

MARIST POLL

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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***Whatever* Most Annoying Word or Phrase, Except Among Young Americans For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

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This Marist Poll Reports:

It's the most annoying (word) time of the year! Once again, "whatever" claims the title of most annoying word or phrase used in casual conversation.

"Whatever" irritates 38% of Americans followed by "no offense, but" with 20%. "You know, right" is irksome to 14% of residents nationally as is "I can't even," 14%. "Huge" grates on the nerves of 8% of Americans, and 5% are unsure.

However, "whatever" may be losing some steam. In 2015, 43% of residents cited "whatever" to be the most annoying. "No offense, but" followed with 22%, and "like" came in third with 20%. Seven percent thought "no worries" was irritating, and "huge" received 3%. Four percent were unsure.

Age matters. Nearly half of Americans 45 years of age or older, 49%, believe "whatever" to be the most annoying, but among younger Americans, there is little agreement. 27% mention "whatever" followed by "no offense, but" and "I can't even" each with 24%. Digging deeper, "whatever" tops the list for those 30 to 44 years old, 33%, Americans 45 to 59 years of age, 48%, and those 60 and older, 49%. Among Americans under 30, "I can't even" takes top honors with 33%.

Regardless of race, "whatever" receives the dubious distinction of most annoying word or phrase. However, African Americans, 57%, and Latinos, 42%, are more likely to have this view than whites, 35%.