Measure of Epistemological Reflection

INSTRUCTIONS: The questionnaire that follows has to do with your perspective on learning in college. Each of the questions on the following pages asks for your opinion or choice on a given subject and the REASONS why you have that particular perspective or opinion. We are interested in understanding your perspective as fully as possible. Please give as much detail as you can to describe how you feel about each question. Feel free to use the backs of pages if you need more space. Thank you!

Please Write Your Responses in Ink

Name: ________________________________

Age: ________________________________

Sex: (circle one) male female

College major: ____________________________

Father’s job: ____________________________

Mother’s job: ____________________________

Today’s date: ___________________________

Class rank: (circle one) Freshman
Sophomore
Junior
Senior
First-year master’s
Second-year master’s
Doctoral student
Ph.D.
Other ________________________________

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Study Interview and Questionnaire

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Think about the last time you had to make a major decision about your education in which you had a number of alternatives (e.g., which college to attend, college major, career choice, etc.). What was the nature of the decision?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What alternatives were available to you?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How did you feel about these alternatives?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How did you go about choosing from the alternatives?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What things were the most important considerations in your choice? Please give details.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
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Do you learn best in classes that focus on factual information or classes that focus on ideas and concepts?

Why do you learn best in the type of class you chose above?

What do you see as the advantages of the choice you made above?

What do you see as the disadvantages of the choice you made above?

If you could give advice to anyone on how best to succeed in college course work, what kind of advice would you give them? Talk about what you believe is the key to doing well in college courses.

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During the course of your studies, you have probably had instructors with different teaching methods. As you think back to instructors you have had, describe the method of instruction that had the most beneficial effect on you.

What made that teaching method beneficial? Please be specific and use examples.

Were there aspects of that teaching method that were not beneficial? If so, please talk about some of the aspects and why they were not beneficial.

What are the most important things you learned from the instructor's method of teaching?

Please describe the type of relationship with an instructor that would help you to learn best and explain why.
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Do you prefer classes in which the students do a lot of talking or where students don’t talk very much?

Why do you prefer the degree of student involvement/participation that you chose above?

What do you see as the advantages of your preference above?

What do you see as the disadvantages of your preference?

What type of interactions would you like to see among members of a class in order to enhance your own learning?

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Some people think that hard work and effort will result in high grades in school. Others think that hard work and effort are not a basis for high grades. Which of these statements is most like your own opinion?

Ideally, what do you think should be used as a basis for evaluating your work in college courses?

Who should be involved in the evaluation you described above?

Please explain why you think the response you suggested above is the best way to evaluate students’ work in college courses.
Sometimes different instructors give different explanations for historical events or scientific phenomena. When two instructors explain the same thing differently, can one be more correct than the other?

When two explanations are given for the same situation, how would you go about deciding which explanation to believe? Please give details and examples.

Can one ever be sure of which explanation to believe? If so, how?

If one can’t be sure of which explanation to believe, why not?

References


