

Critical Learning Survey (7th to 12th Graders)



Name _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date _____
Phone _____ Email _____

What are the purposes and goals of this critical learning survey?

- 1) *Share my academic feelings, strengths, weaknesses, and interests so future learning can be improved.*
- 2) *Identify how I like to learn, what I like to learn about, and what kind of environment I like to learn in.*
- 3) *Review my awareness and understandings of injustice / social justice.*
- 4) *Generate student-based data for our own usage to make positive changes based on the results.*

Part 1: What's My Academic Background, Feelings, and Interests?

1) What I Think About School Learning in General

- A) School academics/learning is... **(circle one)** *really enjoyable* *somewhat enjoyable* *not really enjoyable* *painful*.
- B) School has ___?___ my **confidence in** learning. **(circle one)** *strengthened* *somewhat improved* *not improved* *hurt*
- C) I _____ school because _____
_____.

2) What I Think About Particular Subjects (language arts, social sciences, math, science, the arts, P.E.)

- A) The subject I'm most interested in studying is _____ because _____
_____.
- B) The subject I'm least interested in studying is _____ because _____
_____.
- C) I feel the subject of this class (**say subject here**), _____, is _____
_____.

3) What I Think/Feel About Standardized Testing

- A) My feelings about standardized tests include....**(circle any)**: *confidence* *competitiveness* *enjoyment* *ableness*
tolerance *confusion* *stress* *fear* *boredom*
happiness *other* _____
- B) I think standardized tests express...**(circle up to 3)**: *my intelligence.* *my ability to take tests well.*
nothing important about me. *how well I've learned.*

4) What I Think/Feel About Former Teaching I've Received

- A) In the past, teachers have made me feel...**(circle 3 exactly)**: *excited* *good* *bored* *confident* *creative* *sad*
intelligent *unintelligent* *angry* *engaged* *proud*
happy *confused* *interested* *included* *isolated*
unfairly treated *fully embraced* *depressed* *loved*
- B) My **best experience** with academics/learning was when... _____
_____.
- C) My **worst experience** with academics/learning was when... _____
_____.

Part 2: What are my learning styles? What learning mediums do I prefer?

1) What kind of **classroom and learning environment** do you prefer? Please circle a number on the scale the represents your preference. Choose "0" if you think a balance is important. Otherwise, show your preference.

- A. I like the environment... **more serious** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **more fun and relaxed**
- B. I like to... **work alone more** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **work more in groups**
- C. I like to... **learn quietly more often** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **learn more with discussion**
- D. I like a teacher to... **ask me to speak** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **let me speak on my own**
- E. I like... **activity stations in class** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **everyone does one thing**
- F. I like... **students to lead class** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **teachers to lead class**
- G. I like... **moving around in class** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **sitting for the entire class**
- H. I like... **learning from textbooks** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **learning from many sources**
- I. I like doing... **hands-on projects** 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 **worksheets / textbook work**

2) What mediums do you like to learn from most? Place an "M" next to 3 mediums you enjoy learning from MOST. Then place an "L" next to 3 mediums you LEAST enjoy learning from. You can place more M's or L's if you'd like.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> internet websites | <input type="checkbox"/> read chapter books | <input type="checkbox"/> read/use textbooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> music CD's | <input type="checkbox"/> computer software programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> activity sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> movies/documentaries | <input type="checkbox"/> arts and crafts (e.g., create models) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> make/edit videos | <input type="checkbox"/> read magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> view/take photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> math games / puzzles | <input type="checkbox"/> have guest speakers | <input type="checkbox"/> take field trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> word processing | <input type="checkbox"/> act out skits / plays | <input type="checkbox"/> conduct experiments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use maps / globes | <input type="checkbox"/> use Facebook or Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> View Powerpoints (also Presi or others) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drawing / painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

3) What have been the **most used teaching methods** in my education and schooling experience **overall**?

REVIEW the methods used by your teachers overall; then, using your memory, LIST the methods used in your experience MOST FIRST (best guessimate); then continue to list other method used by teachers as your memory recalls.

lecture group work projects textbook work experiments doing writing reading books reading excerpts repetitive work
 videos music analysis worksheets research student led work field trips guest speakers non-work time group dialogue
 prepare presentations prep for standardized tests prep for teacher tests take community action students disrupt classtime learning games
 word problems memorizing facts hearing instructions making art teaching eachother quiet time computer work physical activity

Other(s): _____

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 st Most _____ | 5 th _____ | 9 th _____ |
| 2 nd _____ | 6 th _____ | 10 th _____ |
| 3 rd _____ | 7 th _____ | 11 th _____ |
| 4 th _____ | 8 th _____ | 12 th _____ |

Part 3: What are Issues of Importance to Me and My Community? (4 parts)

