

Methodological Design and Procedures for the NSYR Wave 3 Personal Interviews

The third wave of in-person interviews for the National Study of Youth and Religion involved in-depth personal interviews with 230 of the third wave telephone survey respondents. The purpose of the interviews was to provide extended follow-up discussion about teens' religious, spiritual, family, and social lives. The questionnaire included much of that from Waves 1 and 2 with the addition of several new topics of interest. Interviews were conducted almost exclusively in person and were digitally recorded. They lasted an average of approximately 135 minutes, and ranged from 40 to 272 minutes long. Respondents were offered a \$75-\$100 cash incentive to complete the interviews. The in-person interviews were conducted between May and September 2008, begun approximately one month after the official close-out of the Wave 3 telephone survey. 151 of the interview subjects were selected from the 267 teens who had given in-person interviews in Wave 1 and an additional 79 were conducted with survey respondents who had never completed an in-person interview for the study. New in-person interview sample subjects were selected in order to refresh our sample and to check through the comparison of their answers with those of prior interviewees for the possible "contamination" or "training" of interview answers in the latter as a result of their experience of completing prior interviews. We did not detect significant differences between the two types of sample. To be eligible for the Wave 3 in-person interview, a subject was required to have participated in the NSYR's Wave 3 telephone survey.

Our sampling strategy for the 151 original in-person interview respondents was to replicate the Wave 1 sample, which represented a range of demographic and religious characteristics and took into account region, urban/suburban/rural, age, sex, race, household income, religion, and school type. The new in-person interview respondents were chosen by combinations of geographic region, religious type, race/ethnicity, and sex to balance out the original sample. We clustered the respondents with whom we were still in contact into geographic areas for ease of travel in interviewing. The time lapse between a respondent completing the Wave 3 telephone survey and completing a personal interview ranged from one month to 12 months. The age range for the respondents, when they completed the Wave 3 personal interviews, was between 18 and 24 years, with a mean age of 20.5 years.

Twelve interviewers conducted interviews in 35 states in all geographic regions (West, South, Northeast, and Midwest) of the United States, each interviewer conducting between six and 31 interviews. Five of the interviewers had conducted personal interviews for the NSYR in either Wave 1 or Wave 2, and respondents were matched with their Wave 1 or Wave 2 interviewers as much as possible. Before the fielding of the in-person interviews, six of the new interviewers took a semester-long course, taught by the Principle Investigator, on personal interviewing techniques and project-specific NSYR interview details. All new interviewers participated in a day-long training meeting, held by the NSYR Project Manager and the Project Principle Investigator. The training covered the logistics of the interview process, procedural requirements, IRB concerns, protection of human participants, safety and liability concerns, and keys to NSYR interview success. In addition to that training, all interviewers were required to obtain Human Participants Training Certification.

The twelve project interviewers were assigned to sets of specific geographic locations around the U.S. Each interviewer was provided with groups of Contact Sheets for respondents in their assigned geographic areas. The contact sheets included respondent name, respondent nickname (if known), parent name, address, phone number, respondent birth date, respondent gender, respondent race, household income, religious affiliation, and religious denomination or

tradition. The Contact Sheet also included space to note any changes to the contact information provided (new phone number, additional email address, etc.) and included a call record. Interviewers recorded each household contact, noting the date, time, with whom they spoke, and the content of each contact. In addition to the original sample, as the project progressed through the interviews, the priorities shifted somewhat according to what types of respondent interviews were still needed. In this way, we attempted to match the demographics of the original Wave 1 in-person interview sample as much as possible.

In addition to the demographic information on the Contact Sheet, interviewers were also asked to review the transcripts of the previous in-person interviews. If an interviewer had not conducted the previous personal interviews with his/her respondents, the transcripts provided background information about that respondent to help facilitate a smooth interview. Using a standard call script provided by the NSYR, interviewers made contact with potential interviewee households. Interviewers identified themselves as researchers with the “National Youth Study.” The full name of the research project is not used in order to avoid introducing any response bias by identifying religion as a key focus of the study. It was often helpful for interviewers to explain their connection with the project such as graduate student, co-investigator, etc. However, since much of the interview was about religion and we did not want to bias the answers of the respondents, interviewers were instructed to avoid divulging revealing information about their own personal beliefs and commitments (about which there was considerable diversity on the interviewing team).

Interviewers were required to obtain verbal consent from the respondent to conduct the interview. If respondents seemed hesitant about participating, an additional script provided more information about the project and offered the phone number for the Principal Investigator, whom they could call with questions or concerns. In addition, interviewers offered to mail to hesitant respondents written information about the project and then call back in a few days. When a respondent seemed reluctant to participate or was hesitant about the time commitment, an additional incentive was offered. However, in cases when respondents refused to participate even after being offered additional information, interviewers made no further attempts to convert those who refused. Upon receiving verbal consent from the respondent and scheduling an interview time, interviewers mailed packets of information to the respondent. The packet contained a cover letter from the principle investigator, multiple copies of respondent written consent forms, and an appointment letter including a portrait photo of the interviewer. Interviewees were required to bring the copies of the written signed consent form with them to their interviews. Interviewers also called the respondents at least one week prior to the interview and again the day before the interview to confirm that they were still planning to participate.

Interviews were conducted in public settings that nevertheless provided confidentiality for the respondent. The ideal location for these interviews was in study rooms at local libraries. However, when they were not available, interviews were also conducted in restaurants, coffee shops, mall food courts, and outdoor settings. Interviewers were given guidelines for how to present themselves during the interviews as well as appropriate attire to be worn in order to ensure consistency in the presentation of interviewers across the interviews. Specifically, interviewers did not attempt to “relate” to respondents by dressing down or dressing in a more “trendy” fashion. Interviewers presented themselves as professional researchers with a sincere interest in young people’s lives. At the close of the interview, respondents were given the cash incentive for their participation and in appreciation of their time and effort. The final sample of interviews included 230 complete interviews selected from the respondents who had completed

the Wave 3 telephone survey. 151 of those were sampled from the original Wave 1 personal interview respondents and 79 were new in-person interview subjects. Out of the 116 original Wave 1 interview cases who were not re-interviewed, 14 were purposely never contacted and an additional 29 were unable to be contacted because they had recently relocated. Fifty-nine could not be interviewed in person because they had failed to complete the Wave 3 phone survey, and 9 interviews failed for reasons such as scheduling problems and emergencies. Five original Wave 1 respondents who were eligible to conduct an interview refused to participate in the Wave 3 interview. Table 1 provides the demographics of all 230 interviews in Wave 3. With the exception of age, the table reflects the demographic information that was collected at the time of the Wave 1 telephone survey. The age listed is the age of the teen at the time of the Wave 3 personal interview.

Table 1
NSYR Wave 3 Personal Interview Demographics

GENDER	N	REGION	N
Female	114	Midwest	77
Male	116	Northeast	28
		South	68
		West	57
AGE	N	RELIGION*	N
18	23	Protestant	109
19	50	<i>Adventist</i>	1
20	52	<i>Assemblies of God</i>	2
21	36	<i>Baptist</i>	44
22	49	<i>Bible Church</i>	1
23	19	<i>Brethren</i>	1
24	1	<i>Christian or Just Christian</i>	18
		<i>Church of Christ</i>	2
		<i>Church of the Nazarene</i>	2
		<i>Congregationalist</i>	1
		<i>Episcopalian</i>	1
		<i>Evangelical</i>	1
		<i>Lutheran</i>	8
		<i>Methodist</i>	11
		<i>Non-Denominational</i>	6
		<i>Pentecostal</i>	3
		<i>Presbyterian</i>	7
RACE	N	Catholic	35
White	149	Mormon	14
Hispanic	25	Jewish	16
Black	33	Buddhist	2
Asian	8	Muslim/Islamic	3
Native American	4	Jehovah's Witness	1
Other	11	Hindu	1
		Eastern Orthodox	2
		Unitarian Universalist	1
		Native American	1
		Other	3
		Don't Know	5
		Not Religious	37
HH INCOME	N		
Less Than \$10K	5		
\$10K-\$20K	13		
\$21K-\$30K	25		
\$31K-\$40K	12		
\$41K-\$50K	36		
\$51K-\$60K	22		
\$61K-\$70K	24		
\$71K-\$80K	19		
\$81K-\$90K	13		
\$91K-\$100K	11		
More Than \$100K	40		
Don't Know/Refused	10		

* where R attended in Wave 1

NSYR 2008 In-person Interview (Wave 3) - 6/2/08
Interview Guide

****GET SIGNED CONSENT FORM****

****START RECORDER & CHECK THAT IT'S RECORDING****

INTRODUCTION

- Thanks for agreeing to do this interview and taking the time to talk with me.
- It's great that you participated in our phone survey again and that we can do another in-person interview.
- In the next few hours, I would like to just have a conversation with you about your life, experiences, beliefs, feelings, hopes, problems—whatever is important to you.
- We use these interviews to hear from your perspective, and in your own words, how your life is going, your opinions, beliefs, and experiences.
- Some of what we may talk about today is personal, but we're interviewing lots of people your age, and all of your lives together tell us a lot about what it's like to become a young adult today.
- I want you to just feel at ease to talk freely and honestly with me.
- There really are no right or wrong answers, I just want to know whatever you honestly think or feel.
- **Everything you say is totally confidential—unless you tell me you're going to badly hurt someone else or yourself, or that someone is badly hurting you—otherwise, we keep whatever you say completely confidential.**
- **You may decline to answer any questions you really don't want to talk about. That is fine. Just let me know.**
- Sometimes I'm going to ask you to comment on how things have been since your last interview for this study. I might say “in the last couple of years” or “in the last three years.” I know it is hard to remember back to exactly that time, but do your best to think about what you were up to then and how things have changed or not since the summer of 2005.
- Finally, just to let you know, I may jot something down to remind myself to ask you something later, and I may have to check to make sure the recorder is still going, but I'll still be listening, so go ahead and keep talking.
- OK, let's get started.

GENERAL ORIENTATION

- * It has been a while since I [someone from my project] have talked with you. Can you start by just telling me what is going on in your life these days? What is happening with you?
- * What have been some of the more significant events or experiences in your life in the last few years?
- * Have you done any significant traveling in the last few years, either overseas or in the U.S.? [IF YES] What was your experience with that?
- * What do you think are the most important challenges facing people your age today? What is it like being a person your age in our culture and society today?

HOUSEHOLD/LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

* OK, now can you tell me something about where you're living and who you live with, if anyone?

- What kind of place do you live in? Parent's home, apartment, dorm, house?
- Who pays the bills/rent/mortgage/etc.? Do you still receive help from your parents, or are you pretty much on your own?
- IF ROOMMATES—What are your roommates like? How did you come to live with them?

* Has your living situation changed much over the past three years, or pretty much stayed the same?

- IF CHANGED, How so? What were the reasons for some of these moves/roommate changes, etc.

IF LIVING WITH PARENTS

* How is it going living with your parents these days? How long do you think you will stay living with them? How do you feel about living with your parents at this point?

IF NOT LIVING WITH PARENTS (AND WE KNOW FROM THE SVY THAT THEY ARE STILL LIVING)

* How long has it been since you lived with any of your parents? How did it come about that you moved away from your parent/s/What were your reasons for leaving home?

* Looking back would you do it all the same again? Why/why not?

IF NOT LIVING WITH ANY KIND OF ROMANTIC PARTNER

* Have you ever lived with someone you were romantically involved with, but not married to?

