**APPENDIX I: Complete Study Design**

Section 1: Introduction and Consent



Section 2: Pre-Test Questions and Prime

 *This will be the first set of questions that my research participants will see before they are randomized into the control and treatment groups. I am further priming them by presenting a list of opening questions that tie to their potential identity as gamers.*

Q1. On a scale from 1 to 10, please indicate your general interest in the US foreign trade policy.

* Strongly Disinterested (1) vs. Strongly Interested (10)

Q2. How important is being *gamer* to you?

* 1 = Not important at all
* 2 = Not very important
* 3 = Very important
* 4 = Extremely important

Q3. How well does the term *gamer* describe you?

* 1 = Not at all
* 2 = Not very well
* 3 = Very well
* 4 = Extremely well

Q4. When talking about *gamers*, how often do you use “we” instead of “they”?

* 1 = Never
* 2 = Rarely
* 3 = Some of the time
* 4 = Most of the time
* 5 = All of the time

Q5. To what extent do you think of yourself as being a *gamer*?

* 1 = Not at all
* 2 = Very little
* 3 = Somewhat
* 4 = A great deal

Q6. What devices do you game on (select all that apply)?

* A desktop computer
* A laptop computer
* A mobile phone
* A portable gaming console (e.g., Nintendo 3DS, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation Vita)
* A living-room gaming console (e.g., Sony PlayStation, Microsoft Xbox, Nintendo Wii)
* I do not play video games.

Q7. What genres of video games do you enjoy (select all that apply)?

* Action Adventure (e.g., Uncharted, God of War, Bayonetta, Legend of Zelda)
* Action RPG (e.g., Diablo III, Dark Souls III, Torchlight).
* Atmospheric Exploration (e.g., Journey, ABZU, Gone Home, Dear Esther)
* Battle Royale (e.g., PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds, Fortnite)
* Casual Puzzle (e.g., Angry Birds, 2048, Cut the Rope)
* City Building (e.g., Cities: Skylines, SimCity, Tropico)
* First-Person Shooter (e.g., Call of Duty, Battlefield, Halo, Counter-Strike, Overwatch).
* Interactive Drama (e.g., The Walking Dead, The Wolf Among Us, Tales from the Borderlands)
* Japanese RPG (e.g., Fire Emblem, Bravely Default, Final Fantasy, Pokémon)
* Family/Farm Sim (e.g., The Sims, Harvest Moon, Animal Crossing, Stardew Valley)
* Match 3 (e.g., Candy Crush Saga, Bejeweled, Farm Heroes Saga)
* MMOs (e.g., World of Warcraft, EVE Online, Star Wars: The Old Republic, The Elder Scrolls Online)
* MOBA (e.g., League of Legends, Heroes of the Storm, DotA 2)
* Open World Adventure (e.g., Far Cry, Grand Theft Auto V, Red Dead Redemption)
* Platformer (e.g., Ori and the Blind Forest, Rayman Legends, Super Mario, Sonic the Hedgehog)
* Racing (e.g., Need for Speed, Gran Turismo, Forza)
* Sandbox (e.g., Minecraft, Terraria, Dwarf Fortress)
* Sports (e.g., FIFA, NBA 2K, Madden NFL, Rocket League).
* Survival Roguelike (e.g., Darkest Dungeon, FTL: Faster Than Light, Into the Breach, Don’t Starve)
* Strategy, Real-Time (e.g.: StarCraft 2, Age of Empires, Stronghold: Crusader)
* Strategy, Turn-Based (e.g.: Civilization V, XCOM 2, Heroes of Might and Magic).
* Western RPG (e.g.: Mass Effect, The Witcher, The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim)
* I do not enjoy playing video games.

Q8. How much money do you approximately spend on video games and video game hardware during an average month (round to the nearest dollar)?

* Write-in ###

Q9. How much of your free time on a normal day do you devote to playing video games?

* No time
* Up to 30 minutes
* 30 minutes-1 hour
* 1-3 hours
* 3-6 hours
* More than 6 hours

Q10. Some gamers spend more time playing offline, while others spend more time playing online. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 = Only Offline and 10 = Only Online, where would you place yourself?

