

Often, the conclusion is the most important part of a scholarly book or a research paper. Busy readers may focus only on the final chapter or section, so the conclusion must provide all of the important information in a just few pages or a few paragraphs.

A good conclusion will accomplish several things. More detailed than an abstract, a good conclusion will summarize the purpose, methods, significance, and findings of the research. The most important findings will be identified in the conclusion along with any surprises uncovered by the research. Implications of the research should also be discussed.

One way to organize the conclusion to a research project is as follows:

I. Brief restatement of the purpose and methods of the research (one paragraph).

II. Brief review of the significance of the topic and the research (one paragraph).

III. Summary of key findings. (Use at least one paragraph for each finding.)

- Do not present a scorecard on the number of hypotheses supported.
- Use declarative statements of what is now known. For example:
 - *Wrong:* Hypothesis 6 regarding income was supported.
 - *Wrong:* There was a strong relationship between income and party ID.
 - *Correct:* People with higher incomes tend to identify with the Republican Party more than people with lower incomes.

- Provide some discussion and explanation for each finding.

- If possible provide some conceptual structure to the findings. For example:

- *Wrong:* Hypotheses using political variables had the strongest relationships, and hypotheses using demographic variables had the weakest.
- *Correct:* The political influences of party and ideology had the greatest effect on beliefs, and demographic influences had the weakest. Specifically, democrats and liberals supported gun control more than republicans and conservatives, and there was essentially no difference between men and women and between the young and the old on this issue.

IV. Implications. Some possibilities:

- Policy Implications. Discuss possible legislation, executive orders, or bureaucratic regulations. Focus can be on the international, federal, state, or local level.
- Political Implications. How can candidates, campaigns, parties, or interest groups use the information learned in this study? Which party is likely to benefit from this information?
- Theoretical Implications. How does this new information relate to conventional knowledge within Political Science? Are established theories supported or challenged by your findings?
- Methodological Implications. Were new research methods or data used? Were new variables created? How can these new methods help future researchers?

V. Call for more research (one paragraph).

- What is needed for more research? More current data, more cases, better measures, etc.
- What areas of the topic need more research?

VI. Final statements (one paragraph).

- Most interesting surprise.
- Most important finding.
- Final concluding statement.

student's community, where there is a potential effective mobilization tool for support toward equal rights.

V. Implications and Conclusion

The purpose of this research paper was to discover various contributing factors toward the support for sexual equality in answering the research question: "*why are some people more supportive of sexual equality than others?*" It is clear that although sexual equality has been defined, in practice there are many issues that are not being addressed. There are ongoing struggles for gender equality and on top of that, there is room for changes in ideologies and mindset toward the support for the cause. In order to identify these factors, the variables were divided to three sub-categories: Political, Social, and Economic.

In reference to the Data Analysis section, this research paper concludes that individuals who identify with Liberal Ideologies, those who have a high political efficacy, those with less religious influence, those who have higher education, and individuals who are employed – are more likely to support sexual equality than others. The cross tabulations for the mentioned independent variables yielded a strong relationship and a significant data distribution pattern within the contingency table. The sub-category that expresses the strongest support for sexual equality is Political; which comprises of Political Ideology as a variable that yielded the strongest relationship within this research.

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Political Ideology of respondents clearly has the greatest effect on support for sexual equality. Specifically, Liberals are more likely to support sexual equality, in comparison to

Conservative individuals. As highlighted earlier, it is established that transformations in the social belief system with regard to sexual equality and womens rights are supported through progressive ideas, which is undoubtedly closely associated to Liberal concepts. In order to move forward in pushing for equal rights, the agenda should be focused on Conservative individuals in ensuring that they play a more active role within the arena.

Another strong factor within the political category that contributes significantly to support for sexual equality is Political Efficacy. The future of women's stature in society could be highly dependable on the trust of people toward its government. For the cause of equal rights to advance, it is vital for government representatives to gain confidence from its citizen in ensuring that citizens well-being are taken care of.

However, although some factors were ascertained, others have yielded unexpected results, which this paper maintains should not be omitted completely. Some cross tabulations generated a high value for the test of statistical significance, which is above 0.05, and also a weak measure of association. Nevertheless, the distribution of data were analyzed because there is a likelihood that the questions posed to respondents with regard to the issue of sexual equality is not fully representative, thus, the measurement does not reflect intended results. With that in mind, some of the weak measure of association could in fact be moderate in reality. If given the right questions for the data input, the cross tabulations might have yielded a better value for test of statistical significance and measure of association. Some examples of such cross tabulations are for independent variables such as voting participation, region, and income.

Voting participation in this research yielded almost an insignificant relationship. The factor of whether an individual participated in voting or did not participate in voting showed essentially no difference toward to the cause for sexual equality. This is an interesting finding

because it excludes the notion that those who participate in voting are more aware of current issues. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Voter's turnout in the United States are rather low thus the percentage for voting participation might not be reflected adequately. Moreover, it could also be the case that individuals are more likely to be focused on candidates instead of the issues at hand. This new finding could be used as elementary information for upcoming researchers that are intending to study the relationship between voter's activity and attitudes toward current issues.

However, despite this research paper's findings and factors that attributes to sexual equality, it is also vital to recognize that there is a need for a deeper understanding of, and a far better and proactive 'measurement', of what sexual equality is, and what it should be in the future. For example, although it is established quantitatively that those with higher education are more likely to support equality, it is also important to highlight what that implicates. With this finding, there is also a need to focus on a higher and a more profound research within educational institutions to determine whether discrimination is still occurring. In today's world, it is no longer an issue on the access of education for women, but more of what is happening within the walls of the education institutions. This applies to other factors such as employment and social environments.

Therefore, what is needed for a more in depth research are current data that measures support for sexual equality in a more efficient manner. The methods to operationalize the concepts into questions and variables should be polished in order to make it more understandable for respondents, so as to yield succinct results that have a closer depiction to the issue in reality.

Abstract

This study employed a quantitative analysis of survey data to examine the influences on public opinion toward the important issue of government spending. A secondary analysis of the 2006 General Social Survey was conducted.

The major findings were that political factors, such as political party identification and political ideology (self-identification as liberal, moderate, or conservative) were much more influential than social or demographic factors. Republicans and conservatives are much more inclined to oppose increases in government spending, while democrats and liberals seem to favor increased government spending. The characteristics of gender and age did not have any effect on attitudes toward government spending; however, African Americans do support increased government spending more than whites. Other variables, such as religion, income, and region do not influence attitudes toward government spending.

As policy makers and candidates pursue their agendas, these findings may be useful in identifying potential support among voters for particular issue positions regarding government spending. In general, one would expect that the U.S. Congress or a state legislature controlled by the Republican Party would be less inclined to increase spending than if controlled by the Democrat Party, because of the strong leanings of their supporters.