

SURVEY YOUR PEERS

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[how to begin]

First refer to the “How to Get Organized” handout and follow the steps for brainstorming and researching issues. If then you decide that you want to conduct a survey, this is a good place to start.

[STEP 1] Identify Answers

First you need to identify the answers you want to gain from this survey.

For example, do you want to know how your peers define an unhealthy relationship? Or if they’ve been in an unhealthy relationship? Different answers require us to ask different questions.

Do you want to be able to organize your survey answers by a particular demographic like grade or gender? If so, you’ll have to include a few basic information questions at the beginning of your survey.

Once you’ve thought about what you want answered, start filling in this worksheet.

These are the answers we want to gain through our survey:

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

These are demographics we want to use to organize the answers from our survey.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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[STEP 2] Identify Questions

Now that you know the answers and demographics you want to gain from the survey, it is time to write your questions.

Using the answers you brainstormed in step 1, fill in the chart below. We've started you off with a few examples.

Answer	Question
How teens define a healthy relationship.	Describe what makes a relationship good or "healthy" for you.
How many relationships teens have been in.	Since you've been in high school, how many dating relationships have you been involved in?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Using the demographics you brainstormed in step 1, fill in the chart below. We've started you off with an example.

Demographic	Question
How do guys and girls think about these issues?	I identify as: • Female • Male • Other: _____
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

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[refining your questions]

It is important that you ask the right questions so that you can get the answers you need from your survey

[open-ended vs. closed-ended questions]

You should consider using a combination of open- and closed-ended questions on your survey.

[open-ended questions] allow participants to write whatever they want for the answer.

Examples:

Describe what makes a relationship “bad” or “unhealthy” for you.

What is one thing you could say to a friend in a “bad” or “unhealthy” relationship?

[closed-ended questions] ask participants to choose from a limited number of answers.

Examples:

Since you’ve been in high school, how many dating relationships have you been involved in?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5 or more

Of these relationships, how many would you describe as being “good” or “healthy”?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5 or more

[review] the questions and demographics that you identified earlier. Which should be open-ended and which should be closed-ended? Mark each question or demographic with either OE (open-ended) or CE (closed-ended) so that you remember how you want to ask the question when you create your survey.

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[create your survey]

Now that you know which answers you want and the questions you need to ask, it is time to create your survey.

You can create a simple survey as a word document and print it out for participants to fill in. With paper surveys you have to make copies and tally your own results. However, you can tell quickly how many people are filling out the survey and you can often use small incentives (candy, gift certificates) to get people to participate.

If you're using the web, sites like Survey Monkey (www.surveymonkey.com) allow you to ask a limited number of questions for free. These surveys are good if you don't want to tally your own results. However, because you send the survey to people electronically, you can't guarantee how many people will fill it out.

[ordering questions]

There are many ways to lay out a survey. We suggest asking participants to fill out their demographic information at the beginning of the survey as these questions are less intrusive than others you may want to ask.

It is good to group questions together by subject. For example, all questions on dating history should be near each other. It is okay to mix open and closed-ended questions within a survey subject area.

[an example survey]

Over the next two pages we have included a sample survey for you to use as a guide. This survey was designed to assess individual experiences and attitudes on dating, (un)healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. Survey participants took the survey before beginning a 5-session PAVE[education] class.

Please feel free to use and modify the survey and questions for your use.

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This questionnaire is intended to assess your thoughts and opinions on dating relationships.

Please do not write your name on this sheet,
as this questionnaire is confidential.

Please take time to read and answer each question honestly.

I identify as: Female Male Other: _____

Describe what makes a relationship “good” or “healthy” for you.

Describe what makes a relationship “bad” or “unhealthy” for you.

Since you’ve been in high school, how many dating relationships have you been involved in?

0 1-2 3-4 5 or more

Of these relationships, how many would you describe as being “good” or “healthy”?

0 1-2 3-4 5 or more

Of these relationships, how many would you describe as being “bad” or “unhealthy”?

0 1-2 3-4 5 or more

Do you know a friend/classmate who has been in a “bad” or “unhealthy” relationship?

Yes No

Which of the following people can you talk to and receive support from about your relationships?

Please check all that apply

Parent Friend Teacher Coach
 Sibling Counselor Nurse Co-worker
 Faith leader Other

Do you consider yourself to be sexually active?

Yes No

Do you feel comfortable talking about your limits with a sexual partner?

Yes No Sometimes

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Do you have access to birth control/protection methods?

Yes No

Do you feel comfortable discussing protection/birth control with a sexual partner?

Yes No Sometimes

Do you know the legal age of consent for sexual activity in Massachusetts? Yes No

What age?

Do you know the difference between rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment?

Yes No

Please define the following terms:

Rape:

Sexual Assault:

Sexual Harassment:

If a friend were in a "bad" or "unhealthy" relationship, would you talk to them about your concerns?

Yes No Maybe

If a friend were in a "bad" or "unhealthy" relationship, would you know where to refer them for support?

Yes No Maybe

What is one thing you could say to a friend in a "bad" or "unhealthy" relationship?

If a friend were raped or sexually assaulted, would you know where to refer them for support?

Yes No Maybe

What is one thing you could say to a friend who discloses a rape or sexual assault to you?

Please list any questions that you want answered during the next few sessions in this class.

Thank you for your participation.

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