

## Example Perception Questions and Items

*Part of the DATA LITERACY FOR INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS Series*

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The two basic types of survey questions are open-ended and closed-ended. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Always begin with the end in mind; consider the data you want to have at the conclusion of your survey when selecting your items.

Closed-Ended		Open-Ended	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier and quicker for participants;</li> <li>• Simplifies statistical analysis;</li> <li>• Makes replication of the study and comparison of the data easier;</li> <li>• Ideal for quantitative research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be confusing if too many response choices are offered;</li> <li>• Answer options may “lead” respondents;</li> <li>• Lack of desired answer options may cause frustration;</li> <li>• Masks misinterpretations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents can provide more information (perceptions, attitudes, understanding of the subject) and greater detail;</li> <li>• Ideal for qualitative research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be difficult to organize and analyze responses;</li> <li>• Participants may not be willing to write longer responses;</li> <li>• Variations in responses may make it difficult to compare to other data</li> </ul>

### Sample Closed-Ended Items

Select the best response to each question.	Responses		
How confident are you that you can read and comprehend the primary source documents used for this course?	Not at all	Somewhat	Very
How confident are you that you can select a position on a current event and effectively argue for your position?	Not at all	Somewhat	Very
How likely are you to think about the best way to approach a project before beginning your work?	Not at all	Somewhat	Very
During a typical class period, how much effort do you put into listening to what the teacher is saying?	Very little effort	Some effort	A great deal of effort
How much effort do you put into completing your homework assignments?	Very little effort	Some effort	A great deal of effort

Indicate your level of agreement with each statement.	Responses			
I can comprehend the primary source materials and historical documents used for this AP course.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can select a position on a current event and effectively argue for my position.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think about the best way to approach a project before beginning my work.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I practice active listening during class to ensure I understand new concepts.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I put forth sufficient effort in completing my homework assignments.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

### Sample Open-Ended Items

Read and respond to each question below.	Response
Describe your experiences with primary source materials and historical documents in your previous courses.	
How would you go about selecting a position on a current event and effectively arguing for your position?	
What steps do you take when beginning a project?	
Describe the importance of active listening in understanding new concepts.	
How do you feel about the amount of effort you put into completing your homework assignments?	

### Sample Likert Scales

<b>Agreement (Even)</b>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
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<b>Agreement (Odd)</b>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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<b>Value</b>	None	Low	Moderate	High
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<b>Frequency</b>	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
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<b>Importance</b>	Not Important	Slightly Important	Important	Very Important
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<b>Quality</b>	Very Poor	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Very Good
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<b>Quality</b>	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
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<b>Probability</b>	Definitely Not	Probably Not	Probably	Definitely
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<b>Dichotomous</b>	Yes	No
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<b>Dichotomous</b>	True	False
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