* IF YES, What were your reasons for wanting to live with that person (or people if there were more than one)?

- Was there a conscious decision-making process that went into it? IF SO, what was that like? How did things evolve?
- What was it like living with someone? What were the pros/cons?
- Would you do it again? Would you recommend it to others?
- Why did you stop living together?
- Did you ever consider marrying him/her, or have plans to do so? What were your thoughts about all that? Did you know how he/she felt about marriage?
- To you, what's different, if anything, about living together versus being married to someone?

* IF NEVER COHABITED. Would you ever consider living with someone you were romantically involved with (without being married to them)? Why/why not? What would be the pros/cons?

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

* The people we interview have all kinds of different family situations, so I don't want to assume anything. Can you tell me who the main parent figures are in your life?

FOR EACH OF THESE FIGURES:

- How close do you feel to them? In what ways?
 - How do you feel about him/her?

- Do you talk with him/her much? About what? What topics do you avoid? Why?
- Do you have much conflict with him/her? How much? What do you have conflict about?
- How, if at all, has your relationship with him/her changed in the past three years?
- If you could change anything about your relationship with him/her, what would it be?

IF BIO MOTHER AND/OR FATHER NOT MENTIONED (AND WE KNOW FROM THE SVY THAT THEY ARE STILL LIVING)

*You didn't mention your biological mother/father. Do you have a relationship with him/her?
FOR EACH OF THESE FIGURES:

- How close do you feel to them? In what ways?
 - How do you feel about him/her?
- Do you talk with him/her much? About what? What topics do you avoid? Why?
- Do you have much conflict with him/her? How much? What do you have conflict about?
- How, if at all, has your relationship with him/her changed in the past three years?
- If you could change anything about your relationship with him/her, what would it be?

*IF NO, If you are comfortable telling me, what happened to your relationship with him/her? Did it ever exist? When did it end and why?

* How similar are you to your [parents] when it comes to general values and outlook on life?

* How similar are you to your [parents] in terms of religious beliefs and practices?

- Do you agree/disagree about religion?
- Do you do religious things together?
- Do you talk about religious things, beliefs, or issues?

* Do you think your [parents] are happy with how you are religiously, or do they wish you thought or did things differently?

- Does religion influence your family relationships at all?

FRIENDS

* Tell me about your friends? Who are they? How did you get to know them? What are they like?

- What do you have in common? In what ways are you different?
- How positive or negative an influence on you would you say they are?
- Are there any kinds of people that you avoid? Can you give me specific examples?

* Do you use social networking Internet websites, like Facebook or MySpace?

IF YES:

- How frequently do you log on to those types of sites and how much time do you typically spend on putting together and managing your online profile(s)?
- How do you use your social networking sites? Why did you create (an) online profile(s)?
- Do you keep your profile public or private? What type of information do you share about yourself on your profile(s)? Have you ever had any concerns about what you've posted online, privacy-wise?
- Do you know personally most of the people who are your online "friends" or are there people that you have never met in person?
- How similar or different is your online "self" from who you are in real life, offline, in

person?

MORALITY

* Imagine a distant relative died and left you \$100,000. What would you do with the money? Why? Is there anything else you might do with it?

* How do you normally decide or know what is good and bad, right and wrong in life?

- In general, is it easy or hard for you to decide between right and wrong?
- Has deciding between right and wrong gotten easier or harder over the past 2 years? Why? Have your views changed in the past 2 years? Why?

* Can you tell me about a specific situation you've been in recently where you were unsure of what was right and wrong?

- How did you decide what to do? Why that?

* What about **doing** right instead of wrong (not just knowing about it)? How easy or hard it is for you to actually do what you know is right?

* What do you think it is that *makes* something right or wrong?

- **[Example probe for "consequences":** What *kinds* of consequences would make something wrong?]
- **[Example probe for "feelings":** What kinds of feelings do you mean? Where do these feelings come from, in your view?]
- **[ONLY if stuck]** Is it rules or laws? Consequences? How it feels? God's will? Something else?

* Some people say that there really are no final rights and wrongs in life, that everything is relative, that morality is simply what people make it for themselves or their culture, and that we can adjust our views of what is morally right and wrong to reflect those changes. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

* From where have you acquired your moral views? Where do they come from?

* Some people believe that it is sometimes okay to break moral rules if it works to your advantage and you can get away with it. What do you think about that? **[IF THINKS WRONG]** Why exactly is that wrong?

* Do you think people have any moral responsibility or duty to help others or not?

- **[If yes]** Can you give me some examples of ways we are obligated to help others? Why?
- What if someone just wasn't interested in helping others? Would that be a problem or no? Why?
- Are there certain situations in which an obligation to others ends? Why or why not?
- Are there any types of people or groups of people who you believe are more or less deserving of help?

* Whether we like to admit it or not, we all look down on some people or feel like we're better than some people at least some of the time. At the times in your life when you've felt this way, what kinds of people did you have these thoughts about? Why? **[IF UNCLEAR]** What do these people have in common, do you think?

* Now, are there any kinds of people you really look up to? What kind of people would you like to be more like? Why? [IF UNCLEAR] What do these people have in common?

* If you could change one thing about the world today, what would it be? Why?

* I want to follow-up on a question we asked in our survey that you completed. You may recall that we asked:

“If you were unsure of what was right or wrong in a particular situation, how would you decide what to do? Would you most likely...

1. *do what would make you feel happy,*
2. *do what would help you to get ahead,*
3. *follow the advice of a parent or teacher, or other adult you respect, or*
4. *do what you think God or the scripture tells you is right?”*

So my question here is: What is your answer to that question and why? Why do you choose that answer instead of the others? [Probe] Is there anything wrong with the answers you did not choose?

WELL-BEING

* How do you think your friends and family would describe to me the kind of person you are?

