

Critical Learning Survey (7th to 12th gr., shorter)

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?

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 _____

Part 2: 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*.

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

Other(s): _____

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

I chose this because... _____

Part 3: 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**

Part 4: 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.