Polarization Graph Labeling Task
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Consent

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Research Information Sheet
IRB Study #: 22-1021
Principal Investigator: Isaac Mehlhaff

The purpose of this research study is to understand what polarization looks like in graphs of party ideology.

Participation in this study is voluntary, and not participating will not affect your relationship to UNC. You may refuse to participate or withdraw your participation for any reason. You must be at least 18 years old to participate. If you are younger than 18 years old, please stop now.

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to answer an online survey in which you will be presented with 20 pairs of graphs showing party ideology in the United States. Your task will be to tell us which graph in each pair looks more polarized. It is estimated that the study will take about 2-3 minutes of your time. We expect that at least 1,000 people will take part in this research study.

The possible risks to you in taking part in this research are:

- Having someone else find out you participated in a research study
- Potential loss of data confidentiality

You will not benefit directly from participating in this study.

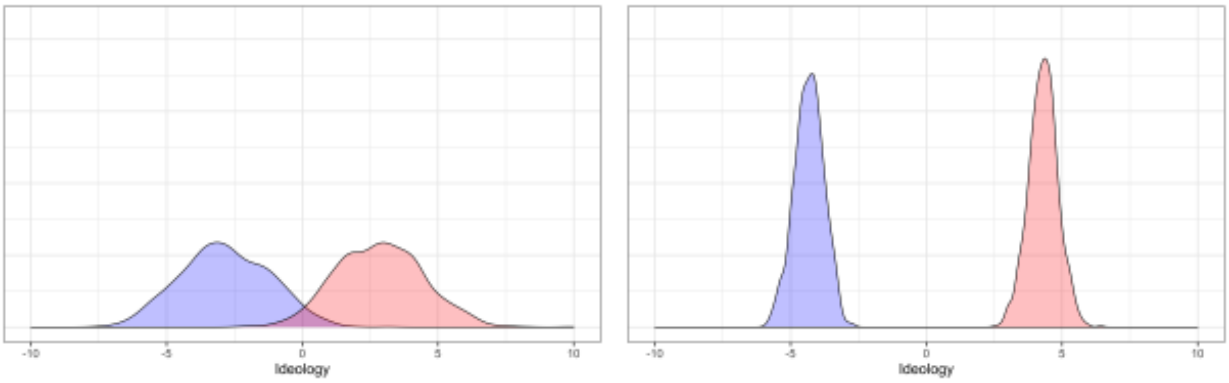
To protect your identity as a research subject, no identifier will be collected by the study. Your responses will only be connected to your Worker ID through a randomly generated ID number code used by the researcher for participation recording purposes. Once data collection is complete, these ID numbers will be destroyed and the data will not contain any identifiers. You will not be asked to provide any demographic information.

If you have any questions about this research, please contact the Investigator named at the top of this form by emailing mehlhaff@live.unc.edu. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the UNC Institutional Review Board at 919-966-3113 or by email to IRB_subjects@unc.edu.

Preamble

Lots of people have noticed that American politics have become more polarized in recent years. Polarization means that Democrats have ideologies that are very similar to other Democrats' ideologies and very different from Republicans' ideologies, and vice versa.

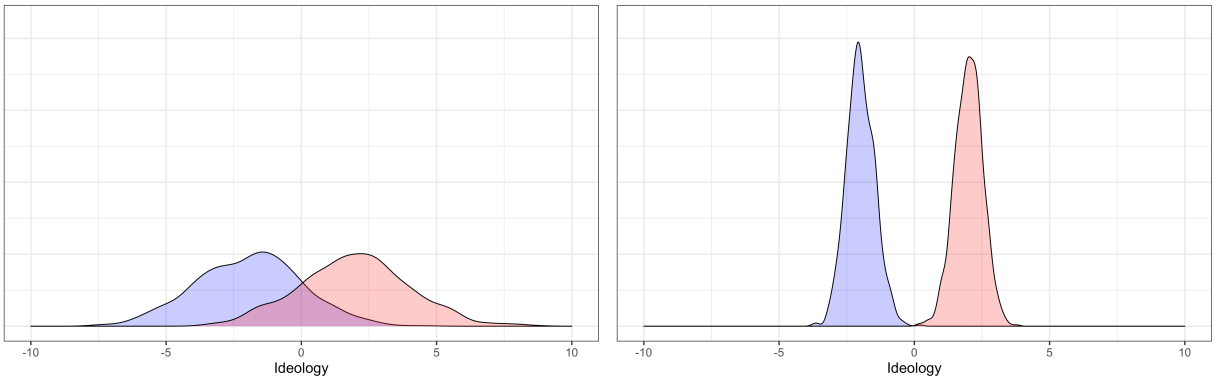
We need to collect data about what this polarization looks like in graphs of Democrats' and Republicans' ideologies. We will show you 20 pairs of graphs like the ones below. In this pair, the graph on the right (or on the bottom if viewing on a mobile device) is more polarized because Democrats' (blue) and Republicans' (red) ideologies are farther apart and each party's members have ideologies that are more similar to others in their party. Your task will be to tell us which of the two graphs is more polarized in each of the 20 pairs.