- Character traits? Strengths? What are you most proud of?
- Weaknesses? Things you wish you could change about yourself? What?

* Do you like where your life has been headed the last couple of years or not? Why or why not?

- Are you satisfied with where your life is heading? Why? Why not?

* What things in the last couple of years have made you the most happy/excited?

* What things in the last couple of years have made you the most sad/depressed?

* Have you had any traumatic life experiences in the past three years?

- Do you mind telling me about what happened?
 - Can you describe how this experience affected your life?

* Some people we talk to feel deeply grateful for all of the good things or even “blessings” in their lives, and other people feel more like they really deserve more than they have gotten out of life, that they’ve somehow gotten the short end of things. How do you personally feel when it comes to this?

* Some people we talk with seem to have a very strong sense of purpose in life, they know exactly what is of value in life, what is important to be or do. Other people seem more disoriented or lost in life, not knowing exactly what their purpose is. How would you describe yourself when it comes to this question of purpose in life?

- Do you have a clear sense of purpose or not really? How? In what ways? Why? What does that look like? How does that affect you?

* We are interested in learning the places or groups where people feel their strongest sense of belonging. Are there any people, groups, places, or communities where you feel like you most

belong? Where or with who are you most “at home” or are you most secure being your true self?
[NAME UP TO 3]

- What is it that makes you feel a sense of belonging there? Why?
- [IF NOT RELIGIOUS CONTEXT] What about any religious groups? To what extent do you or don’t you feel any sense of belonging in your [church] or other religious group? Why? Why not?

SUBSTANCE USE

* In the last couple of years have you used alcohol, tobacco, pot, or other drugs? Which of these?

* IF NO: Is there any particular reason that you don’t do these things?

* IF YES, FOR ANY:

- When and why did you start using [---]?
- Why do you use [---] now?
- How often do you use [---]?
- Has your use changed much over the past couple of years, been up and down, or been fairly steady? What has been behind any changes?

* IF YES IN THE PAST BUT NOT CURRENTLY, FOR ANY:

- When and why did you start using [---]?
- Why did you use [---] then?
- How often did you use [---]?
- Why did you stop using [---]?
- Has stopping using [---] affected your life in any way?

RELIGION

* How would you describe yourself to me in terms of your religion or spirituality?

- What religion are you?
- IF CHRISTIAN: What specific denomination or group would you consider yourself a part of?
 - What is unique about being [R’s religion] (compared to other religions/affiliations)?
- IF JEWISH: Do you consider yourself to be more culturally or religiously Jewish, or both? How so? How do you define “culturally” or “religiously”?
- IF CATHOLIC: What does it mean to you to be “Catholic?” What is it that defines you as Catholic? What exactly goes into giving you your Catholic identity?
 - Do you like being Catholic or not? Why?
 - What do you think of the Catholic Church in general? What about its doctrines / teachings: would you say you are familiar with them? Are there aspects that you agree/ disagree with? Why?
 - What do you think of sacraments and rituals (e.g., Baptism, Eucharist): are they important to you?
 - What do you think about Mary and the Saints: are they / should they be important?
 - What about priests/nuns/religious orders and the Pope: do they / should they matter?
 - Are there any other things that you would consider essential or central to being

Catholic? Do you think anything should change in the church? What/why?

- * Do you attend religious services? Where? How often?
 - IF ATTENDS COLLEGE AWAY FROM HOME: Do you attend religious services when you are away at college? IF YES: Where and how did you locate that [church]?
 - Are you involved in any youth group, college-age group, or other religious groups? Why? What does it mean to you? IF IN COLLEGE, ESPECIALLY PROBE FOR AND ABOUT CAMPUS-BASED GROUPS
- * Do you pray? How often? What kinds of things do you pray for or about?
 - Do you have any examples of things you have prayed about lately? Did you feel like you got an answer? Do you ever? How so?
 - Do you read the [Bible]? How often? Why? How, if at all, does it affect you?
- * Are there other kinds of religious or spiritual practices or activities (at home, [church], anywhere) that you participate in?

- * Can you tell me anything about your religious beliefs? What are some of the things you believe religiously? [GIVE THEM TIME TO EXPLAIN, DON'T RUSH INTO SPECIFIC PROMPTS]
 - Do you believe in God? IF YES: What is God like to you?
 - [IF CHRISTIAN:] Do you believe in Jesus? What about him? Who or what is Jesus?
 - Do you believe in life after death? Heaven? Hell?
 - IF YES: What is afterlife/heaven/hell like? How do people get there?

- * How would you say your religion or faith shapes or influences your life? What specific ways?
 - How much would you say religion is a part of your everyday life? In what ways?
 - How big or minor of an impact would you say religion/spirituality has on your life?
 - Do you think your religious faith is the basis for how you live your life, or not? In what ways? IF NO: What would that look like if it was?

[IF INVOLVED IN A YOUTH GROUP IN W1 OR W2]

→ You were involved in a religious youth group in middle school or high school, right? [YES] Okay, I'd like you to think back to the youth group you were involved with in middle school or high school, particularly during the time period in which youth group was most important to you, when you were the most involved, and I'd like to ask you a few questions about it.

- What were the main activities provided by your youth group then? Were most of the activities social and recreational, social service projects, mission trips, Bible study, moral teachings, or what?
- What was your favorite thing about participating in the group? [PROBE] What did you look forward to or get most involved in?
- To the best of your ability to remember, what do you think was the main purpose or goal(s) of your youth group?
- What do you think the leaders of your youth group were primarily trying to accomplish?
 - If you had to pick one, which of the following would you say was the primary purpose of your youth group then?: to teach you skills and behaviors, give you a chance to interact with other teens, form a relationship to the youth minister, or

teach you how to ask more challenging questions of your faith or strengthen your spiritual life?

