

Ideology Quest



The goals of this assignment are to first investigate how existing tools predict political ideology, before proposing a new and superior quiz. This should take about an hour to complete. Consult the [rubric](#) if you have questions about how this essay assignment will be graded.

You need to submit your response on the LegSim website (go to members/my assignments and read the instructions)

1. **Without conducting any research on the subject**, define two commonly used terms in American politics. Please limit your definition to a sentence or two.

What is a conservative?

What is a liberal?

2. Compared to the average American, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, a conservative or what? Why?

3. The links below take you to several ideological placement quizzes. Choose 2 and see where they place you. (If you are concerned about privacy, go ahead and enter a fictitious email address, but please answer the questions honestly.)

<http://66.241.213.91/idealogue.asp?>
<http://www.politopia.com/index.htm>
<http://www.politicalcompass.org/>
<http://www.theadvocates.org/index.html>

4. Does your location from the quiz agree with where you thought you belonged before you took the test? Explain.
5. How do these quizzes measure ideology? Are there any problems with this approach to predicting a person's ideology?
6. Could you use them to accurately predict how most people would vote? Give an example from the real world that illustrates why ideology might not be a very good predictor of voting position.
7. Propose a different approach to discovering a person's ideology. Explain why (in your view) it more accurately captures ideology and will also (probably) more accurately predict how people vote.

How many parties are there in the U.S.? [Project Vote Smart](#) has the answer. We are not going to ask you to count them, but please click on a few. It's not too difficult to form a party is it?!