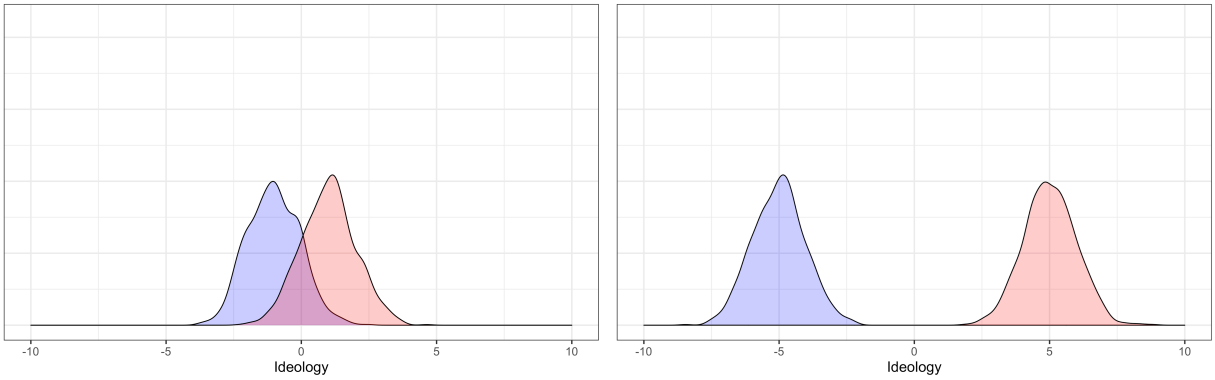
Screening

The next three questions are screening items to make sure you understand the task. You will only be allowed to proceed to the main task if you correctly identify the most polarized graph in each of the next three pairs.

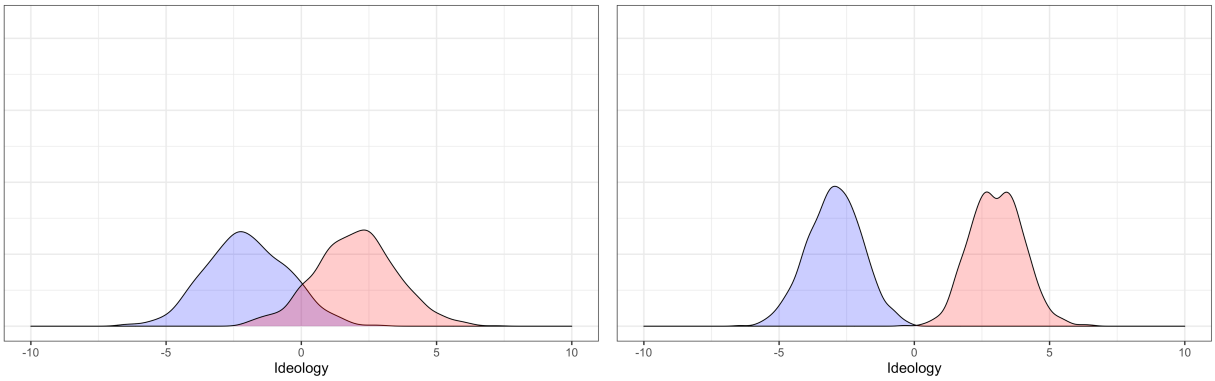
1. Which of the two graphs below is more polarized?



2. Which of the two graphs below is more polarized?



3. Which of the two graphs below is more polarized?



IF ITEMS 1, 2, OR 3 ANSWERED INCORRECTLY:

Unfortunately, you answered at least one screening item incorrectly and are therefore ineligible for the main task. Thank you for your time.

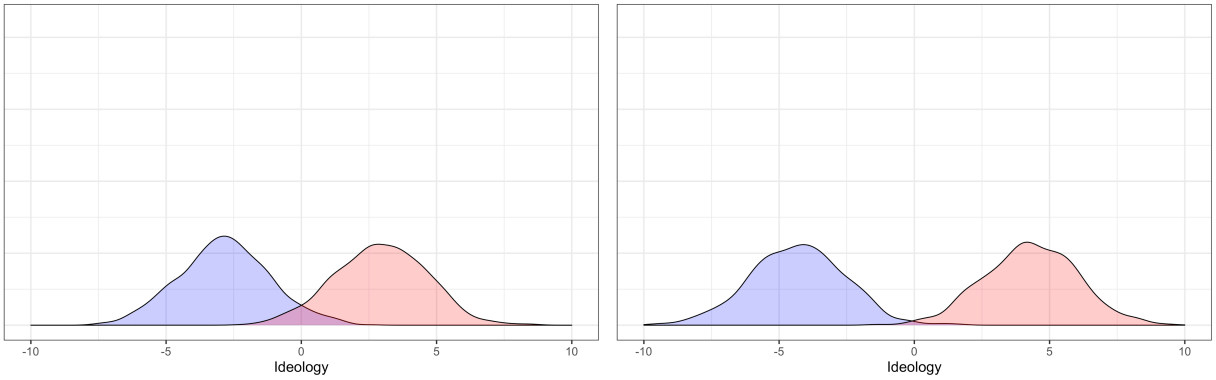
IF ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3 ANSWERED CORRECTLY:

Main Task Preamble

You answered all screening items correctly! Please continue to the main task.

Main Task

Which of the two graphs below is more polarized? (question is repeated 20 times with different graph pairs)



Random ID Generation

The task has ended. To ensure payment, please follow the instructions below carefully.

Here is your random ID number: ${e://Field/Random%20ID}. Copy and paste this number into MTurk. After copying this number, click the button below to submit the task.

NOTE: Failure to accurately copy and paste the random ID number above into MTurk OR failure to submit the task will result in your work not being connected to your worker ID.