- Looking back now, how successful or not would you say your youth group was at accomplishing those goals, in your own life and in the lives of others involved? Did it “work?”
 - What kind of influence do you think your youth group has had on you? How? Why?
- More generally, what, if anything, do you think you learned from your involvement in that youth group? How, if at all, has it affected your life?

* How do you think you have changed religiously or spiritually since you were 13 years old?

* Have you changed at all in the last three years religiously or spiritually? How so? Do you think you’ve become more religious, less religious, or stayed about the same? How so? What was behind the change? Was it a conscious change or not?

- Level of attendance at religious services or groups gone up or down? IF YES: How so? Why?
- Involvement in any youth group, college age, or other religious groups gone up or down? IF YES: In what ways? Why?
- Do you pray more or less? IF YES: What brought about that change?
- Do you read the [Bible] more or less? IF YES: Why is that?
- Have you changed in the frequency or importance of any other religious practices? IF YES: In what ways? Why did that happen?
- Has religion become more or less of the basis for how you live your life? IF YES: How so?

IF CHANGES: How do you feel about these changes? Happy, sad, guilty, don’t care?

* Have you had doubts about your religious faith in the past three years? More or less than before?

- IF YES: What kind of doubts? Where do they come from?
- Did you resolve them? IF SO, how? Do you talk to people about them? Who?

[IF RELIGIOUS]

* How hard or easy has it been to maintain your religious faith, or being the kind of religious person you want to be, over the past couple of years? In what ways?

- Do you see it getting easier or more difficult in the future? How?

* What, if anything, would it take to stop you from believing in your religious faith?

* What have been the most important influences on your religion, faith, belief, or spirituality over the past few years? Events, experiences, people?

* Are you involved in any youth group, college-age group, or other religious groups? Why? What does it mean to you? IF IN COLLEGE, ESPECIALLY PROBE FOR AND ABOUT CAMPUS-BASED GROUPS

* IF INVOLVED IN A YOUTH OR COLLEGE AGE RELIGIOUS GROUP: Tell me about your [---] group.

- What kind of group is it? Church, school, independent?
 - Why did you choose and stay involved in this particular group?
 - How often does the group meet? For what kinds of meetings/events? What usually takes place? Tell me about the last event—what happened?
 - How many people are involved?
 - Does the group have a leader?
 - Do you like him/her? What are his/her strengths/weaknesses?
 - How big a part of your life is this group to you? In what ways?
 - Do you enjoy it? What do you get out of it?
- * Are there other religious groups you go to? What are they like?
- * IF NOT INVOLVED IN GROUP: Are there religious groups you could be involved in? Have you ever been invited? Why haven't you chosen to get involved?
- * Have you been to a religious summer camp, youth retreat, mission trip, service project or conference in the past couple of years?
- IF YES: Tell me about that experience. Did that affect your life in any way? How?
- * IF NOT RELIGIOUS AT ALL AND NEVER ATTENDS: In the past three years has anyone invited you to attend religious services or a religious group? Did you go? Why or why not? How was it?
- *Do you have strong reasons for not being religious or religiously involved, or has the opportunity just never really presented itself?
- IF STRONG REASONS: What are they?
- * EVERYONE: In terms of your views and beliefs about religion, how different or similar do you feel from other people your age? Why?
- * Tell me about the religious lives of your friends. Is this something you know much about?
- Do your friends have the same religious beliefs and practices as you?
 - Do you go to the same religious services or youth/college age groups?
 - Do you discuss religious things?
 - How much do you think religion influences their lives?
 - Do you see any differences between your religious and non-religious peers?
 - Have any of your friends changed religiously over the past couple of years? In what ways? How has that affected your friendship?
- * I want to ask a few questions about religion and science. For some people those are in conflict, for others there is no conflict. What is your general view about the relationship between religion and science? Are they compatible? In conflict? Different sorts of things? Why do you think that?
- * Where did you learn your ideas about science and religion and how they relate? What has most influenced your thinking on this?

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES

* Have you personally had any significant “religious experiences” in the last couple of years? (things that stand out to you, have special meaning to you, mark important moments in your religious/spiritual life)

- IF YES: What kind? What was it like? How did you feel about it?
- Did that religious experience(s) change you in any way? How?

* Have you experienced anything that seemed supernatural in the last couple of years?

- A miracle? An experience of angels or demons? A healing?
- IF YES: What was it like? What happened? How did you feel about that experience? Did it change you religiously/spiritually?

[IF ATTENDS] INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION [PROBE ON MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS IF NECESSARY—HOME & COLLEGE ESPECIALLY]

* How have your feelings about your [church] changed in the last couple of years? In what ways? Why?

- Have you become more or less interested in what happens at [church]? How so?
- Have you become more or less comfortable at [church]? In what ways?
- Have relationships you have had at a church changed? How?

* IF MOVED FOR COLLEGE: Have people from your home [church] stayed in touch with you while you’re away at college? In what ways? How has that affected you?

FEELINGS ABOUT RELIGION & DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION

* Do you think there is a difference between being “religious” and being “spiritual?” What is it?

* Have you heard the phrase, “spiritual, but not religious?” IF YES: What do you think it means?

* In the past couple of years, have you tried or begun to include in your own spirituality any practices from any other religions? Which ones? Why do you do that? What does it mean to you?

* Some people say that only one religion is true, others think many religions may be true, and still others say that there is very little truth in any religion. How do you tend to think about it? Why? What has shaped your thinking on this?

* In the past three years, have you yourself ever looked into practicing or becoming a different religion?

IF YES: What other religions did you look into?

- What made you look into it?
- What was the result of your search?

IF NO: Any particular reason why you have not?

* How do you know what is true and not true when it comes to religion? By what standards do you evaluate various religious claims?

* How do you decide or know what to believe? That is, what is the source of authority in religious faith, belief, practice?

