

L.S.A.Y

LONGITUDINAL
STUDY OF
AMERICAN YOUTH

Teacher Questionnaire: Science and Mathematics Classes

1-800-527-9872

USES OF THE DATA

The data from this survey will be used by educators and policy makers to address important issues facing the nation's schools: educational standards, curriculum tracking, incentives for attracting students to the study of science and mathematics, and the features of effective schools.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Your answers to all of the questions will be held in strict confidence. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Your responses will be merged with those of respondents from across the country, and the answers you give will never be identified as yours.

SPRING 1989

DIRECTIONS

Enclosed you will find a questionnaire labeled for each of your classes in which one or more of the LSAY participants was enrolled during the Fall 1989 term. A list of the LSAY students in each of your classes should also be enclosed. If any of the listed students was not enrolled with you in Fall 1988, please note the errors, and return the corrected list with the completed questionnaires.

We ask that you group your courses into sets of similar classes and complete **ONLY ONE FORM FOR EACH SET**. For two or more courses to be treated as "similar", we ask that the following criteria be met:

1. The same text and materials are used in each class.
2. The topics covered are essentially the same.
3. The ability level and mix of the students are approximately equivalent.

If these criteria are not met, we would appreciate it if you would take the extra time to complete separate questionnaires for each class.

COMPLETING A SINGLE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MORE THAN ONE CLASS. Please write in the class size on the first page of each questionnaire in the space provided, and write "SAME AS HOUR ___" on the top of the extra forms, where the hour written in is the hour from the form you completed. We are asking, then, that you send all of the questionnaires back to us, not just the ones you have filled out completely.

ESTIMATING COUNTS AND PERCENTAGES. We do not ask that you provide exact totals. While we encourage you to consider the questions carefully, we are asking for your estimates. The aim here is to describe the range of emphases and activities students experience in different classes and your general impressions of the students' interests and expectations.

Thank you very much for your time and effort. Having this detailed information about the students' science and math classes will greatly enhance the value of our study. We realize that you are very busy; however, we ask that you complete the questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope within the next two weeks. Please call us at (800) 527-9872 if you have any questions about the questionnaire or the larger study.

LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AMERICAN YOUTH

8th Grade Science Class Questionnaire

Questionnaire for:

Written in below is one of the science classes you taught last year. If the description of this course is incorrect, please make the appropriate changes.

PERIOD:

COURSE TITLE:

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL REFER TO THIS SPECIFIC CLASS.

Are students in your school grouped by ability or prior achievement (either as a result of student choice or school policy) in the 8th grade science program? (CHECK ONE)

YES	Please answer the questions in this block
<input type="checkbox"/>	

NO	Go to the next question block
<input type="checkbox"/>	

How many different levels are there in the science program?

levels

At what level was the class covered by this questionnaire?

level

(Please use '1' for the highest ability level.)

How many students were enrolled in this class?

Females

Males

Approximately how many minutes per week did this class meet regularly (exclude lab periods)? (WRITE IN NUMBER)

Minutes

Did this class have an additional lab period? (CHECK ONE)

YES

NO

If so, about how many minutes per week were devoted to labs? (WRITE IN NUMBER)

Minutes

What textbook/program did you use in this class? (PLEASE PRINT)

Title:

Author(s):

Publisher:

Most recent copyright date:

What percentage of the textbook did you cover in this class?	percent
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About how much classroom time did you spend on each of the following with this class during a typical week?					
(CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)	None	30 min.	1 hr.	2 hrs.	More than 3 hrs.
Lecturing to the class	1	2	3	4	5
Leading discussions	1	2	3	4	5
Student work in small groups or laboratory	1	2	3	4	5
Having students do seatwork on homework, workbook, or text assignments	1	2	3	4	5
Providing individualized instruction	1	2	3	4	5
Having students use teaching machines or computer-assisted instruction	1	2	3	4	5

Thinking about this science class, how much emphasis did each of the following objectives receive?				
(CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE ON EACH LINE)	None	Minor emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Heavy emphasis
Increase students' interest in science	1	2	3	4
Teach science facts and principles	1	2	3	4
Teach experimental logic and design	1	2	3	4
Prepare students for further study in science	1	2	3	4
Develop problem solving/inquiry skills	1	2	3	4
Develop skill in lab techniques	1	2	3	4
Increase awareness of importance of science in daily life	1	2	3	4
Develop systematic observation skills	1	2	3	4
Teach applications of mathematics in science	1	2	3	4
Learning biographies of scientists	1	2	3	4
Learning about women in science	1	2	3	4
Learning about applications of science to environmental issues	1	2	3	4
Develop scientific writing skills	1	2	3	4

Overall, what percentage of your classroom time did you spend in each of the following: (WRITE PERCENT ON EACH LINE)	
Daily routines (such as set up, clean up, passing out materials, taking attendance, announcements, breaks)	percent
Getting students to behave	percent
Presenting new material	percent
Review or student practice of skills	percent
Testing or other forms of evaluation	percent
TOTAL	100% percent

How often did you do each of the following activities in this class? (CIRCLE ONE ON EACH LINE)	Every Day	Almost Every Day	Once a Week	Once a Month	Very Rarely
Go on field trips	1	2	3	4	5
Show films, filmstrips, or videotapes	1	2	3	4	5
Have students do an experiment or systematic observation in class	1	2	3	4	5
Demonstrate an experiment or lead students in systematic observations	1	2	3	4	5
Require students to turn in written reports on experiments or systematic observations	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss current issues & events in science	1	2	3	4	5
Have students read supplementary materials	1	2	3	4	5
Have students give oral reports	1	2	3	4	5
Use computers	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss current magazine articles or books related to science	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss television programs about science	1	2	3	4	5
Have students independently design and conduct their own science projects	1	2	3	4	5
Require written reports on outside readings	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss career opportunities in scientific and technological fields	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss political debates over new inventions and technologies	1	2	3	4	5

How many students in this class entered or will enter a project in a science fair during the 1988-89 school year (include the summer of 1989)?

(WRITE IN NUMBER; WRITE "0" IF NONE)

	Students
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How would you rate the average academic ability of the students in this class compared to all 8th-graders in your high school? (CIRCLE ONE)

- Ability in this class is much higher than average 1
- Ability in this class is somewhat higher 2
- Ability in this class is about average 3
- Ability in this class is somewhat lower 4
- Ability in much lower than average 5

About what percentage of students in this class

(WRITE PERCENTAGES IN EACH COLUMN)

Females	Males
do you expect to stay in high school and graduate?	
do you expect will graduate from college with a baccalaureate?	
were content to do less than they are capable of doing?	
are keenly interested in science?	
are likely to take more than the required number of science courses in high school?	
During the school year, what percentage of the parents of the students in this class did you talk to individually about their student's classroom performance?	

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do you expect will graduate from college with a baccalaureate?

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are likely to take more than the required number of science courses in high school?

During the school year, what percentage of the parents of the students in this class did you talk to individually about their student's classroom performance?

How many hours of homework did you assign for this class in a typical week?

hours/week

What percentage of students usually completed their homework on time?

percent

What percentage of the homework assignments did you correct and return to students?

percent

To what extent do you feel successful in providing the kind of education you would like to provide for the students in this class? (CIRCLE ONE)

- Not very successful 1
- Somewhat successful 2
- Mostly successful 3
- Very successful 4

Thank you for providing this information for us!

Please indicate any additional information about the composition, curriculum, or your plans for your courses that you think would be helpful to the LSAY in understanding the influence of your courses on your students' development. Please identify the hour of the class on which you are commenting if your comments are specific to one or another class.

Thank you for your help!