



# YPAR in School

## Creating Survey Questions & Introduction



### Objective

To create bias-free survey questions and an introduction to the survey

### Activity: Developing Your Survey Questions

#### Materials

- ❑ Handout “Developing Your Survey Questions” – 1 for each group

#### Pre-Activity

Decide what format students will create their surveys. We recommend Google Forms, but there are plenty of websites to try!

Create a survey on Google Forms with the whole class that includes the following question types:

Likert Scale, Multiple Choice, Multiple Select, Rating, Ranking, True/False, Open-ended

Ask students what kinds of questions will work well for each question type.

#### Activity

In the student’s research groups, they will be filling out the “Developing Your Survey Questions” handout.



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### Activity: Writing an Introductory Paragraph

#### Activity

Show students examples of well written introductory paragraphs.

#### Sample:

*I am conducting research on how sexual harassment impacts students at Boston Arts Academy. I hope that by understanding how students experience sexual harassment, we can work on creating a more safe and respectful culture at our school. Sexual harassment is defined by the U.S. government as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.” Please answer all questions honestly and to the best of your ability. All responses will be confidential. Thank you for taking the time to complete my survey.*

Provide students with criteria for their introductory paragraph:

- The paragraph provides context for our research
- Includes a statement about the purpose of our research
- Includes definitions of any key terms that we want our participants to understand
- Includes a thank you for participating

Students will write a 3-4 sentence introductory paragraph for their survey

When students are finished with both their questions and intro, have them create a Google Form. They will then send out the link to students in their class to try it out and provide feedback.



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## Developing Your Survey Questions

1) What is your research question:

2) Whom do you plan (or hope) to survey in order to answer your research question? Be as specific as possible. (Ex: Students in Grades 6-8 at 4 CMSD Schools, Refugees living in Cleveland).

3) Is it important that you know background information (ex: race, gender, neighborhood, age, etc) about the people you survey. *For example, if you're trying to understand bullying in middle school, you'll want to know what grade your research participants are in, how old they are, etc).* **If you think background information is important to know, you will need to include this as part of your survey question. List the background information will you need to collect to answer your question?**



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## Developing Your Survey Questions

**4)** Brainstorm a list of questions below. Indicate WHAT type of question you plan to ask: Likert Scale, Multiple Choice, Rating, Ranking, Yes/No or True/False, Open-ended. If the question is multiple-choice then write down what the possible response options would be.

| #  | Question Type | Question |
|----|---------------|----------|
| 1  |               |          |
| 2  |               |          |
| 3  |               |          |
| 4  |               |          |
| 5  |               |          |
| 6  |               |          |
| 7  |               |          |
| 8  |               |          |
| 9  |               |          |
| 10 |               |          |



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## Developing Your Survey Questions

5) Now re-read your questions and check them using the following criteria. Fill in the circles when the question fits the criteria.

Do your questions help you answer your overarching research question?

|   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

Is the question free of bias and not leading?

|   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |