

MARIST POLL™

Whatever (Again)!

For Immediate Release

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This Marist Poll Reports:

For more than a decade, *whatever* has taken the top spot as the most annoying word or phrase used in conversation. 34% of Americans this year have this view. One in five U.S. residents (20%) say *no offense, but* is the most irritating word or phrase followed by a new addition to the list, *dude*, with 16%. 14% of Americans say *literally* is the most bothersome. Another newcomer, *please wait, I'll be right with you*, receives 9%. Six percent of Americans are unsure.

In last year's survey, *whatever* received 36% followed by *no offense, but* with 22% and *you know what I mean* with 15%. 14% cited *literally*, and 6% mentioned *actually*. Seven percent were unsure.

"*Whatever* has longevity and long-standing roots in pop culture, thanks to the 1995 movie *Clueless*," says Mary Griffith, Director of Media Initiatives and Polling News at The Marist Poll. "So, it makes sense that the often dismissive *whatever* resonates more so with older Americans than younger ones."

Whatever (31%) edges out *no offense, but* (27%) among the under 45 crowd while more than one in three Americans age 45 or older (36%) say *whatever* most annoys them. This is down from 44% last year. 22% of those 45 or older say *dude* gets on their nerves.

Regardless of gender, *whatever* is considered to be the most annoying word or phrase of men (37%) and women (31%).