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An Insight In to the Everyday American Voter

Despite the straw-poll method being to proven to be an inaccurate and unreliable method of surveying, the results proved to be fairly representative of the respective political generalizations. When looking at race, gender, and location almost all of the participators fell into their predicted voting group. Although some outliers did exist, they could be easily explained when looking at the more specific details. For example, Steven Thomas at first glance is a 52 year old white man from a red state, yet he continuously votes Democrat. Why? His voting habits can be broken down when looking at his religious affiliations and education, he is an Atheist and holds a higher education than most voters, therefore placing him as a predicted Democrat. The use of party affiliation as the number one predictor of voting was extremely accurate throughout the entire survey. If an individual was a Republican like Norman Smaligo and Kelly Richardson, they voted Republican in all five elections, and by the same token, Democrats like Jaime Gutierrez, Steven Thomas, and Pura Carmon voted completely Democrat in the elections as well. An interesting pattern arose when they participator was asked a more open ended question like, "What is the Electoral College?". Although everyone understood the general definition of the Electoral College, it seemed to also have a deeper personal meaning that represented his or her own values. The results of this survey prove that who you are as an individual almost always shapes your political sentiments, but your political sentiments often times also shape you.

After taking the survey I found myself having a friendly conversation with people that I may otherwise never have talked to, especially not about politics. This led me to have a

realization on the nature of modern political discussions. Often times the only political discussions that the everyday person has with “the other side” are passionate rebuttals in the comments section of a Facebook page, rarely is it in a neutral or even friendly setting. This of course ultimately leads to pride-fueled arguments rather than a true discussion where each side actually listens. I found that even I, a young, liberal, Hispanic female, caught a glimpse into the understanding and reasoning of a conservative, the people who on paper are the complete opposite to myself but in reality share perhaps even more similarities than differences. Although it may not be the most accurate method of obtaining data, a straw-poll survey proved to be a great instrument in initiating a conversation across political ideologies and barriers.