



NATIONAL
CATHOLIC **REPORTER**
THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

Catholic College Students Study
NCR | 11.05.25

Research Overview



Objective

To measure the views and behavior of Catholic college students in terms of their relationship with Catholicism, politics, and news consumption.



Methodology

Quantitative online survey, enhanced with MercuryIQ*.

Respondents first answered screener questions to determine eligibility and then answered questions on their Catholic beliefs and identity, political behavior, and news consumption. Respondents then answered a final set of demographic questions.



Audience

N401 Catholic College Students

- Ages 18-23
- Attending a four-year undergraduate program

Key Takeaways: Catholic Beliefs and Identity



Catholic college students care about their faith and engage with it.

- A large majority place importance on (91%) and are engaged with (82%) their Catholic beliefs and identity, and almost all believe in God (97%).
- Additionally, over half attend Mass at least a few times per month and pray at least a few times per week.
- 8 in 10 Catholic students indicate that they are currently involved with the Church, with attending mass being the most common way (55%). Among those involved with the Church, about 8 in 10 students also consider Church involvement to be part of their college life.

Catholic social teaching and social justice are important for many Catholic students.

- Almost two thirds of Catholic college students are “very” or “somewhat” familiar with Catholic social teaching and social justice, and among those familiar with it, 9 in 10 say that it is influential in how they think about social and political issues.
- Students who are familiar with Catholic social teaching and social justice most commonly consider *helping the poor and sick* (90%) as well as *caring for the environment* (72%) to be its core tenants.

Key Takeaways: Pope Francis and Pope Leo

Pope Francis played a slightly more important role in the faith of students than Pope Leo has so far.

- While 6 in 10 Catholic college students paid attention to the words, writings, and actions of Pope Francis, only half pay attention to those of Pope Leo.
- When asked how much of an impact those words, writings, and actions of each pope have had on their Catholicism, 62% of students say those of Pope Francis had a “very” or “somewhat” large impact, and 54% say the same of Pope Leo.
- In their open-end responses, students cite messages of inclusion and social justice from both popes as reasons for this impact.

Most don’t care about having an American pope.

- Only 4 in 10 students consider Pope Leo’s nationality to be “very” or “somewhat” important.
- Those that do consider it important are inspired by his relatability and a sense of representation in the Church.



Key Takeaways: Political Behavior



While politically engaged, Catholic college students are split on their views.

- Two-thirds of students are interested in U.S. politics, and about half always or almost always vote.
- 3 in 10 respondents consider themselves liberal, and another 3 in 10 consider themselves conservative, while slightly more consider themselves moderate (~4 in 10).
- 4 in 10 are Democrats, and 3 in 10 are Republicans.

The issues they care about are not necessarily tied into their faith.

- Students cite *cost of living, affordable housing, and the cost of higher education / student loan debt* as the issues most important to them, but they consider *religion, reproductive rights / abortion, and community* to be the issues most related to their faith.
- 6 in 10 say their Catholicism influences their vote, while *honesty, concern for human dignity and the common good, and respect for life* are the most important values for politician to have.

Key Takeaways: News Consumption

Catholic college students are engaged with the news, at least through social media.

- About 8 in 10 students consider themselves “very” or “somewhat” informed on current events and the news, and nearly 6 in 10 read the news at least a few times per week, following U.S. politics most regularly.
- Social media is an important news source for Catholic college students, with at least half typically getting news from TikTok or Instagram. Their preferred news formats are also influenced by the internet and the digital age, mostly consuming news from social media feeds (68%) and television / online videos (56%).
- Many respondents indicate that they do not seek out specific news sources, but:
 - Among n272 respondents who get their news from social media, 9% mentioned Charlie Kirk and 6% mentioned Candace Owens.
 - Among n225 who get their news from news shows, 19% mentioned CNN and 16% mentioned Fox News.
 - Among n72 respondents who get their news from radio shows or podcasts, 13% mentioned NPR and 7% mentioned the Joe Rogan Experience.