* How do you feel about “mainstream religion” in the U.S.—the religion of the majority of people? Some people we talk to feel comfortable with institutional religion. Others feel distant or put-off by it. How do you feel?

* Do you feel that religious faiths, organizations, traditions are relevant for people your age? Do they meet the needs of young adults? Why or why not?

* Some people we talk with respect and admire religious leaders in this country. Others find them to be arrogant, angry, and judgmental. What do you think? How do you feel about this?

SCHOOL

* Now, let’s talk some about school and education. What’s the highest level of education you have completed? Are you in school at all now, or not?

IF IN SCHOOL

* What kind of school and/or level are you at?

* What led you to pick this particular school/college?

* How is school/college going? Do you enjoy it? What’s good/bad/hard/easy?

* What is your major/minor? Leaning towards anything? What attracted you to this course of study?

IF RELIGIOUS

* What has it been like to be [R’s religion] at college? *ELABORATE*

* Do you think that school has a positive or negative effect on your [religious faith / beliefs about religion], or neither? In what ways?

IF NOT IN SCHOOL

* Do you see yourself going back for more education some day? For what kind of degree? When?

VOLUNTEERING

* Have you done any volunteer work in the past couple of years? Why [or Why not]?

* IF YES: Why do you do volunteer work? What motivates you? Do you volunteer more or less than in the years before that? Why?

* Is any of the volunteer work you do required? IF YES: How much of it? By whom?

* Do you think the volunteer work you do has an impact on your life? IF YES, In what ways?

* What about the idea of giving money away? Some people believe in generous voluntary financial giving and others do not necessarily. What is your own view about charitable or religious or other financial giving of money away? [probe why, why not, how, etc.?)

* Do you voluntarily give money to any organizations or charities? If so, how much? Why? What got you to do that?

POLITICS, POVERTY, POLICY

* What do you think or feel about our society and culture in general? Do you think it is a good society or one with major problems? Do you feel confident about where the U.S. is going or do you have worries or criticisms?

- * What are the good things about U.S. society and culture? What do you value or appreciate?
- * What are the bad things? What would you change?

* How do you feel about politics in general? Are you a very “political” person? Do politics or world or national events interest you? Why or why not?

* What would you say your own political position or view is, if any? Conservative? Liberal? Something else? What does that mean to you? Why are you that?

* Are there any social or political issues that you especially care about? Which? Why those in particular? What do you think or feel about them? Why do you think or feel that?
- Probe if needed: Are any of these issues of particular interest or concern to you?:
poverty, race relations, climate change/global warming, AIDs in Africa, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, abortion, the death penalty?

* Have you been involved in any political activism or protests or demonstrations in the last three years? What were they about? Why did you get involved? How did the experience affect you?

ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

- * Have you been involved in any groups, clubs, sports teams or other organized activities during the past couple of years? Which?
 - What attracts you to these groups or activities? Why are you involved?
 - How do these fit into your overall life? Are they connected to other parts or are they their own things?

WORK

* Do you currently work for pay?

IF CURRENTLY WORKS:

- * What do you do?
- * How many hours a week do you work?
- * Is this a permanent job and what you see yourself doing as a career?
- * What is the job like? Do you enjoy it? Do you get satisfaction out of your work?
- * What are the people you work for and with like?
- * What do you like or not like about this job?
 - * IF RELIGIOUS--Does your religious faith influence your work life?
 - * IF RELIGIOUS--Do you ever share your religion or faith with people at work?
 - * IF RELIGIOUS--Does your job influence, improve, or challenge your religious faith at all? How so?

IF NOT WORKING, OR WORKING BUT NOT IN LONG TERM CAREER JOB:

- * What kind of career are you hoping to have? What kind of career goals do you have?
 - IF UNSURE: I know it's a ways off, but what kinds of things do you think about as things you would enjoy doing? Even if you think of lots of different things, but are unsure.

- What got you interested in that?
- Do you know much about what it takes to become a [---]? What kind of steps (education, training, etc.) are involved?
- Have you taken any of those steps yet? How far are you in the process?
- How much do you think about what your career plans/goals are?

CONSUMERISM & GENEROSITY

* What do you think about the general topic of shopping, buying, consuming material things, like clothes, cars, music, etc.? [*trying to get at consumerism and materialism w/out being leading*]

- Do you have any particular attitude or feeling about the buying and consumption of material things we do so much of in our culture?

* Are there any limits to what people should possess? What are they? Why those?

* Are there things that you feel you have to have to be happy?

* What is your idea of a “good life” when it comes to the ideal kind of lifestyle you might have?

What are your goals when it comes to buying, owning, and consuming in your life—or maybe living modestly or simply?

- Some people we talk to love to shop and buy things, want to own a lot of things in life; others are worried about the effects of mass consumption in people’s lives or society or the world. Do you have any particular views? [probe]

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

[**Note: pay attention to cues in this section re hetero vs. same-sex orientation, but if you have no idea, say “girlfriends or boyfriends” or equivalent in following questions and see how the participant responds. If they object, “I’m not gay!,” say, “OK, we interview a lot of different people and don’t want to assume anything.”**]

[IF MARRIED, TAILOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO MAKE SENSE FOR THEIR SITUATIONS]

* Over the past couple of years, what has been going on in your life in terms of dating or romantic relationships? Have you had any relationships?

* IF YES: How many?

- Do you tend to have more long-term serious relationships or more short-term relationships? Why do you think that is?

* IF NO: Have you not had any relationships because you don’t feel ready or because there just hasn’t been the opportunity yet? In what ways?

* IF HAS BEEN INVOLVED: How has/ve your relationship/s gone over the past couple of years? A positive or negative part of life, or both? How so?

- Have you had any bad break-ups? What happened? Did things get resolved? [IF SO] How?

- What have you learned from your relationships and dating experiences in the past couple of years? Anything you would do differently?

