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# Decline in Evidence-Based US Congressional Speeches: A Troubling Trend

## Description

In the United States Congress, language used by elected officials is changing. Instead of focusing on evidence-based discussions with words like "proof" and "reason," more emphasis is being placed on intuition with words like "phony" and "doubt." Researchers at the University of Bristol analyzed millions of congressional speech transcripts dating back to 1879 using artificial intelligence.

The study showed a shift towards intuition-based language starting in the 1970s, coinciding with political polarization and a decrease in enacted laws. According to Stephan Lewandowsky, the lead researcher, this shift reflects a change in how truth and honesty are perceived.

John Jost from New York University notes that this trend aligns with a rise in anti-intellectualism and rejection of expert opinions. Renáta Németh from Eötvös Loránd University praises the study's in-depth analysis of language context rather than just word frequency.

Future research will focus on individual lawmakers' language shifts in congressional speeches and social media posts. The team also plans to compare language trends in other historical parliaments like those in Italy and Germany. This study sheds light on the evolving language used in political discourse and its implications on decision-making.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Polarization** /ˌpɒl.ə.rɪˈzeɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The division of something into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.
2. **Intuition** /ˌɪn.tʃuˈɪʃ.ən/ (noun): The ability to understand something instinctively without the need for conscious reasoning.
3. **Anti-intellectualism** /ˌæntɪˌɪn.təˈlɛk.tʃu.əl.ɪ.zəm/ (noun): The sentiment that opposes or is hostile to intellectuals or intellectualism.
4. **Enacted** /ɪˈnæktɪd/ (verb): To make (a bill or other legislative measure) into law.
5. **Discourse** /ˈdɪs.kɔːrs/ (noun): Written or spoken communication or debate.
6. **Implications** /ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃənz/ (noun): The possible effects or results of an action or decision.

## Vocabulary quizzes



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**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. Which concept refers to the ability to understand or know something without needing explicit reasoning?  
Option: Intuition  
Option: Anti-intellectualism  
Option: Enacted  
Option: Discourse
2. What are taxes on imported or exported goods called?  
Option: Disruption  
Option: Tariffs  
Option: Cramming  
Option: Moderate-intensity
3. What is the possibility of harm or loss in a situation called?  
Option: Integrated  
Option: Criticized  
Option: Risk  
Option: Enforcement
4. What term refers to the effect or influence of one thing on another?  
Option: Anticipated  
Option: Impact  
Option: Concern  
Option: Takeaway
5. Which term describes a hostility or distrust towards intellectuals and intellectual pursuits?  
Option: Deadline  
Option: Concerns  
Option: Emphasized  
Option: Anti-intellectualism
6. What term means combining or coordinating separate elements into a unified whole?  
Option: Integrated  
Option: Elected  
Option: Disruption  
Option: Enacted
7. What is the latest time or date by which something should be completed?  
Option: Polarization  
Option: Deadline  
Option: Explore



Option: Absorb

8. Which term means to search or investigate thoroughly?

Option: Enforcement

Option: Explore

Option: Potential

Option: Inaccessible

9. What level of activity is higher in intensity than light activity but lower than vigorous activity?

Option: Beneficial

Option: Uncertainty

Option: Moderate-intensity

Option: Concern

10. What is the act of compelling observance of or compliance with a law rule or obligation?

Option: Remarks

Option: Enforcement

Option: Potential

Option: Polarization

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The potential consequences of the decision raised serious \_\_\_\_\_ among the stakeholders.

12. The new mayor was \_\_\_\_\_ by a large majority of the voters in the city.

13. Living cells need to \_\_\_\_\_ nutrients from their environment to function properly.

14. The new law was successfully \_\_\_\_\_ by the legislative body.

15. The company strives for the seamless \_\_\_\_\_ of new technologies into their existing products.

16. The unexpected power outage caused a major \_\_\_\_\_ in the production schedule.

17. The safety report highlighted several significant \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the building design.

18. The investment has great \_\_\_\_\_ for substantial returns in the future.

19. The ongoing negotiations have created an atmosphere of \_\_\_\_\_ about the future



business relationship.

20. Many students resort to \_\_\_\_\_ before exams which can lead to short-term retention but hinder long-term learning.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The company a surge in demand for their new product after the successful marketing campaign.
22. During the presentation the speaker the importance of maintaining good communication with customers.
23. The CEO's about the company's future plans sparked a lively discussion among the board members.
24. The political debate highlighted the growing between the two major parties.
25. Regular exercise is for both physical and mental health.
26. The new legislation was to address the environmental concerns in the region.
27. The government imposed additional on imported goods to protect domestic industries.
28. Strict of traffic laws is necessary to ensure road safety for all drivers.
29. The new software was seamlessly into the existing IT infrastructure.
30. The critical data was stored in a secure location that was to unauthorized personnel.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Intuition 2. Tariffs 3. Risk 4. Impact 5. Anti-intellectualism 6. Integrated 7. Deadline 8. Explore 9. Moderate-intensity 10. Enforcement

**Gap-Fill:** 11. concerns 12. elected 13. absorb 14. enacted 15. integration 16. disruption 17. concerns 18. potential 19. uncertainty 20. cramming

**Matching sentence:** 1. Anticipated 2. Emphasized 3. Remarks 4. Polarization 5. Beneficial 6. Enacted 7. Tariffs 8. Enforcement 9. Integrated 10. Inaccessible

**CATEGORY**

- 1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

**Date Created**



2025/04/13

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