They care about accuracy, but entertainment helps.

- Accuracy is the most important quality in a news sources (64%), according to Catholic students, followed by the presentation of the news in an engaging way (48%).
- Catholic students prefer watching a video (60%) on the news much more than reading an article (17%), saying that videos are easier to understand and more engaging / entertaining. Those who do read articles though, generally finish the entire article at least most of the time (72%).

Catholic College Students

Catholic Beliefs and Identity

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Importance and Engagement

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
How important are your Catholic beliefs and identity to you?					
Top-2-Box	91%	95%	90%	90%	92%
Very important	49%	69%	43%	51%	48%
Somewhat important	42%	26%	46%	40%	44%
Not very important	8%	2%	9%	10%	7%
Not at all important	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Bottom-2-Box	9%	5%	10%	10%	9%
How engaged are you with your Catholic beliefs and identity?					
Top-2-Box	82%	91%	80%	82%	83%
Very engaged	31%	55%	25%	31%	32%
Somewhat engaged	51%	35%	55%	52%	51%
Not very engaged	16%	7%	18%	17%	15%
Not at all engaged	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Bottom-2-Box	18%	9%	20%	18%	18%

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Belief, Mass, and Prayer

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
To what extent do you believe in the existence of God?					
Top-2-Box	97%	98%	96%	97%	97%
Strongly believe	78%	85%	76%	77%	80%
Somewhat believe	18%	13%	20%	20%	17%
Barely believe	2%	0%	3%	3%	2%
Do not believe at all	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Don't know / unsure	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Bottom-2-Box	3%	1%	3%	3%	3%
How often do you attend Catholic Mass?					
Top-2-Box	55%	69%	51%	56%	55%
Every week or more often	28%	45%	23%	26%	30%
A few times per month	27%	25%	28%	30%	25%
Once per month	14%	14%	15%	15%	14%
Less often than monthly	23%	16%	25%	23%	24%
Never	7%	0%	9%	7%	8%
Bottom-2-Box	30%	16%	34%	30%	32%
How often do you pray?					
Top-2-Box	65%	80%	61%	63%	69%
Every day	33%	49%	29%	32%	35%
A few times per week	32%	31%	32%	31%	34%
Once per week	8%	4%	10%	11%	6%
A few times per month	10%	9%	10%	12%	8%
Once per month	5%	2%	6%	5%	5%
Less often than monthly	8%	2%	10%	7%	10%
Never	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Bottom-2-Box	11%	5%	13%	10%	13%

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Church Activities

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
How are you currently involved with the Church? Please select all that apply.					
Attending Mass	55%	59%	54%	52%	59%
Receiving the Sacraments	28%	41%	25%	26%	31%
Participating in community service through the Church	28%	46%	23%	25%	31%
Following the Church on social media	25%	27%	25%	31%	20%
Attending Bible studies	25%	36%	22%	27%	24%
Supporting missionary efforts	12%	15%	11%	13%	11%
Assisting with Parish administration	6%	16%	3%	8%	5%
Other – Please specify:	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
None of the above	20%	11%	22%	17%	23%

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Church Activities and College Life

	ALL Base (321)	Attend a Catholic University Base (76)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (245)	Male Base (166)	Female Base (154)
You indicated you currently participate in the following. Which of these do you consider to be part of your college life (e.g. you participate on campus or with other students)?					
Attending Mass	44%	50%	42%	39%	49%
Participating in community service through the Church	23%	39%	18%	21%	25%
Attending Bible studies	22%	36%	18%	23%	22%
Following the Church on social media	16%	17%	16%	16%	16%
Receiving the Sacraments	15%	28%	11%	14%	17%
Supporting missionary efforts	5%	7%	5%	5%	5%
Assisting with Parish administration	4%	11%	2%	4%	4%
None of the above	22%	9%	26%	20%	24%

Asked among respondents who did not answer "None of the above" to "How are you currently involved with the Church? Please select all that apply".

