

STUDENT INTEREST INVENTORY

Items to Use in Creating a Student Interest Inventory

CHAPTER 2: VALUE

Below are several questions that can be used to learn more about students' interests. We recommend that teachers choose 5-8 items from the list below that would be most relevant for their student population and would best suit their needs. Note that the items are arranged by different domains of interest: Teachers may select items pertaining to a single domain (e.g. school), or from multiple domains depending on preference. We suggest inquiring about student interest in a variety of areas.

School and career

What is your favorite class or activity in school and why?

What is your least favorite class or activity in school and why?

Which school subject is most challenging to you? Is the challenge positive or negative to you? What makes it challenging?

In which school subject do you feel like you learn the most? Why do you think this is?

What can teachers do to capture your interest?

Give an example of a classroom activity where you felt you really learned a lot. Why do you think that was?

Do you prefer to work alone, in small groups, or in large groups? Why?

What do you want to do after high school?

What careers can you picture yourself in?

Extracurricular activities

Besides socializing with friends, what do you like to do in your spare time?

How many hours per day do you use technology such as a computer, tablet, or smart phone? What do you mainly use it/them for? (for example, socializing, research, games etc.)

Do you belong to any organizations, teams, or clubs in and out of school? Which ones?

Do you have any particular responsibilities outside of school? (for example, watching siblings, chores etc.)

Do you have a part-time job? If so, what is it and how many hours do you work per week? What do you like most about your job?

<http://www.niu.edu/eteams>

A companion website for *Enhancing Adolescents' Motivation for Science*, Shumow & Schmidt, 2013

General interest

Describe yourself using three words

Do you like to read? Why/why not?

Tell me about a favorite book or movie and why you liked it.

If you could learn more about any subject, what would it be? Why are you curious about this subject?

If you could interview anyone, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Do you have a special talent or an interest that you know a lot about? If so, what is it?

Tell me about a past accomplishment that made you feel proud of yourself.

Is there anything else you want me to know about you?

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