision on the next screen may have real consequences because my decision may be implemented.

☐ If my decision is implemented, then I will either receive money or the product, depending on my choices.

☐ None of the statements above are correct.

→

41

G.7.3 Information screen for those who answered control questions incorrectly

You did not tick off the box to indicate that the following statement is true: "Given the payment rule, it is in my best interest to state my true valuation for the product."

As we explained on the previous page, **it is in your best interest to provide your true valuation for the product.**

You did not tick off the box to indicate that the following statement is true: "My decision on the next screen may have real consequences because my decision may be implemented."

As we explained on the previous page, **your decision on the next screen may have real consequences because your decision may be implemented.**

You did not tick off the box to indicate that the following statement is true: "If my decision is implemented, then I will either receive money or the product, depending on my choices."

As we explained on the previous page, **you will receive the money or the product, depending on your choices, if your decision is implemented.**

→

G.7.4 Willingness to pay for subscription

Your valuation for a 12-month subscription to The New York Times

Below, we will ask you for your valuation of a 12-month digital subscription to **The New York Times**. This is how it works.

1. You report your valuation.
2. The computer will randomly pick a dollar amount between 0 and 30.
3. If the dollar amount determined by the random number draw is higher than your valuation, you will receive the dollar amount paid out as a monetary bonus. If the dollar amount is lower than your valuation, you will instead receive the 12-month subscription to The New York Times.
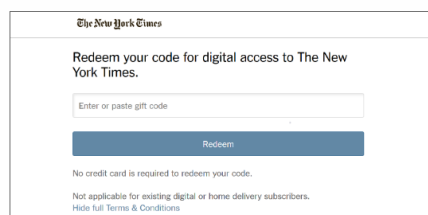
As explained on the previous page, it is in your best interests to truthfully report your valuation of the subscription.

1 out of 10 respondents will have their decision implemented.

▼ Click **here** if you want to know how you would receive your digital subscription to The New York Times.

1. We will send you a **unique gift code**. It looks like this: *4432a7af8c83b5da72gb*

2. We provide you with a **link to a website** where you can redeem it. It looks like this:

The New York Times

Redeem your code for digital access to The New York Times.

Enter or paste gift code

Redeem

No credit card is required to redeem your code.

Not applicable for existing digital or home delivery subscribers.
Hide full Terms & Conditions

3. Enter the code and **create an account**. You only need an email address for this.

4. **That's all!**

No credit card information is required to create an account. The subscription will automatically be canceled after the 12 month period. You can also cancel the subscription at any time if you want.

The code is completely anonymous and cannot be used to identify your email or any other of your personal characteristics.

Your decision
How much **are you maximally** willing to pay for a 12-month digital subscription to **The New York Times**?

I am maximally willing to pay $ [   ] for a 12-month subscription.

→

43