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Catholic Social Teaching / Social Justice Familiarity

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
How familiar are you with Catholic social teaching and social justice?					
Top-2-Box	65%	87%	59%	66%	64%
Very familiar	25%	42%	21%	23%	28%
Somewhat familiar	39%	45%	38%	43%	36%
Neutral	21%	11%	23%	20%	22%
Somewhat unfamiliar	8%	2%	9%	8%	8%
Very unfamiliar	7%	0%	9%	7%	7%
Bottom-2-Box	15%	2%	18%	15%	15%

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Catholic Social Teaching / Social Justice Attributes and Influence

	ALL Base (259)	Attend a Catholic University Base (74)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (185)	Male Base (131)	Female Base (128)
What does Catholic social teaching and social justice entail? Please select all that apply.					
Helping the poor and the sick	90%	88%	91%	91%	90%
Caring for the environment	72%	76%	71%	66%	79%
Helping the immigrant	55%	51%	57%	55%	55%
Protecting unborn life	52%	55%	51%	53%	52%
Other – Please specify:	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%
None of the above	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%
In general, how influential is Catholic social teaching and social justice on how you think about social and political issues?					
Top-2-Box	91%	91%	91%	92%	90%
Very influential	42%	54%	37%	49%	35%
Somewhat influential	49%	36%	54%	44%	55%
Not very influential	9%	9%	9%	8%	10%
Not influential at all	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bottom-2-Box	9%	9%	9%	8%	10%

Asked among respondents who indicate they are very/somewhat familiar with Catholic social teaching and social justice.

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Words, Writings, and Actions of Pope Francis

	ALL Base (201)	Attend a Catholic University Base (45)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (156)	Male Base (103)	Female Base (98)
Thinking back to the papacy of Pope Francis, how closely did you follow or pay attention to the words, writings, and actions of Pope Francis?					
Top-2-Box	58%	62%	56%	62%	53%
Very closely	14%	20%	13%	17%	11%
Somewhat closely	43%	42%	44%	45%	42%
Not very closely	31%	29%	32%	30%	33%
Not closely at all	11%	9%	12%	8%	14%
Bottom-2-Box	42%	38%	44%	38%	47%
How much of an impact did the words, writings, and actions of Pope Francis have on your Catholicism?					
Top-2-Box	62%	73%	58%	64%	59%
Very large impact	28%	38%	26%	31%	26%
Somewhat large impact	33%	36%	33%	33%	34%
Little impact	29%	22%	31%	31%	28%
No impact at all	9%	4%	10%	5%	13%
Bottom-2-Box	38%	27%	42%	36%	41%

Asked among respondents randomly assigned to the Pope Francis question set.

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Pope Francis Impact Open End

Q: You mentioned that the words, writings, and actions of Pope Francis have a very / somewhat large impact on your Catholicism. What, specifically, impacted your Catholicism and how? Please be as specific as possible.

Key Themes:

1. Emphasis on Compassion, Mercy, and Acceptance
2. Commitment to Social Justice and Serving the Poor
3. Advocacy for Inclusivity and Diversity
4. Environmental Stewardship
5. Personal Inspiration, Faith Renewal, and Role Modeling

*"His **love for all and acceptance of all diversity**, and his love and forgiveness for those who would be typically sinners according to most people calling themselves Christian, have had a very large impact on my Catholicism."*

*"Pope Francis' focus on social justice has defined my overview look and understanding of Catholicism. His **call to address inequality inspired me to engage in a deeper appreciation of my church and my community.**"*

*"Pope Francis's **acceptance of women, LGBTIA+, and different ethnicities** in the church has been particularly impactful on my Catholic beliefs."*

VIEWS ON POPE LEO:

