

Collecting Feedback on Students' Learning Experiences
Sample Introduction, Open-Ended Questions, and Guidelines for Writing Questions

Sample introduction:

As we are approaching the midpoint of the semester, I am inviting your feedback on the course to learn what is working well for you and how we can further enhance the course. I appreciate your honest and concrete feedback and will share the results with you as a class to identify any modifications we can make to enhance your learning experience. Thank you.

Sample open-ended questions:

- What is **helping you learn** in this course? Be specific and provide examples.
- What aspects of this course are helping you learn? Identify 2-3 main aspects and explain why / how they are helpful to you.
- What aspects of this course and your instructor's teaching help you learn best?
- What would **further support your learning** in this course? Be specific and provide examples.
- What aspects of this course might be hindering your learning?
- What specific suggestions for change would you have that would further your learning?
- What 2-3 changes could be made in this course to assist you in learning? Please explain how suggested changes could be made.
- What specific advice would you give to help your instructor improve your learning in this course?
- What **can you do** differently that will improve your learning in this course?
- What are you doing to help you learn effectively in this course?
- What steps could you take to improve your own learning in this course?
- What can your **peers** , the instructor do to support you and help you meet your goals?

Sample open-ended questions you may ask over the course of the semester, at the end of a topic area, at the end of a mini-lecture:

- How is the **group project** helping you learn? What works well? What is challenging?
- What was the most enjoyable aspect of this course so far? Why?
- What was the most surprising / significant concept / fact you have learned so far in this course?
- What was your best learning experience in this course so far and why?
- What's the most important thing you learned and what questions are you left with? (one-minute paper)

Guidelines for writing questions:

Ask questions that will produce student responses that you can use, that will help inform your instructional practice, and that reflect your instructional approach and goals for student learning.

Ask questions that provide opportunities for reflection for students; e.g., how a lecture, assignment, activity has helped students learn.

e.g. Today's lecture described the development of the city-state from two distinctly different perspectives. Thinking about our example, take 5 minutes and highlight the primary differences between these perspectives.

Yesterday, I posted guided questions along with the reading in Blackboard. Think about how your understanding of the reading differs from how you understood previous readings when no guided questions were posted, and describe the difference, if any.

What changes have you made between your first lab report and your final lab report? What have you learned about writing lab reports in this process?

The purpose of this course is to prepare you to develop a research proposal. Describe the steps that you will use to develop the proposal and indicate your general sense of readiness to take those steps.

How has your thinking of what career opportunities exist for sociologists been broadened or changed as a result of the guest speakers in this course?