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The Personality of Policy Preferences: Analyzing the Relationship between Meyers-Briggs Personality Types and Political Views

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Oral Presentation O1.1

THE PERSONALITY OF POLICY PREFERENCES: ANALYZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MYERS-BRIGGS PERSONALITY TYPES AND POLITICAL VIEWS

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For political scientists and politicians alike, much research has been devoted to get inside the head of the American citizen. Understanding this is the key to capturing votes, pushing forward new ideas, and retaining support in years to come. This project centers on the theory that people structure their political opinions around problem-solving tendencies they apply to everyday situations. To evaluate this idea, this study uses the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (1962) in addition to several questions regarding personal policy preferences to determine whether there is a significant correlation between certain elements of one's personality and political ideas. In controlling for political knowledge as well as tolerance of ambiguity (Budner 1962), it was found that an individual exhibits clear political preferences based certain parts of their Myers-Briggs type as well as these two factors. The results of this study imply a more applicable fusion of psychology and politics.