Words, Writings, and Actions of Pope Leo

	ALL Base (200)	Attend a Catholic University Base (40)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (160)	Male Base (97)	Female Base (102)
Thinking about the papacy of Pope Leo, how closely do you follow or pay attention to the words, writings, and actions of Pope Leo?					
Top-2-Box	49%	65%	44%	51%	46%
Very closely	12%	25%	9%	18%	7%
Somewhat closely	37%	40%	36%	33%	39%
Not very closely	42%	35%	43%	42%	41%
Not closely at all	10%	0%	13%	7%	13%
Bottom-2-Box	52%	35%	56%	49%	54%
How much of an impact do the words, writings, and actions of Pope Leo have on your Catholicism?					
Top-2-Box	54%	70%	50%	59%	49%
Very large impact	17%	35%	12%	16%	16%
Somewhat large impact	38%	35%	38%	42%	33%
Little impact	32%	25%	33%	30%	33%
No impact at all	15%	5%	17%	11%	18%
Bottom-2-Box	46%	30%	50%	41%	51%

Asked among respondents randomly assigned to the Pope Leo question set.

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Pope Leo Impact Open End

Q: You mentioned that the words, writings, and actions of Pope Leo have a very / somewhat large impact on your Catholicism. What, specifically, impacted your Catholicism and how? Please be as specific as possible.

Key Themes:

1. Social Justice, Compassion, and Helping the Poor
2. Inclusivity, Acceptance, and 'Love Thy Neighbor'
3. Tradition, Authority, and Role of the Papacy
4. Personal Growth, Spiritual Guidance, and Faith Strengthening
5. Modernization, New Perspectives, and Addressing Contemporary Issues

*"Pope Leo's **teachings on social justice and the dignity of workers** deeply shaped my understanding of Catholic responsibility in the modern world. Pope Leo's teachings inspire me to **prioritize compassion, fairness, and solidarity in both work and community life.**"*

*"I really like how open he is with **gay marriage, accepting people, and welcoming/helping refugees and immigrants.** He always says "love thy neighbor" and speaks about helping others and being a servant to others as Jesus taught and I try to live by that."*

*"**Pope Leo being American makes the Catholic Church feel closer to home.** When he said that treating immigrants poorly is not pro-life because pro-life is something different, and he explained it further, it impacted my Catholicism."*

CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND IDENTITY:

Pope Leo's Nationality

	ALL Base (200)	Attend a Catholic University Base (40)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (160)	Male Base (97)	Female Base (102)
How important is it to you that Pope Leo is an American?					
Top-2-Box	42%	48%	41%	49%	35%
Very important	13%	25%	9%	16%	9%
Somewhat important	30%	23%	31%	33%	26%
Not very important	32%	25%	33%	30%	32%
Not at all important	27%	28%	26%	21%	32%
Bottom-2-Box	58%	53%	59%	51%	65%

Q: You mentioned that it's important to you that Pope Leo is American. Why is it important to you?*

Key themes:

1. Relatability and Cultural Connection
2. Representation and Pride
3. Interest, Novelty, and Excitement
4. Faith, Belonging, and Religious Motivation
5. Representation in Church Leadership and Global Catholicism

"It's important to me to have someone that can relate to Americans with religion. Having an American Pope makes him **more relatable to the people he preaches to.**"

"He is the first American Pope, which is significant given how underrepresented America has been in the Vatican. It **makes me feel stronger because a fellow American is leading the charge.**"

*Base Sizes: ALL n83

*Asked among respondents who indicate it is very/somewhat important to them that Pope Leo is American.

Catholic College Students

Political Behavior

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Interest, Ideology, and Party

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
How interested are you in US politics?					
Top-2-Box	67%	68%	66%	64%	70%
Very interested	25%	31%	24%	24%	27%
Somewhat interested	41%	38%	42%	41%	43%
Not very interested	25%	25%	25%	31%	20%
Not at all interested	8%	7%	9%	6%	11%
Bottom-2-Box	33%	32%	34%	36%	31%

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Voting Frequency

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
When there is a general election in your state, how often do you vote?					
Always	24%	25%	24%	27%	22%
Almost always	23%	32%	21%	25%	21%
Some of the time	19%	14%	21%	20%	19%
Hardly ever	9%	4%	11%	12%	7%
Never	7%	5%	8%	6%	9%
I'm not registered but will register	15%	19%	14%	10%	20%
I'm not registered and will not register	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Interest, Ideology, and Party

