

NORC AmeriSpeak Omnibus Survey:

White Americans Less Likely to Agree That Newsworthy Topics Connected to Race or Ethnicity Should Be Taught in Schools

Interview Dates

August 12–16, 2021

Nationally representative sample of 1,126 English-speaking adults age 18 and over, conducted using the AmeriSpeak® Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Of the 1,126 respondents, 65 completed the survey by phone and 1,061 via the web.

The self-funded poll was conducted during a monthly Omnibus survey. It included 1,126 interviews with a nationally representative sample (margin of error +/- 3.83 percent) of adult Americans age 18+ using the AmeriSpeak Panel. AmeriSpeak is NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box-only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

NOTE: All results show percentages among respondents. "Other" includes don't know, skipped, and refused responses. Frequencies may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Who should be mostly responsible for making decisions about K to 12 school curriculum?

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	All adults (N=1,126)
School district/board	44
State government	12
Teacher	12
Federal government	7
Principal	5
Other	22

In general, should current events be taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools?

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	All adults (N=1,126)
Yes	75
No	10
Other	15

How appropriate are the following topics to be taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools?

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	Appropriate*	Somewhat appropriate	Not appropriate**	Other
The September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon	71	21	6	2
Climate change	55	25	18	2
Immigration enforcement or reform	46	29	21	3
The January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol	44	23	30	2
Black Lives Matter	42	21	34	2
Removal of Confederate monuments	39	25	34	2
Police killings of Black Americans	38	24	36	2

* "Appropriate" includes those who said the given topic was "extremely appropriate" and "very appropriate."

** "Not appropriate" includes those who said the given topic was "not too appropriate" and "not at all appropriate."

Assuming current events were taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools, should they be taught in each of the following ways or not?

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	Yes	No	Other
Shows there are multiple sides to an issue	78	9	13
Places the issue in a historical context	71	11	18
Allows for criticism of the government response to the issue	64	15	21
Emphasizes any role that racism plays in the issue	48	30	22

Party ID

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	All adults (N=1,126)
Democrat**	45
Don't Lean/Independent/None	17
Republican***	39
Other	0

** "Democrat" includes those who chose "strong Democrat," "not so strong Democrat," and "lean Democrat."

*** "Republican" includes those who chose "strong Republican," "not so strong Republican," and "lean Republican."

Race/Ethnicity

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	All adults (N=1,126)
White, non-Hispanic	62
Black, non-Hispanic	12
Other, non-Hispanic	1
Hispanic	17
2+, non-Hispanic	3
Asian, non-Hispanic	5

**In general, should current events be taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools?
Responses by Race/Ethnicity**

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other/2+, non-Hispanic
Yes	78	65	70	71
No	8	10	15	14
Other	14	25	14	14

How appropriate are the following topics to be taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools? Appropriate* Responses by Party ID

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	Democrat	Independent	Republican
The September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon	72	72	79
Climate change	84	53	23
Immigration enforcement or reform	55	47	39
The January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol	66	45	21
Black Lives Matter	74	38	12
Removal of Confederate monuments	58	37	20
Police killings of Black Americans	62	37	11

* “Appropriate” includes those who said the given topic was “extremely appropriate” and “very appropriate.”

How appropriate are the following topics to be taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools? Appropriate* Responses by Race/Ethnicity

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other/2+, non-Hispanic
The September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon	75	61	70	60
Climate change	52	63	56	60
Immigration enforcement or reform	43	51	47	58
The January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol	39	62	44	50
Black Lives Matter	38	63	46	38
Removal of Confederate monuments	33	50	45	46
Police killings of Black Americans	32	61	40	39

* “Appropriate” includes those who said the given topic was “extremely appropriate” and “very appropriate.”

Assuming current events were taught in age-appropriate ways in K to 12 schools, should they be taught in each of the following ways, or not? “Yes” Responses by Race/Ethnicity

AmeriSpeak (8/12/21-8/16/21)	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other/2+, non-Hispanic
Shows there are multiple sides to an issue	83	57	76	75
Places the issue in a historical context	76	59	64	64
Allows for criticism of the government response to the issue	66	52	62	62
Emphasizes any role that racism plays in the issue	44	60	55	54