Reading
Student Background Questionnaire

2005
Grade 12
In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 14 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in one or more ovals.

   - ☐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in one or more ovals.

   - ☐ White
   - ☐ Black or African American
   - ☐ Asian
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
Section 3

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only one oval for each question.

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ I don’t know.

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ I don’t know.

5. About how many books are there in your home?
   - ☐ Few (0–10)
   - ☐ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
   - ☐ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
   - ☐ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.
   - ☐ Yes
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ I don’t know.

8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?
   - ☐ 5 or fewer
   - ☐ 6–10
   - ☐ 11–15
   - ☐ 16–20
   - ☐ More than 20

9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?
   - ☐ Never or hardly ever
   - ☐ Once every few weeks
   - ☐ About once a week
   - ☐ Two or three times a week
   - ☐ Every day
10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?
   - None
   - 1 or 2 days
   - 3 or 4 days
   - 5 to 10 days
   - More than 10 days

11. How far in school did your mother go?
   - She did not finish high school.
   - She graduated from high school.
   - She had some education after high school.
   - She graduated from college.
   - I don’t know.

12. How far in school did your father go?
   - He did not finish high school.
   - He graduated from high school.
   - He had some education after high school.
   - He graduated from college.
   - I don’t know.

13. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?
   - Never
   - Once in a while
   - About half of the time
   - All or most of the time

14. Which of the following best describes your high school program?
   - General
   - Academic or college preparatory
   - Vocational or technical
1. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about reading and writing. Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. When I read books, I learn a lot.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Reading is one of my favorite activities.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. How often do you do each of the following? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>Once or twice a week</th>
<th>Almost every day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Read for fun on your own time</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Talk with your friends or family about something you have read</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of fiction? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fiction</th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Comic books or joke books</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Fiction books or stories (books or stories about imagined events)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Plays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Poems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of non-fiction? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Non-fiction</th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Biographies or autobiographies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Books about science (for example, nature, animals, astronomy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Books about technology (for example, machines, computers)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Books about other countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Books about history</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Other non-fiction books</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of *articles or stories*? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Articles or stories in a newspaper</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Articles or stories in a magazine</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Articles or stories on the Internet</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Now think about reading and writing you do for school. For your English class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Have a class discussion about something that the whole class has read</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Work in pairs or small groups to talk about something that you have read</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Write in a journal about something that you have read for English class</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. For your **English** class so far this year, how many times have you done each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>2 or 3 times</th>
<th>4 or 5 times</th>
<th>6 or more times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Written a report or paper about something that you have read (for example, a book report)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Made a presentation to the class about something that you have read</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Done a project about something that you have read (for example, written a play, created a web site)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Think about the classes that you are taking this year. How often do you read something that is **NOT** a textbook for each of the following classes? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>At least once a week</th>
<th>I don’t take this class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. English class (for example, plays, fiction books)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Science class (for example, science magazines, biographies of scientists)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Social studies or history class (for example, books about people who lived a long time ago, real letters written a long time ago)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Math class (for example, math word-games)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. For school this year, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments that involved reading?

☐ Never
☐ Once or twice this year
☐ Once or twice a month
☐ At least once a week

10. When you have reading assignments in school, how often does your teacher do each of the following? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never or hardly ever</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>Once or twice a week</th>
<th>Almost every day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Ask you to explain or support your understanding of what you have read</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Ask you to discuss different interpretations of what you have read</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

☐ Easier than other tests
☐ About as hard as other tests
☐ Harder than other tests
☐ Much harder than other tests
12. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?
- Not as hard as on other tests
- About as hard as on other tests
- Harder than on other tests
- Much harder than on other tests

13. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
- Not very important
- Somewhat important
- Important
- Very important
14. How much education do you think you will complete?
   - ☐ I will not finish high school.
   - ☐ I will graduate from high school.
   - ☐ I will have some education after high school.
   - ☐ I will graduate from college.
   - ☐ I will go to graduate school.
   - ☐ I don’t know.

15. What do you expect that your main activity will be in the year after you leave high school?
   - ☐ Working full time
   - ☐ Attending a vocational, technical, or business school
   - ☐ Attending a two-year college
   - ☐ Attending a four-year college, service academy, or university
   - ☐ Serving in the regular military service
   - ☐ Other