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
If you had to label yourself politically, are you more liberal, more moderate, or more conservative?					
Liberal (Combined)	30%	29%	31%	23%	38%
Very liberal	12%	11%	13%	9%	16%
Somewhat liberal	18%	19%	18%	14%	22%
Moderate	38%	40%	38%	41%	36%
Somewhat conservative	20%	16%	21%	23%	17%
Very conservative	12%	14%	11%	14%	10%
Conservative (Combined)	31%	31%	32%	37%	26%
Do you consider yourself a...					
Democrat (Combined)	41%	45%	40%	31%	51%
Strong Democrat	16%	16%	16%	13%	19%
Lean more Democrat	25%	28%	25%	19%	32%
Independent	26%	26%	27%	32%	22%
Lean more Republican	20%	14%	22%	24%	16%
Strong Republican	10%	14%	9%	11%	10%
Republican (Combined)	30%	28%	31%	35%	26%
Other (Please specify)	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Issues – Importance

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
Which of the following issues are important to you personally? Please select all that apply.					
Cost of living	66%	58%	68%	58%	73%
Affordable housing	61%	56%	62%	53%	70%
Cost of higher education / student loan debt	61%	61%	61%	51%	71%
Mental health	56%	53%	56%	44%	68%
Access to healthcare	52%	51%	53%	38%	66%
Gun violence	50%	51%	50%	41%	61%
Immigration	50%	48%	50%	40%	60%
The job market	48%	46%	49%	45%	52%
The environment / sustainability	45%	47%	45%	41%	50%
Reproductive rights / abortion	44%	48%	43%	30%	59%
Religion	41%	52%	38%	32%	51%
Racial justice	39%	38%	39%	27%	50%
Economic justice	37%	36%	37%	35%	39%
Community	36%	33%	37%	33%	40%
Criminal justice reform	29%	32%	28%	21%	37%
LGBTQ+ issues	24%	25%	24%	17%	33%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
None of the above	2%	4%	1%	2%	2%

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Issues – Connection to Faith

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
Which of the following issues do you view as Catholic issues or part of your faith? Please select all that apply.					
Religion	58%	62%	56%	52%	63%
Reproductive rights / abortion	40%	52%	37%	34%	47%
Community	37%	38%	37%	36%	39%
Mental health	32%	40%	30%	29%	37%
LGBTQ+ issues	28%	33%	26%	26%	30%
Immigration	28%	29%	27%	27%	28%
Racial justice	27%	32%	26%	23%	31%
Gun violence	24%	33%	21%	20%	28%
Access to healthcare	23%	28%	22%	20%	26%
The environment / sustainability	20%	31%	18%	22%	20%
Criminal justice reform	18%	25%	16%	14%	22%
Cost of living	17%	27%	15%	16%	19%
Affordable housing	15%	20%	14%	14%	17%
Economic justice	13%	20%	12%	15%	12%
Cost of higher education / student loan debt	11%	16%	10%	11%	13%
The job market	8%	12%	7%	7%	9%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
None of the above	14%	7%	16%	13%	16%

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Influence of Faith

	ALL Base (267)	Attend a Catholic University Base (60)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (207)	Male Base (143)	Female Base (123)
How influential is your Catholicism on how you vote?					
Top-2-Box	60%	73%	56%	61%	59%
Very influential	20%	35%	15%	22%	18%
Somewhat influential	40%	38%	40%	39%	41%
Not very influential	27%	22%	29%	27%	27%
Not influential at all	13%	5%	16%	13%	15%
Bottom-2-Box	40%	27%	44%	39%	41%

Asked among respondents who indicate they vote at least some of the time.

