

Title Use Survey

I appreciate your help in this course project. Your responses will help me fulfill a course requirement and will help me learn more about language.

This survey is anonymous and confidential. You will not be asked your name and no identifying information will be recorded. Individual surveys will be destroyed when the project is finished.

This survey is for a class project in linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. The class is taught by Dr. Scott Kiesling in the Department of Linguistics. If you have any questions, feel free to call Dr. Kiesling at 412-624-5916 or email kiesling@pitt.edu.

Background information

Your Gender:

Your Ethnicity/Race:

Your Age:

Your Occupation (if you are a student either list your mother's and father's occupations or your occupation before you became a student):

What is the last level of education you completed?

Instructions

Suppose the company you work for is doing a mailing to all its women clients. You have been given a list of the clients, along with whatever personal information is on the record. Your job is to prepare the mailing labels. How will you address the letter to each of the women described in the following pages? Please **choose only one of the options** provided for each woman.

1. Julia Allen is a 23-year-old university student. She is not married, but she has been living with her boyfriend, Fred Rogers, for two years. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Allen Ms. Rogers Miss Allen
 Miss Rogers Mrs. Allen Mrs. Rogers

2. Elaine Parker is a 35-year-old lawyer, married to Alex Wilson. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Parker Ms. Wilson Miss Parker
 Miss Wilson Mrs. Parker Mrs. Wilson

3. Sandra Brant is a 19-year-old single mother living on her own with her child. The child's father, Stan Morris, has no contact with Sandra or the child. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Brant Ms. Norris Miss Brant
 Miss Norris Mrs. Brant Mrs. Norris

4. Leanne Norton is 38 years old. She is a full-time homemaker with three children. Her husband works full time and supports the family. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Norton Miss Norton Mrs. Norton

5. Selina Farley is a 17-year-old high school student living with her parents. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Farley Miss Farley Mrs. Farley

6. Grace Dawson is a 57-year-old widow who works as a volunteer at a shelter for battered women and children. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Dawson Miss Dawson Mrs. Dawson

7. Fiona Stevens-Harper and her husband, Frank Harper, are co-owners of a small hardware store. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Stevens-Harper Ms. Harper Ms. Stevens
 Miss Stevens-Harper Miss Harper Miss Stevens
 Mrs. Stevens-Harper Mrs. Harper Mrs. Stevens

8. Barb Elliot is a 42-year-old stock broker who lives with her lesbian lover, Judy Albright. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Elliot Ms. Albright Miss Elliot
 Miss Albright Mrs. Elliot Mrs. Albright

9. Mildred Jenkins is a 63-year-old retired teacher. She has never been married. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Jenkins Miss Jenkins Mrs. Jenkins

10. Allison Moore is 27 years old and works as a heavy equipment operator for the municipality she lives in. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Moore Miss Moore Mrs. Moore

11. Erica Jones-Carter is 43 years old with 3 children in high school. Her partner, Felix Carter, is the father of her children. Erica and Felix have lived common-law for over 20 years, but have never formally been married. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Jones-Carter Ms. Carter Ms. Jones
 Miss Jones-Carter Miss Carter Miss Jones
 Mrs. Jones-Carter Mrs. Carter Mrs. Jones

12. Rita Prentice is 29 years old and works at a bank. She thinks she might marry someday, but she has already decided that if she does, she will keep her own last name, and not take her husband's name. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Prentice Miss Prentice Mrs. Prentice

13. Esther Smith is 83 years old and is living on her own. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Smith Miss Smith Mrs. Smith

14. Lori Own is 34 and separated from her husband, Oliver Hanson. He has custody of their children. She attends university and works part-time. When she got married, she changed her name to Hanson, but now she has gone back to using her own last name. You would address the letter to:

Ms. Owen Ms. Hanson Miss Owen
 Miss Hanson Mrs. Owen Mrs. Hanson

15. Mary Walston is 52 years old and is divorced. She has just been elected to chair the organization Feminists for Safe Transit Systems. You would address the letter to:

___Ms. Walston ___Miss Walston ___Mrs. Walston

Preferences/Opinions:

1. What title do you prefer for yourself (if you circle more than one, please explain):

Ms. Miss Mrs. Mr. Dr. Other _____

Explanation, if relevant:

2. What does the title "Ms." Mean to you?

3. What does the title "Miss" mean to you?

4. What does the title "Mrs." mean to you?

5. Are any of these titles for women equivalent to the male title, "Mr."?

Thank you for your time!