The American National Election studies conduct regular surveys of American Voters to track political participation. The table below reflects the percentage of survey respondents who reported various political behaviors in selected presidential election years. Carefully examine the information in the table below and answer the questions that follow.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percentage of respondents who… | 1984 | 1996 | 2004 |
| Attended a political meeting | 8% | 5% | 7% |
| Donated money to a campaign | 8% | 8% | 13% |
| Listened to radio coverage of a campaign | 45% | 38% | 51% |
| Read magazine articles about a campaign | 35% | 32% | 28% |
| Read newspaper articles about campaign | 77% | 55% | 67% |
| Voted in general election | 74% | 73% | 77% |
| Watched campaign coverage on television  | 86% | 74% | 86% |
| were contacted by either major party | 75% | 74% | 57% |
| Worked for a political party or candidate | 4% | 2% | 3% |

1. On average, what forms of political participation did the largest percentage of respondents take part in?

2. On average, what forms of political participation did the smallest percentage of respondents take part in?

3. What might account for the differing levels of political participation from one election to the next?

4. What general trends does the table indicate? What specific factors reflect this?

5. Why is it important to track data on political participation?

Political Typologies

Use the political typology groups from the Pew Research Center for the People and the press to write a description of each group listed in the chart below. Use <http://www.people-press.org/2011/05/04/typology-group-profiles/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Staunch Conservatives |  |
| Main Street Republicans |  |
| Libertarians |  |
| Disaffecteds |  |
| Post-Moderns |  |
| New Coalition Democrats |  |
| Hard Pressed Democrats |  |
| Solid Liberals |  |
| Bystanders |  |