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Politicians' Values

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
Thinking about the government, what values are most important for politicians to have? Please select all that apply.					
Honesty	69%	71%	69%	65%	74%
Concern for human dignity and the common good	69%	72%	68%	61%	76%
Respect for life	68%	69%	68%	64%	72%
Equality	66%	64%	67%	60%	73%
Justice	60%	59%	60%	51%	69%
Care for the poor / the stranger	60%	62%	59%	52%	68%
Care for creation, planet, and the climate	56%	55%	56%	47%	64%
Concern to protect America's way of life	54%	51%	54%	58%	50%
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
None of the above	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%

Catholic College Students

News Consumption

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Informed Levels and Consumption Frequency

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
How informed do you consider yourself on current events and what's in the news?					
Top-2-Box	78%	80%	78%	79%	78%
Very informed	22%	27%	20%	25%	18%
Somewhat informed	57%	53%	58%	54%	60%
Not very informed	18%	16%	18%	19%	17%
Not at all informed	4%	4%	4%	2%	6%
Bottom-2-Box	22%	20%	22%	21%	23%
How often do you read the news?					
Every day	16%	20%	16%	20%	13%
A few times per week	41%	45%	40%	45%	37%
Once per week	21%	18%	22%	19%	23%
Less often than weekly	22%	18%	23%	16%	28%

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Topics

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
Which news topics do you regularly follow?					
U.S. politics	60%	64%	59%	54%	65%
Professional sports	41%	42%	41%	50%	33%
Health and wellness	36%	38%	35%	27%	45%
Science and technology	32%	38%	30%	36%	28%
Celebrity news	33%	33%	33%	21%	45%
International politics	31%	33%	31%	37%	26%
Faith and religion	31%	45%	27%	29%	34%
Finance	24%	35%	21%	29%	20%
Fashion	22%	28%	21%	14%	31%
Other (Please specify)	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
None of the above	6%	4%	7%	4%	8%

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Sources

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85) Where do you typically get your news from?	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
TikTok	56%	54%	56%	52%	60%
Instagram	52%	41%	54%	50%	54%
YouTube	45%	44%	45%	53%	37%
Twitter / X	32%	44%	29%	40%	25%
CNN	29%	35%	27%	23%	35%
FOX News	26%	29%	25%	25%	27%
New York Times	24%	20%	26%	18%	31%
Reddit	19%	24%	18%	23%	16%
Local newspapers or TV news shows	19%	22%	18%	17%	22%
ABC	18%	18%	18%	16%	20%
NBC	17%	19%	17%	18%	17%
Facebook	16%	18%	16%	20%	14%
CBS	15%	19%	15%	14%	17%
Washington Post	14%	16%	14%	12%	17%
Podcasts	14%	18%	13%	10%	18%
Wall Street Journal	12%	14%	11%	12%	12%
MSNBC	8%	11%	8%	11%	6%
CNBC	6%	11%	5%	7%	6%
NPR	4%	7%	3%	3%	6%
Bloomberg	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%
Politico	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Newsmax	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
Truth Social	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Rumble	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Breitbart	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Parler	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Axios	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Other (Please specify)	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%
None of these	3%	0%	4%	3%	4%

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Consumption Method

	ALL	Attend a Catholic University	Do Not Attend a Catholic University	Male	Female
	Base (401)	Base (85)	Base (316)	Base (200)	Base (200)
	How do you typically consume the news?				
Looking at social media feeds	68%	60%	70%	66%	70%
Watching television or online videos	56%	64%	54%	59%	54%
Reading articles	33%	40%	31%	29%	37%
Listening to the radio or podcasts	18%	22%	17%	19%	18%
Other (Please specify)	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
None of the above	2%	1%	2%	1%	4%

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Consumption Method Open Ends

Q: Are there any specific social media figures talk about the news and current events that you follow and pay attention to? Please list all the ones that you typically get your news from. [Base Size: n272]

Most respondents **do not consistently follow specific influencers or personalities**. Instead, they either follow **whatever content appears on their social media feeds or rely on well-known mainstream news publishers** rather than individual figures. When figures were mentioned, recurring names mostly included **Charlie Kirk (9%), Candace Owens (6%),** and a handful of other conservative commentators.

