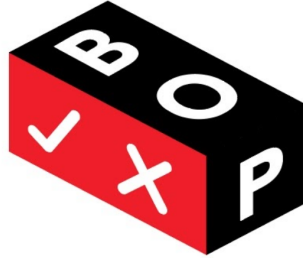


Brown Opinion Project: October 2023 Poll Results



Methodology

The Brown Opinion Project (BOP) conducted its October 2023 poll October 17th – October 19th. BOP solicited responses from Brown undergraduate students near Faunce Hall and Sciences Park. BOP representatives asked every person who passed their location if they were interested in taking a quick anonymous poll. Responses were anonymously collected using Google Forms. Over the course of the polling process, BOP collected 729 total responses from Brown undergraduate students. Three respondents opted not to provide their graduation year. We dropped their responses from the sample as we cannot weight responses that do not provide graduation year. The following data uses the 726 responses that indicated graduation year. The margin of error is 3.66% with 95% confidence¹.

Self-Reported Demographic Information

The sample of undergraduate students who took the poll is demographically similar to the Brown undergraduate student population. The sample was 27.69% first-years, 27.23% sophomores, 23.97% juniors, and 21.07% seniors. The sample was 44.77% female, 50.41% male, 2.75% non-binary or genderqueer, 1.52% questioning or unsure; while 0.41% preferred not to indicate their gender. Additionally, 56% of respondents identified as white, 35% as Asian, 8.6% as Black, 11.8% as Hispanic, 4.8% as Middle Eastern or North African while 1.9% preferred not to answer. The percentages for race add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents selected more than one race/ethnicity. Students also indicated their (intended) field of study:

¹We follow the Pew Research Center in adjusting our margin of error to account for the weighting of survey responses. We calculate the survey's margin of error as $\text{SQRT}(\text{design effect}) * 1.96 * \text{SQRT}((.5 * .5) / N)$. Read more at [this](#) link.

44% of respondents identified as Physical Science concentrators, 36.1% of respondents identified as Social Science concentrators, 29.6% of respondents identified as Arts and Humanities concentrators, 25.2% of respondents identified as Life Science concentrators, and 0.8% of respondents selected prefer not to answer. The percentages for fields of study add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents selected more than one. Students also indicated their participation in Brown athletics: 7.7% participate in varsity athletics, 23.7% participate in club athletics, 16.6% participate in intramural athletics, 55.1% do not participate in athletics at Brown, and 1% declined to answer. The percentages for athletics participation add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents selected more than one.

Results²

1) To what extent are you informed about the Israel-Hamas War?

Very Informed: 16.8%

Somewhat Informed: 54.15%

Somewhat Uninformed: 18.9%

Very Uninformed: 7.47%

Unsure: 1.92%

Prefer not to answer: 0.77%

2) To what extent do you think the average Brown student is informed about the Israel-Hamas War?

Very Informed: 2.39%

Somewhat Informed: 52.27%

Somewhat Uninformed: 34.21%

Very Uninformed: 8.39%

Unsure: 2.1%

Prefer not to answer: 0.64%

3) Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

The United States of America is in decline: 44.66%

The United States of America is not in decline: 18.72%

Unsure: 33.02%

Prefer not to answer: 3.6%

4) Have you ever considered transferring from Brown to another undergraduate institution?

No: 78.92%

Yes: 17.52%

Unsure: 2.62%

Prefer not to answer: 0.93%

² The results reported here are weighted by class year. There was a large enough deviation between the sample and the assumed grade distribution that we felt it necessary to report weighted averages, especially given the nature of some questions.

5) How likely are you to donate money to Brown University, or an affiliated organization, in the future?

Very likely: 10.92%

Somewhat likely: 32.58%

Somewhat unlikely: 22.25%

Very unlikely: 22.67%

Unsure: 10%

Prefer not to answer: 1.58%

6) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel comfortable expressing my religion on Brown's campus.

I do not actively practice a religion: 40.25%

Strongly agree: 23.67%

Somewhat agree: 25.17%

Somewhat disagree: 5.47%

Strongly disagree: 1.28%

Unsure: 2.28%

Prefer not to answer: 1.88%

7) Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Varsity athletes should not receive any type of preferential treatment in Brown's undergraduate admissions process: 56.28%

Unsure: 20.41%

Varsity athletes should receive some type of preferential treatment in Brown's undergraduate admissions process: 20.89%

Prefer not to answer: 2.42%

8) Do you have access to a credit or debit card that is paid for by a parent/guardian?

Yes: 65.23%

No: 31.63%

Prefer not to answer: 1.88%

Unsure: 1.26%

9) Would you date a first year student at Brown?

No: 56.04%

Yes: 29.24%

Unsure: 12.77%

Prefer not to answer: 1.96%

Recoded, anonymized data is available here: [Anonymized Data](#)³

If you have questions about our results or methodology, please reach out to brownopinionproject@brown.edu. Thanks for reading!

³ Note that the recoded data combines or eliminates certain columns in order to preserve anonymity.