Section 3: Bot Screener

Q11. Please solve this simple equation: 10+3 =

Write-in text.

Section 4: Experimental Treatment

*Research participants will be randomly assigned to one of the following manipulations*.

|  |
| --- |
| Control Manipulation |
| Treatment Manipulation |

Section 5: Manipulations Check

*After reading the assigned article, I ask research participants respondents to complete the following list of questions, which are specifically designed to test the effectiveness of the manipulation*.

Q12. From your reading of the article, which most exactly describes the specific nature of goods affected by the proposed new tariffs?

1. Steel and copper.
2. Video game consoles and computer hardware.
3. Pharmaceuticals and medical goods.
4. No specific goods were listed in the article.

Q13. From your reading of the article, which two countries are engaged in this trade dispute?

1. The US and China.
2. The US and the EU.
3. The US and Japan.
4. No specific countries were listed in the article.

Q14. From your reading of the article, how will these tariffs affect consumer prices of the affected goods?

1. The price of goods will increase.
2. The price of goods will remain the same.
3. The price of goods will decrease.

Section 6: Dependent Variables, part 1

Q15. Think about the article you just read. On a 10-point scale, where 1 = Strongly Disinterested and 10 = Strongly Interested, please indicate:

* Your general interest in the US foreign trade policy.
* Your interest in the specific US foreign trade policies discussed in the article.

Q16. Think about the article you just read. Use the 10-point scale to indicate your agreement with the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article.

* Strongly Disagree (1) vs. Strongly Agree (10)

Q17. Think about the article you just read. Use the 10-point scale to indicate your level of support for the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article.

* Strongly Oppose (1) vs. Strongly Support (10)

Q18. Think about the article you just read. On a 10-point scale, where 1 = Extremely Unlikely and 10 = Extremely Likely, please indicate your likelihood to do the following:

* Share the article with a friend via email or a social media platform.
* Share the article with a family member or a social media platform.
* Write a social media post in support of the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article.
* In response to this statement, please choose the bullet corresponding with the number "7."
* Write a social media post in opposition of the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article.
* Write a newspaper op-ed in support of the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article.
* Write a newspaper op-ed in opposition of the US foreign trade policy discussed in the article

Section 7: Dependent Variables, part 2

Q19. Simon J. Bloggs and David B. Smith compete against each other in an upcoming United States Senate election. Bloggs opposes the tariffs discussed in the article, while Smith supports them.

Which of the two potential candidates would you ...

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Definitely Simon Bloggs. | Likely Simon Bloggs. | Likely David Smith. | Definitely David Smith. |
| … vote for? |  |  |  |  |
| … donate money to? |  |  |  |  |
| … contact by phone or in writing? |  |  |  |  |
| … volunteer (e.g., canvass) for? |  |  |  |  |

Section 8: Demographic Questions

Q20. Please enter your age:

* Write-in ###

Q21. In what state do you currently reside?

* Drop-down menu

Q22. What is the size of the city or town in which you currently reside?

* Open Country
* Smaller Area
* Town, 2,500 - 9,999
* City, 10,000-49,999
* City, 50-250,000
* City greater than 250,000

Q23. Indicate your current employment status:

* Employed for wages
* Self-employed
* Out of work and looking for work
* Out of work but not currently looking for work
* A homemaker
* A student
* Military
* Retired
* Unable to work

Q24. What is your highest degree of school you have completed?

* Some high school or lower
* High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
* Some college credit, no degree
* Trade/technical/vocational training
* Associate degree
* Bachelor’s degree
* Graduate or Professional Degree

Q25. Which of the following do you best identify with?

* Male
* Female
* Neither

Q26. What race do you consider yourself?

* White
* Hispanic or Latino
* Black or African American
* Native American or American Indian
* Asian
* Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander
* Other

Q27. What was your annual household income, from all sources, fall last year before taxes?

* Write-in ###

Q28. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?

* Strong Democrat
* Moderate Democrat
* Independent, Leaning Democrat
* Independent
* Independent, Leaning Republican
* Moderate Republican
* Strong Republican

Q29. Many people identify themselves as liberals or conservatives nowadays. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 = Extremely Liberal and 10 = Extremely Conservative?

Section 7: Conclusion and Debriefing