Q: Are there any specific news shows (either on television or online) that you watch? Please list all the ones that you typically get your news from. [Base Size: n225]

Many respondents **do not express a strong preference for any particular news show or channel**, instead indicating that they often **watch whatever is available, catch news clips online** (particularly on platforms like YouTube and TikTok), or do not watch news at all. Some students also report **passively encountering news** as it appears on their household television or through notifications on their digital devices. Among those who do mention specific outlets, mainstream television networks such as **CNN (19%), and Fox News (16%)** are frequently cited.

Q: Are there any specific radio shows or podcasts that discuss the news and current events that you listen to? Please list all the ones that you typically get your news from. [Base Size: n72]

Respondents mention **both well-known mainstream sources and popular independent podcasts. NPR (13%)** (specifically Up First and NPR News Now) appears repeatedly as a go-to choice for brief and in-depth news coverage. At the same time, many students report listening to a mix of content as it becomes available, showing little attachment to a consistent news source. Podcasts such as **The Joe Rogan Experience (7%)** reveal that some students also gravitate towards opinion-driven content and political commentary. Notably, a substantial number of responses express **uncertainty or lack of recall regarding specific programs**, indicating that many students do not habitually seek out dedicated news podcasts or radio shows.

NEWS CONSUMPTION

Source Choice Factors and Article / Video Preference

	ALL Base (401)	Attend a Catholic University Base (85)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (316)	Male Base (200)	Female Base (200)
What do you look for when choosing a news source?					
I can trust I'm getting accurate information	64%	65%	63%	62%	65%
They present the news in an engaging way	48%	47%	48%	44%	53%
They are aligned with my political values	24%	27%	23%	21%	27%
They are aligned with my religious values	22%	27%	20%	22%	22%
Other (Please specify)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
None of the above	9%	6%	9%	8%	10%
Do you prefer reading a news article or watching a video covering the news?					
Prefer Article (Combined)	17%	14%	18%	21%	14%
Strongly prefer reading an article	5%	2%	6%	8%	3%
Somewhat prefer reading an article	12%	12%	12%	14%	11%
Neutral / no preference	23%	24%	23%	23%	23%
Somewhat prefer watching a video	28%	28%	28%	30%	27%
Strongly prefer watching a video	32%	34%	31%	27%	37%
Prefer Video (Combined)	60%	62%	59%	56%	64%

NEWS CONSUMPTION:

Article / Video Preference Open End

You mentioned that you [strongly / somewhat] prefer **reading an article over watching a video**. Why do you prefer reading an article? Please be as specific as possible.

You indicated that you [strongly / somewhat] prefer **watching a video over reading an article**. Why do you prefer watching a video? Please be as specific as possible.

KEY THEMES

1. Faster and More Efficient
2. Self-Paced Understanding and Control
3. Better Comprehension and Focus
4. More Information, Depth, and Accuracy
5. Less Bias, Sensationalism, and Distraction

1. Easier to Understand and Process
2. More Engaging and Entertaining
3. Visual and Auditory Learning Preference
4. Ability to Multitask and Save Time
5. Dislike or Difficulty with Reading

NEWS CONSUMPTION:

Article Completion

	ALL Base (132)	Attend a Catholic University Base (34)	Do Not Attend a Catholic University Base (98)	Male Base (58)	Female Base (74)
When reading a news article, either print or online, how often do you read the entire article?					
Top-2-Box	72%	62%	76%	74%	70%
Always	20%	12%	22%	21%	19%
Most of the time	52%	50%	53%	53%	51%
Sometimes but not usually	25%	35%	21%	24%	26%
Rarely or never	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%
Bottom-2-Box	28%	38%	24%	26%	30%

Asked among respondents who indicate they typically consume news by reading articles.

