1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What’s the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Does affective polarization affect partisan responding?

Republican Hypothesis. When the target of evaluation (for addressing the coronavirus) is the United States, non-polarized Republicans will be more critical of the current and future response than when the target is Trump. There will be a null effect among polarized Republicans since they are more apt to politicize any response.

Democratic Hypothesis. When the target of evaluation (for addressing the coronavirus) is the United States, non-polarized Democrats will be less critical of the current and future response than when the target is Trump. There will be a null effect among polarized Democrats since they are more apt to politicize any response.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
A 3-item battery that asks about confidence, past preparedness, and present preparedness in terms of addressing the coronavirus. The experiment randomly assigned those items to be about the Trump administration or the United States.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Random assignment to the Trump or United States condition

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Create scaled variable from the three items (if they scale). Compare across experimental conditions for those low in affective polarization and those high in affective polarization

E.g., regress the outcomes on experimental treatment (Trump), affective polarization, and experimental treatment X affective polarization for each party. For Democrats, we expect a negative significant coefficient for the experimental condition variable and a positive significant interaction. For Republicans, we expect a positive significant coefficient for the experimental condition variable and a negative significant interaction

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We exclude pure Independents from our analyses, consistent with earlier studies of similar topics (e.g., Druckman and Levendusky 2019, Public Opinion Quarterly).

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
We are re-contacting the more than 4,000 survey participants from a study last summer where we have prior measures of affective polarization (allowing for clear casual inference for the moderator). Our eventual sample size depends on their willingness to be re-interviewed. Our vendor suggests that we should be able to re-interview about 60% of them, though we will not know the exact number until we complete the study.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
No