

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

Name _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date _____

(Optional) 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) Generate student input so curriculum can become more relevant / interesting.

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

What I Think About School-Based 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 _____
- D) Is school needed? Why or why not? _____

Part 2: What are Issues of Importance to Me and My Community?

Directions: 1) **Underline** 10 of the MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES 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** 3 major problems you feel are **root causes** to other problems; and 4) When you're not familiar with a word, please **circle** it. Thank you!

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| ___ 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 | ___ gender discrimination (female/male) |
| ___ 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 |
| ___ limited 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) |
| ___ corporatizing hip hop culture | ___ peer pressure | Other _____ |

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 learn more when... **students 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, **out of 10**, place a higher # (10, 9, 8, etc.) if you **DO** feel strongly about it – and lower # (0, 1, 2, 3, etc.) if you **DONT** feel as strongly.

- ___ I feel very strongly about social justice issues and taking leadership to change things.
- ___ I have experienced and attended social justice actions and movements first hand.
- ___ I am very interested and motivated to attend social justice, community-based and civic 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 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.