Appendix

AUDIENCE DEMOGRAPHICS & MORE

Audience Demographics (n401)

Region	
Northeast	26%
Midwest	19%
South	35%
West	20%
Gender	
Male	50%
Female	50%
Marital Status	
Single	92%
Married / Living with significant other	6%
Prefer not to answer	2%
Living Area	
Large city (population: +1 million)	24%
Suburb near a large city	41%
Small city or town (population: +100,000)	28%
Rural area	8%

Ethnicity	
White	56%
Black, African-American, Caribbean, African	15%
Hispanic, Latino	35%
Asian-American, Asian, Pacific Islander	8%
Middle Eastern	2%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	1%
Other – Please specify:	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%
HHI	
Under \$25,000	21%
Between \$25,000 - \$50,000	19%
Between \$50,000 - \$75,000	15%
Between \$75,000 - \$100,000	14%
Between \$100,000 - \$150,000	9%
Between \$150,000 - \$200,000	5%
Between \$200,000 - \$250,000	4%
Over \$250,000	5%

Audience Psychographics (n401)

Major	
Business / finance	24%
Chemistry	3%
Communication / journalism	4%
Computer science	9%
Engineering	10%
English	4%
Foreign Language	2%
History	1%
Mathematics	3%
Philosophy	2%
Physics	1%
Political Science	2%
Sociology	1%
Theater	1%
Other – Please specify:	42%
I don't know / haven't decided	2%

Extracurricular Activities	
Greek life	10%
Varsity sports	14%
Intramural sports	19%
Student government	6%
Theater	4%
Music	14%
Debate	3%
Model U.N.	1%
College Democrats or Republicans or other political group	4%
Student newspaper or other student journalism	5%
Volunteering	26%
On-campus jobs	21%
Residential assistant / advisor (R.A.)	3%
Campus ministry	7%
Newman center	3%
FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students)	4%
Catholic community service organizations	15%
Other – Please specify:	8%
None of the above	19%

MercuryIQ

Qual at Survey Speed

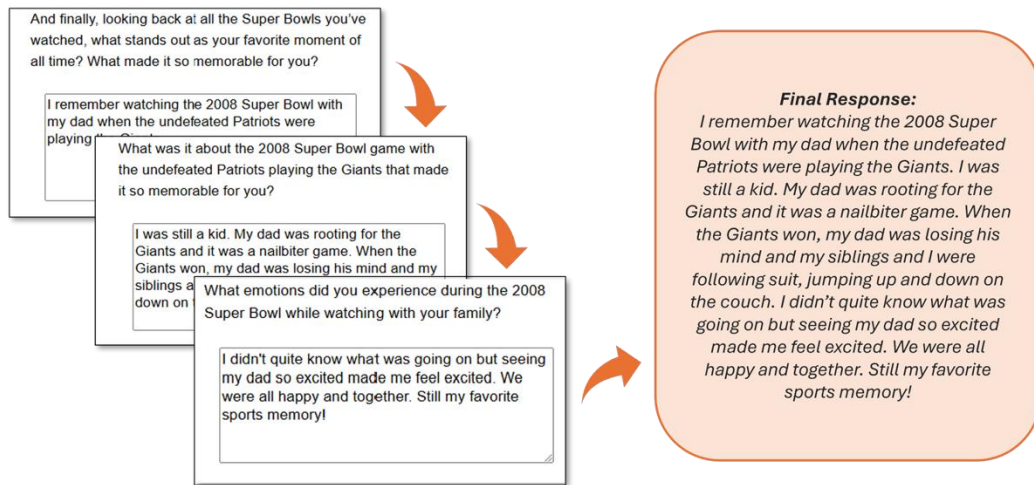
AI-assisted probing delivers deeper, respondent-specific insights at survey speed.

Smarter Follow-Ups, Richer Responses.

Automated open-end prompts unlock 200-400% more expansive responses with better integrity.

Cleaner Data, Stronger Insights.

Gibberish detection, bot filtering, and full-response validation ensure data you can trust.



The background features a series of concentric circles that create a sense of depth and movement. The circles are composed of a fine grid of dots, with the density of the dots increasing as they move towards the center. The color palette is a gradient of blues, ranging from a deep, dark blue on the left to a lighter, more vibrant blue on the right.

Thank you.