* Have the people you’ve been in relationships with been similar to you religiously? In what ways? Is/was that a particularly good or bad thing for the relationship?

FOR EVERYONE:

* Some young people talk about “hooking up” with other people. Have you ever “hooked up” with others?

- IF YES: What did that involve? What happened? What were your reasons? How do you feel about that now?
- IF YES: What does “hooking up” mean among people your age?
- IF YES: How do you see “hooking up” relating to “dating?” Is it a form of dating? An alternative to dating? Something to do when one is not dating? (probe: How? Why?)
- IF YES: How do you see “hooking up” relating to possibly finding someone to marry?
- IF NO: What does “hooking up” mean to you? What do you think about people “hooking up?”
- IF NO: Are there any particular reasons why you have not “hooked up?”

FOR EVERYONE:

* Do you think people with different views on religion can have a great romantic relationship? Why or why not?

* Do you yourself pay attention to potential partners’ religious beliefs/participation? Why or why not?

* IF UNMARRIED: Do you do anything actively to try to search out potential people to date or become romantically involved with? [i.e., girlfriends/boyfriends]? Are you always kind of looking for those kind of potential people or romantic encounters, or not?

- IF YES: How? Hang out any particular places? What are good places? Dating services, online or other?

IF MARRIED:

* When did you get married? How did you decide to get married? Whose idea was it? What led you both to decide it was time?

* How supportive were your families in your decision to get married? How so?

* What is it like being married? What are the best parts of being married? What’s hard about being married?

* What is your relationship with your spouse like? How does it compare to other marriages you’ve seen (e.g., friends’/parents’)?

* How similar are you to your spouse religiously? Has it always been that way, ever since you met? Do you have the same religious background, beliefs, and practices?

IF NO DIFFERENCES: How important is it to you that you be similar to your spouse when it comes to religion? Why is that?

IF HAD/HAVE DIFFERENCES: How did/do you deal with the differences you have? Is it a source of tension or does it come up much? Do you have examples? How do you feel about the differences? How does your spouse feel?

*Do you do religious activities or practices together?

IF YES: What sorts of religious activities or practices do you do together?

IF NO: Is it something you wish you did together, or does it not come up? Do you ever discuss it and what are those conversations like?

* Were you married in a [church]? Did that have some kind of special meaning to you or was it just the place to do it?

* Did you have any kind of premarital counseling? IF YES, How was that? What did you get out of it, if anything?

SEX

[IF MARRIED, APPROACH THESE QUESTIONS FROM THE ANGLE OF THEIR VIEW FOR NON-MARRIED PEOPLE THEIR AGE, AS APPROPRIATE]

* Last time [we talked/you talked with the other interviewer] there was a set of questions about physical intimacy and sexual activity—like what kinds of behaviors are right or wrong, safe or unsafe, wise or unwise for people your age. I want to get an update now on how you are thinking about these kinds of things.

* So what are your thoughts about people your age and physical involvements and sex?

- When is it appropriate and not appropriate? Are there any good rules to rely on here?
- Do you think people should wait until they are married to have sex? Why/Why not?
- IF NOT NECESSARY TO WAIT: What do you think is required for a person to be ready for having sex?
 - To be “emotionally ready”? What exactly does that mean?
- Does a person need to be in a relationship with someone to have sex with them? For how long?
- IF YES, MUST WAIT UNTIL MARRIAGE: Some people say that unmarried people that are “emotionally ready” can have sex. Why do you think that is not enough?
- What kinds of physical/sexual activities are OK and what kinds should be avoided altogether?
- Does it matter whether we’re talking about messing around, oral sex, sexual intercourse, anal sex, or anything else? How? Why?

* Where do you think your ideas or attitudes about sexual matters come from?

- Do your religious beliefs affect your attitudes toward sex or behaviors? How so?
- Does your religion teach anything about sex? What exactly does it teach?
 - Do you agree with your religion’s teachings about sex?
 - Is there anything else your religious beliefs have to say about sexuality?

* What do you think about homosexuality, about people who are attracted to people of the same gender/sex?

- Do you think people having same-sex relationships is OK? Why or why not?

* How has your thinking about physical involvements and sex changed over the past couple of years?

- How? In what ways?
 - Why do you think you’ve changed in how you think about [-----]?

* Have you yourself been physically involved with anyone else, anything from kissing to having sex in the past couple of years?

- IF YES: What kinds of physical involvements have you had?
 - What kinds of activities? How far would you say you’ve gone?
 - Do you just do these things with someone you’re in a relationship with, or do you mostly just hook up with people, or some of each? More of one than the other?

* IF NOT ALREADY ANSWERED: Have you had sex?

- IF NO: Have you decided to wait until you are married, or a later age, or have you just not had the opportunity yet?
 - IF WAITING UNTIL MARRIED: Have you made an actual pledge to abstain from sex until marriage? [*i.e., through a pledge program, not just private promise to self.*] IF YES: What were your reasons for doing this?
 - Did you come up with the idea on your own, or is it through a school or church group that you decided to do this?
 - How hard is it to keep your pledge? How hard will it be in the next couple of years?
- IF HAD FIRST SEX BETWEEN INTERVIEWS: How old were you when you had sex for the first time?
 - Did you feel like you had really thought your decision to have sex, or did it just sort of happen?
 - Did/do you know the person well? Were/are you in a relationship?
 - Looking back, are you happy it happened when and how it did or not? Why or why not?
- IF SEXUALLY ACTIVE: How sexually active or not have you been over the past couple of years?
 - Do you have sex fairly often or not?
 - How many people have you ever had sex with? (an estimate is fine)
 - Were you in relationships with all these people when having sex with them?
 - IF NOT: Where did you meet them? How did you end up having sex?
 - Do/es your [parent(s)] know you[’ve had/ are having] sex? How (do/would) she/he/they feel about it?
 - Would you say that you are OK with your sex life, or is it a source of worry, guilt, or unhappiness? In what ways?