Identify important issues to you *and* your community – and the likely root causes. **1)** Underline the *top 10 challenges* facing urban youth today *and* the future; **2)** Rank them in order of most important / serious by placing a #1 next to the most serious issue, then 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; **3)** Star any three (3) major problems you feel are **root causes** for other problems on the list; and **4)** When you're not familiar with a word, please *circle it*.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> criminalization (prison pipeline) | <input type="checkbox"/> teen pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> gentrification / no housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drugs / alcohol abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> lacking strong study skills | <input type="checkbox"/> police brutality / profiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gang strife / violence | <input type="checkbox"/> poverty / tough times | <input type="checkbox"/> marginalization of people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sexually transmitted diseases | <input type="checkbox"/> poor health / no care | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of youth programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> corporate globalization | <input type="checkbox"/> out-sourcing of jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> family instability problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parents too busy / detached | <input type="checkbox"/> racism / discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> sexism against females |
| <input type="checkbox"/> internalized oppression | <input type="checkbox"/> wealth inequities (rich/poor) | <input type="checkbox"/> immigration / deportations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transportation hassles | <input type="checkbox"/> mass media influence | <input type="checkbox"/> political inactivity (not voting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lack of respect for elders | <input type="checkbox"/> personal bad habit | <input type="checkbox"/> negative attitude towards life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> environmental pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> overly materialistic | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> homophobia | <input type="checkbox"/> government corruption |
| <input type="checkbox"/> feelings of hopelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> miseducated in school | <input type="checkbox"/> adult antipathy with youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no computer tech skills | <input type="checkbox"/> high taxes / fees | <input type="checkbox"/> extreme party habits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deindustrialization | <input type="checkbox"/> wars & militarization | <input type="checkbox"/> economic depression |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious disconnection | <input type="checkbox"/> not prepared for college | <input type="checkbox"/> privatizing public sectors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> victim of child abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> pop music (unhealthy messages) |

Other(s): _____

2) Based on the above, explain why you chose _____ as your #1 issue.

I chose this because... _____

Part 4: What is “Justice-Centered” and should I/we learn this way?

1) Have you ever heard of terms like... **multiculturalism, social justice, justice-centered, problem-based, project-based, inquiry based, inquiry to action, or civic engagement in reference to how we learn in school?**

Most (Circle the term(s) from above that you've heard of and you feel you have some understanding

A Few of. Once you've done this, its worthwhile for the entire group to discuss each term.)

None

2) What **term** interests you **most** and what do you think it **means**? _____

3) What **personal experiences** of **injustice or inequality** have you lived through? Explain one or more below.

4) What are some different activities, lessons, topics, or other ideas you think this school should include to prepare all students for **leadership and social justice involvement**? Think of at least 3.

Idea #1

Idea #2

Idea #3

Other ideas:

Part 5: What Expectations Do I Have for My Teachers?

1) What do you expect of your teacher(s)?

2) What should your teachers expect of you?

Part 6: Me in the Future? (Remember, this information is kept private.)

CHECK OFF **all the things** you see yourself **wanting/needing** to do, become, or try out **in your lifetime**. Place an “**N**” next to things you feel you **NEED** to do and a “**W**” next to things you feel you **WANT** to do.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ___ community leader | ___ immigration activist | ___ religious leader |
| ___ environmentalist | ___ college graduate | ___ street hustler |
| ___ elected official (politician) | ___ professional athlete | ___ factory worker / foreman |
| ___ stay at home parent | ___ union organizer | ___ writer / journalist / poet |
| ___ local business owner | ___ teacher / educator | ___ health practitioner (doctor/nurse) |
| ___ lawyer / legal activist | ___ non-profit director | ___ engineering / mechanic |
| ___ corporate employee | ___ artist / entertainer | ___ media creator (web, video, music) |
| ___ college professor | ___ government worker | ___ psychiatrist / psychologist |
| ___ corporate scientist | ___ social worker / mentor | ___ law enforcement (e.g., police, parole) |
| ___ environmental scientist | ___ garbage collector | ___ mortician |
| ___ agriculture / farming | ___ housing activist | ___ manager of store(s) / business(es) |
| ___ self-employed contractor | ___ other activist _____ | |
| ___ other(s): _____ | | |

Part 7: My Thinking on Justice, Humanity, and the World Other Than Me/Mine?

Rank yourself in relation to each statement. Be as honest and open as possible. For each statement, place a higher # if you feel strongly about it – and lower # if you don't feel as strongly.

- ___ I feel very strongly about social justice issues and taking leadership to change things.
- ___ I have experienced social justice actions and movements first hand.
- ___ I am very interested and motivated to attend social justice actions.
- ___ I believe problems in my community can be solved and improved over time.
- ___ I have a good ability to detect injustices and problems in every day life.
- ___ I will commit to learning more about change-makers in my own culture/community & others.
- ___ I believe I can be a part of changing the world in some way for the better.
- ___ I fully understand and empathize with the struggles of immigrants.
- ___ I think the United States is equal and fair to people of all colors, genders, and ages.
- ___ I believe we should create connections with various community action groups.
- ___ I am ready to be challenged and supported to become a social justice student.
- ___ I am open to revisiting my own biases, perspectives, and beliefs when it comes to issues of race, class, sex, power, government, economics, politics, and social justice.