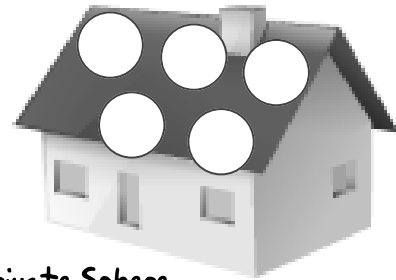


# The Public Sphere

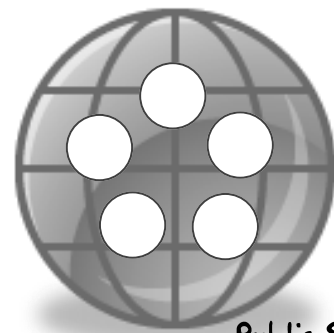
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Sphere or Private Sphere?** The private sphere is exactly what it sounds like: a place where we discuss issues and concerns that deal with our everyday lives and are not made public. Connect each topic of conversation to the correct sphere.

- A. Who should be the next state governor?
- B. Why are the polar ice caps melting so fast?
- C. Should Grandma move to a nursing home?
- D. Where are the 10 most wanted terrorists hiding?
- E. When do Fido's obedience classes take place?
- F. Why did the ice maker in the freezer door quit working?
- G. How does the shelter find homes for older pets?
- H. Who will babysit the kids this weekend?
- I. Where can I look for a new job?
- J. Should the government pay for health care?

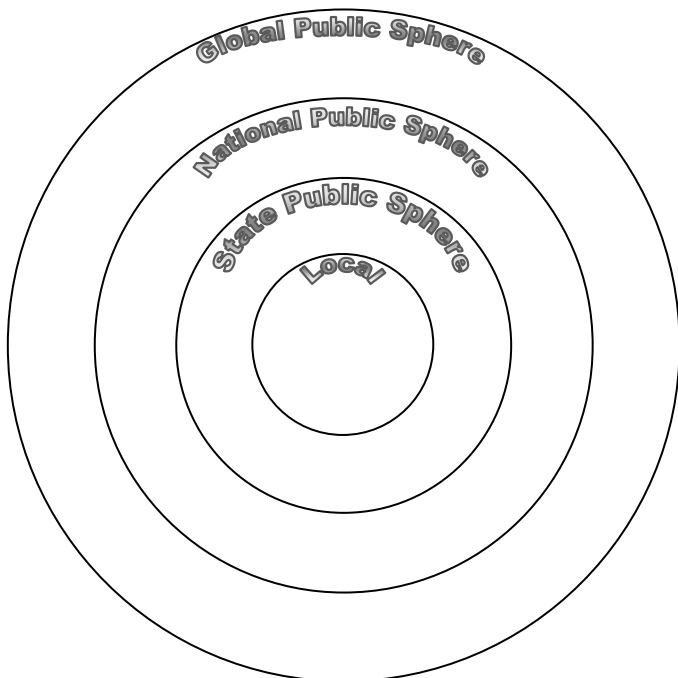


Private Sphere







Public Sphere

**Levels of the Public Sphere.** Think of one issue that the public is discussing *right now* for each level of the public sphere. Write them in the circles.



**Mislabeled!** Each list of words represents one concept from the reading, but someone forgot to finish the titles. Use the words below to complete the notes.

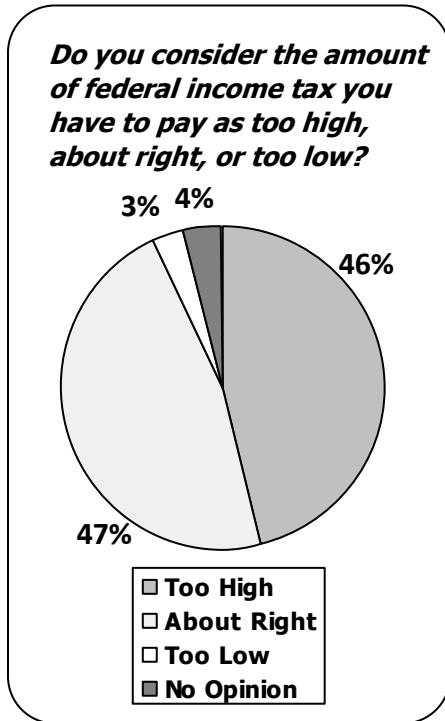
Policy      Sphere      Agenda      Opinion

<p>1)  <u>Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Actions</li> <li>• Laws</li> </ul>	<p>2)  <u>Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority</li> <li>• Sample</li> <li>• Poll</li> </ul>
<p>3)  <u>Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions</li> <li>• Priorities</li> <li>• List</li> </ul>	<p>4)  <u>Public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Discussion</li> <li>• Stage</li> </ul>

# The Public Sphere

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Opinion Poll.** Analyze the polling information and the four headlines reporting the results. Then write the letter of the correct headline next to each question.



Source: www.gallup.com

- (A) Americans Split on Taxes      (B) Under Half Say Taxes Too High  
 (C) More Say Tax Rate is OK      (D) Nearly Half Say Taxes Too High

Which headline is trying to...

- \_\_\_ 1. Make it sound like a lot of people think their taxes are too high?
- \_\_\_ 2. Show that about the same number of people think their taxes are too high as think their taxes are about right?
- \_\_\_ 3. Emphasize that more people think their taxes are about right than think their taxes are too high?
- \_\_\_ 4. Make it sound like not many people think their taxes are too high?

Which headline(s) might be used by...

- \_\_\_ 5. A politician who does not want to lower taxes?
- \_\_\_ 6. A group that believes taxes should be cut?
- \_\_\_ 7. A newspaper that is trying to present the issue fairly?

**News and the Public Agenda.** Study these real-life headlines, then answer the questions to decide how each event would have influenced the public agenda.

A) **HUNDRED AND FIFTY PERISH IN FACTORY FIRE; WOMEN AND GIRLS, TRAPPED IN TEN STORY BUILDING, LOST IN FLAMES OR HURL THEMSELVES TO DEATH**

Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, 1911

B) **ELVIS. KING OF ROCK. DIES AT 42**

Death of Elvis Presley, 1977

C) **TERRORISTS ATTACK NEW YORK, PENTAGON**  
 Thousands Dead, Injured as Hijacked U.S. Airliners Ram Targets; World Trade Towers Brought Down

September 11 terrorist attacks, 2001

D) **8 Killed as Volcano Blows — Ash Spreads to Montana**

Eruption of Mt. St. Helens, 1980

Which headline would have put *this* on the public agenda?

- \_\_\_ 1) Learn how to predict volcano eruptions
- \_\_\_ 2) (no public agenda item)
- \_\_\_ 3) Pass workplace safety laws
- \_\_\_ 4) Make the world safe from terrorists

Choose one headline. Think of one more "to-do" that might have been added to the public agenda as a result of this event.

Headline letter \_\_\_\_\_

This "to-do" might have been added to the public agenda:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_