FOR EVERYONE:

* Now I want to ask you a few questions about your thoughts on birth control or protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

- How do you feel about people using birth control or contraceptives? Should they, shouldn’t they? Why or why not?
- Do you feel like you know much about birth control or contraceptives?
 - Where have you learned what you know?
 - Do you wish you knew more or not? IF YES: About what? From where?

IF THE RESPONDENT HAS HAD SEX (IF HAS NOT HAD SEX, SKIP TO NEXT SECTION ON FUTURE PROSPECTS):

* Do you yourself use birth control or contraceptives?

- IF YES: What kind or kinds?
- Why that particular method/combination? What was your reasoning back when you started this method/combination? How did you find out about and decide to use that

method/combination?

- Is there anyone else in your life encouraging you to use methods? IF YES, who? What did/do you discuss with that person? How does/did the conversation go?
- IF NO MENTION OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTNER: Do you have conversations with a person you are having sex with about protection? All the time? Sometimes? What do you discuss?
- Do you typically use protection or birth control every time you have sex?
 - IF YES: What or who motivates you to be so consistent in your use?
 - IF NO: What keeps you from using protection or birth control sometimes?
- Where do you get the birth control/contraceptives you use?
 - Do you ever feel pressure or anxiety about trying to obtain birth control/contraceptives? How so?
 - Do you ever have problems getting access or affording birth control/contraceptives?

* Would getting pregnant [male: getting someone pregnant] right now be a bad thing, a good thing, or a mix of bad and good? How so?

- IF AT ALL A BAD THING: How much do you worry about getting (someone) pregnant? Does it affect how often you have sex?

* Have you ever previously gotten (someone) pregnant or thought you were/did?

- IF YES: Can you tell me a little about the circumstances and what happened (how it ended, if pregnant)?
 - When did this happen? How did you feel? Were you planning this? IF NOT: Were you actively avoiding pregnancy? In other words, how were you approaching the issue of possible pregnancy?
 - How did your family/friends react? Was that what you expected?
- IF NO: What would happen if you did? How would you feel? What would you do? How would your life change? How would your family/friends react?

* How much do you worry about getting a sexually transmitted infection or disease?

- Have you had any experiences with this?
 - Can you tell me a little about the circumstances and what happened?

[IF HAS NOT ALREADY DISCUSSED TAKING A PLEDGE]

* Have you ever taken a pledge to abstain from sex until marriage?

- How do you feel about that now?
 - Do you have any regrets? Do you feel guilty for breaking the pledge?

* Are there any things you wish you would have known earlier about sex?

- Are there any things you would have done differently if you had known more, earlier?
 - What? Why?

* Do you have any particular regrets about your sexual history? Do you mind telling me what and why?

CHILDBEARING

[IF HAD BEEN OR GOTTEN SOMONE PREGNANT AND PREGNANCY ENDED IN BIRTH] So you mentioned having at least one child, right?

[IF NO PREGNANCY MENTIONED] Just to check, do you have or are you raising any children?

IF YES [IF NO, SKIP ON]:

- * How many children do you have? Boy/s or girl/s? How old is/are he/she/they?
- * What is it like being a mother/father? How has it changed your life?
- * Have any of your religious beliefs or practices changed since having children? How so?
- * How are you or do you plan to raise your child/ren religiously?

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND PLANS

- * IF NOT MARRIED: Do you want to get married someday?
 - What makes you [want/not want] to get married?
 - IF YES: At what age do you think it would be good to get married?
 - Why that age in particular?
 - Are there certain things a person should have accomplished before they are ready to marry? What kind of things? Why are they necessary?
 - What do your parents think about when/whether or not/who you should marry?
 - Do they pressure you much to think about it or to avoid it (for now)?

- * ALL IF DOES NOT HAVE CHILDREN
- * How many children, if any, do you want to have? Why that number?
- * What do you think is the best time in life to have children? Is there such a thing as having children too soon or too late? How so?
- * Are there any particular things someone needs to accomplish before having kids? What are they and why are they important to do before having kids? Is it always important to be married before having children? Why or why not?

- * ALL: What do you think about mothers working outside the home?
 - IF UNSURE: In what ways do you think it might be good and in what ways do you think it might be bad?
 - Are there certain ages of children that women should stay home with rather than work? Why do you feel that way?

- * IF PLANS TO HAVE CHILDREN: Do you expect that [your husband/father of children-IF FEMALE; your wife/mother of your children-IF MALE] will work while having young children? Why or why not?

- * What do you think you will be like religiously when you are 30 years old?
 - Will you attend [church]?
 - How similar or different do you think you will be then, compared to now?
 - How so? Why?

* What, ultimately, do you want to get out of life? What would living a “good life” look like to you? What is it that you really want to accomplish or experience in your life before it’s all over? Why that/those things?

CONCLUSION

* That’s it for my questions. Is there anything we have not yet talked about that you think is important for understanding your life or young people in general? Is there anything else you would like to say?

* Thank you so much for talking with me today. I really enjoyed hearing about your experiences and opinions. Please be assured that everything we talked about today will remain totally confidential. Do you have any other questions?

****PAY \$\$ AND GET SIGNATURE ON RECEIPT!****

Notes:

[church] = church, synagogue, temple, mosque, etc. as appropriate

[parent] = mother, father, step-mother, etc. as appropriate

[minister/pastor] = minister, pastor, priest, father, rabbi, imam, etc. as appropriate

[bible] = Bible, Torah, Koran, sacred scriptures, etc. as appropriate

[girlfriend/boyfriend] = READ BOTH OR ONE BASED ON THE INFO R HAS SHARED

Probe key:

* Must read very close to verbatim

- Semi-optional, depending on prior answers, but preferred probes
 - More optional probes, depending