Six Forms of Political Participation
• Sidney Verba
• Norman Nie
• Tried to determine how often Americans exaggerate how frequently they vote and participate in politics
Some General Observations from Verba and Nie . . .

• 8 to 10% of Americans misreport (or exaggerate) their voting habits

• Young, low-income, less-educated and nonwhite people are more likely to misreport than others

• Politics is not at the heart of the day-to-day life of American people

• A higher proportion of citizens take part in nonpolitical than political activities
# Six Forms of Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-actives</th>
<th>Activists</th>
<th>Voting Specialists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - 22% of population  
- Rarely vote  
- Do not get involved in organizations  
- Probably do not even talk about politics  
- Typically have little education, have low incomes, and are young | - 11% of population  
- Participate in all forms of politics  
- Tend to be highly educated  
- High income earners  
- Mostly middle-aged rather than young or old | - People who vote but do little else  
- Limited education / income  
- Typically substantially older than the average person |
## Six Forms of Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campaigners</th>
<th>Communalists</th>
<th>Parochial Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Vote but also like to get involved in campaign activities</td>
<td>• Similar to campaigners in social background but with different temperament</td>
<td>• Do not vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Better educated than the average voters</td>
<td>• Do not like the conflict and tension of partisan campaigns</td>
<td>• Stay out of election campaigns and civic associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Distinguished by their interest in the conflicts, passions, and struggle of politics</td>
<td>• Tend to focus more on community activities / non-partisan</td>
<td>• Willing to contact local officials about specific, often personal problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clearly identified with one political party</td>
<td>• Focused more on local issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Willingness to take strong positions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>