position that the English language as a whole is in decline, as represented by selection of over-complicated and stuffy writing, he goes on to place the blame for said decline in quality on politics. Political writing by an adherent of a strong political position is, in his view, more an act of political signaling than of detailed content communication. This leads to an environment in which the repetition of various accepted phrases can serve as a sort of marker of allegiance ("speaking their language"). The need for writers on the end of the political spectrum to avoid sharing language with their opponents as well as the need to refer obliquely to ("write around") topics that your political faction would prefer to avoid, either for ideological or practical political reasons, leads to the growth and adoption of trite, overcomplicated language when political times are more in conflict. Therefore, a growth in linguistical complexity should be associated with

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correlation between political conservatism and increasing political simplicity, in line

identifying themselves as political neutral. Neutral respondents were included under the assumption that most were "leaners" that possessed partisan affiliations that could be affected by priming. Results remain robust to their exclusion.
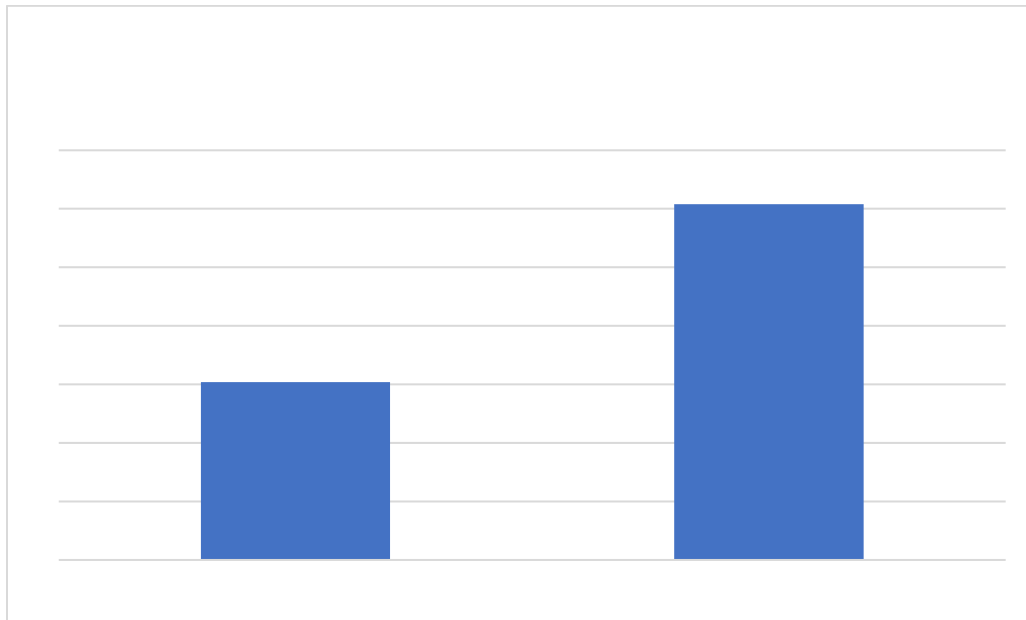
The questionnaire, administered online, asked students to respond, in writing, to a what appeared to be a social media post advocating for a reduction in emergency response personnel including police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. Pre-

amount of text collected in this experiment and for electronic processing than other evaluation methods based on syllable counts or word indices. It is also more robust to grammatical and spelling errors, which is helpful for evaluating content similar to that of most social media comments (Coleman & Liau, 1975).

Following this, students were asked basic demographic data about themselves (age, gender, major, year in school, partisan affiliation on a standard five-point Likert scale), debriefed as to the nature and purpose of the experiment, and thanked.

As in other research (Schoonvelde et al., 2019) there was a correlation between conservatism and lack of complexity. For each step higher on a 1 to 5 liberal to conservative Likert scale, there was an expected average reduction of 1.6 grade levels on the Coleman-Liau readability score ($P<.001$)

appropriate for a third-grade level reader, while a comment by an individual not exposed to a partisan prime would be roughly appropriate for a sixth-grade reader.

CONCLUSION:

The results of this research are firmly in line with the modern line of research that expects partisan extremism to result in simpler language use in communication. Orwell's idea that political strife/extremism would result in more complicated language use does not seem to be borne out by these results. While in line with previous research that finds strong relationships between partisanship and linguistic complexity (Schoonvelde et al., 2019), it is important to note that this research focuses on the effect of being closer towards the ends of the political spectrum in both directions, and not

simply the effect of increasing or decreasing conservatism. The seeming disagreement between this research and research that finds increasing levels of partisan liberalism to be associated with increasing linguistic complexity is likely the result of this being experimental research, rather than the observational research present in most of the literature. There are good reasons to expect that liberal politicians would have incentives based on their target populations, education level, and other potential correlative

topics, as well as expanded to a variety of partisan cues and writing measures in order to both verify these results and examine whether these trends are observable to the larger population or a unique characteristic of the population under study. Measure of complexity aside from formula-based scoring, which would be able to examine the use of difficult political concepts and ideas as well as simple linguistic complexity would be a welcome addition. The effect of the subjects' habitual means of political self-expression, such as whether they are more accustomed to using social media or in-person communication, on the complexity of their responses and the potential of learned reflexes is also of interest for future research.

Increasing the strength of partisan attachment seems to increase the simplicity of partisan communication, and may be one part of the reason we have witnessed an increase in strongly partisan communication both online and elsewhere.

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