

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790520403321
Autore	Schildkraut Deborah Jill <1973->
Titolo	Press one for English : language policy, public opinion, and American identity // Deborah J. Schildkraut
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, New Jersey : , : Princeton University Press, , [2005] ©2005
ISBN	0-691-11814-0 1-4008-4933-0
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (257 p.)
Classificazione	18.04
Disciplina	306.44/973
Soggetti	Language policy - United States English language - Political aspects - United States Public opinion - United States Group identity - United States English-only movement
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on author's thesis (doctoral)--Princeton University, 2000.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [227]-236) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Symbolic politics : theory and evidence -- Theories of American identity -- American identity in surveys -- Defining American national identity -- Discussing language policy -- Mixed messages : hybrids, taxes, and the case of bilingual education -- Conclusion -- -- Appendix A: exploratory factor analysis of American identity items (1996 GSS) -- Appendix B: question wording and coding for 1996 GSS data analyzed in chapter 4 -- Appendix C: focus group procedures -- Appendix D: questions guide for focus groups -- Appendix E: Coding ambivalent and opinionless policy-related thoughts.
Sommario/riassunto	Press "ONE" for English examines how Americans form opinions on language policy issues such as declaring English the official language, printing documents in multiple languages, and bilingual education. Deborah Schildkraut shows that people's conceptions of American national identity play an integral role in shaping their views. Using insights from American political thought and intellectual history, she highlights several components of that identity and shows how they are brought to bear on debates about language. Her analysis expands the

range of factors typically thought to explain attitudes in such policy areas, emphasizing in particular the role that civic republicanism's call for active and responsible citizenship plays in shaping opinion on language issues. Using focus groups and survey data, Schildkraut develops a model of public conceptions of what it means to be American and demonstrates the complex ways in which people draw on these conceptions when forming and explaining their views. In so doing she illustrates how focus group methodology can help yield vital new insights into opinion formation. With the rise in the use of ballot initiatives to implement language policies, understanding opinion formation in this policy area has become imperative. This book enhances our understanding of this increasingly pressing concern, and points the way toward humane, effective, and broadly popular language policies that address the realities of American demographics in the twenty-first century while staying true to the nation's most revered values.

---