

Online Appendices to “College Students and Online Political Expression during the 2016 Election.”

Kenneth W. Moffett, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Laurie L. Rice, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Appendix A: Summary Statistics for Online and Offline Civic Engagement Variables

Summary of Variables

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Number of Observations</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Online Political Expression	878	4.31	4.34	0	16
Persuading Others	926	1.73	1.44	0	4
Frequency of Blog Reading	913	1.51	1.40	0	4
Social Media Activity	861	7.39	6.01	0	20
Interest in Politics	928	1.84	.87	0	3
Strong Partisanship	930	.36	.48	0	1
Peer Civic Engagement	851	7.36	2.47	0	12
Political Science Major	927	.05	.21	0	1
Campaign Attention	931	2.59	1.11	0	4
Liberal	834	.35	.48	0	1
Conservative	834	.27	.44	0	1

Appendix B: Question Wording for Variables

This appendix contains the complete list of variables from the surveys that we used in this paper. In all parts of the survey, students had the option of declining to answer a question.

Question Wording for Variables in the Analysis

Dependent Variables

Online Participation Index

During 2016, how often have you...

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Regularly	Very Often	Don't Know
Expressed your views about politics, a presidential candidate, a political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on a website (e.g., in the comments section of a news story)?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Expressed your views about politics, a presidential candidate, a political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on a blog?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Expressed your views about politics, a presidential candidate, a political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on a social media platform (e.g., Facebook or Twitter)?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Shared an image or webpage related to politics, a presidential candidate, a political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on a social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.

Persuading Others to Vote for or Against a Candidate or Party

During 2016, how often have you tried to talk to people and explain why they should vote for or against one of the parties or candidates?

0) Never; 1) Rarely; 2) Sometimes; 3) Regularly; 4) Very Often

Independent Variables

Social Media Activity Index

During 2016, how often have you...

	Never				Frequently	Don't Know
Followed a presidential candidate, political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on any social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Liked a presidential candidate, political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on any social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Joined a professional network related to a presidential candidate, political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on any social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Friended a presidential candidate, political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on any social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.
Liked a video produced by a presidential candidate, political party, another candidate for political office, or a political interest group on any social media platform?	0	1	2	3	4	.

Blog Readership

In a typical week, how often do you read internet blogs about politics?

- 4) Very Often; 3) Often; 2) Sometimes; 1) Rarely; 0) Not at All; .) Don't Know

Interest in Politics

How interested would you say you are in politics? Are you...

- 0) Not at all interested; 1) Not very interested; 2) Somewhat interested; 3) Very interested; .) Don't Know

Strong Partisanship

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- 1) Republican; 2) Democrat; 3) Independent; 4) Other _____

If the respondent answered “Republican,” for partisan identification, then s/he was asked the following question:

Do you think of yourself as strongly Republican or not very strong?

- 1) Strong Republican; 2) Not very strong Republican

If the respondent answered “Democrat,” for partisan identification, then s/he was asked the following question:

Do you think of yourself as strongly Democratic or not very strong?

- 1) Strong Democrat; 2) Not very strong Democrat

Peer Civic Engagement

Table A9: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree	Don't Know
My friends are active in volunteer work in their community	0	1	2	3	4	.
My friends vote in elections	0	1	2	3	4	.
My friends encourage me to express my opinions about politics and current events even if they are different from their views	0	1	2	3	4	.

Political Science Major

If you have declared a major(s), what is your area(s) of study? (check all that apply)

_____ Arts; _____ Architecture ; _____ Business; _____ Education; _____ Engineering; _____ Humanities; _____ Interdisciplinary; _____ Math and Sciences; _____ Nursing; _____ Political Science; _____ Social Sciences, other than Political Science; _____ Social Work; _____ Undeclared; _____ Other

Campaign Attention

During 2016, how often have you paid attention to political campaigns?

- 1) Never; 1) Rarely; 2) Sometimes; 3) Regularly; 4) Very Often

Ideology (Constructed from these Questions)

Generally speaking, how would you describe your political ideology?

- 1) Very conservative; 2) Conservative; 3) Moderate; 4) Liberal; 5) Very liberal; 6) Other
_____;
- 7) Don't know

If the respondent answered "moderate" or "don't know" for ideology, then s/he was asked the following question:

If you had to choose, would you consider yourself a liberal or a conservative?

- 1) Liberal; 2) Conservative