

Canteen survey - Perspective

EXPLANATION:

Conducting a class survey requires the use of concepts such as data analysis, probability and information interpretation. It also provides opportunities for students to explore different perspectives as they investigate others views and opinions about canteen food.



YEAR LEVELS: Years 4–6

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group discussions and small group activities

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 40–60 mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F–6

Strand: Literature: Language for interaction

- Understand that patterns of language interaction vary across social contexts and types of texts and that they help to signal social roles and relationships
- Understand how to move beyond making bare assertions and take account of differing perspectives and points of view

Mathematics: Sequence of content F-6

Strand: Statistics and probability

- Pose questions and collect categorical or numerical data by observation or survey
- Construct displays, including column graphs, dot plots and tables, appropriate for data type, with and without the use of digital technologies

See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements:

- Appreciate diverse perspectives
- Communicate effectively
- Express emotions appropriately
- Develop reflective practice
- Become confident, resilient and adaptable

SCOPE OF TASK

1. Activate the prior knowledge of students by asking about their understanding of perspective. Responses could include:
 - How someone sees a situation
 - A point of view
 - Understanding others' thoughts, feelings, motivations, and intentions
 - Ability to set aside your thoughts, feelings to consider other views
2. Inform the students of the aim of the activity – to conduct a survey to understand the perspectives of others about canteen food. Canteens have an important role in the provision of food to students and the school community. But there has been a lot of attention given to canteen food in the media - how healthy it is, what students like to eat, dietary and allergy considerations etc. There is often significant debate about what foods should be available to purchase at the canteen - can students be given choices of healthy and 'treat' food? Also, there are often questions about whether students should eat lunch from the school canteen every day, once a week or fortnight, or on only special occasions.
3. Brainstorm with the students' ways that they can identify different opinions about the canteen and create a survey. Remind them that they need the perspectives of all school community members. Decisions to be made include:
 - What do you want to know?
 - What questions would you need to ask to understand people's perspectives?
 - How are questions going to be asked to the participants?
 - What data display will suit the survey? How will you create this?
 - How will the class report the findings?

Collaboratively students can design the survey, their questions and how they will conduct the investigation. The teacher may need to guide these decisions depending on the students experience with survey creation and ensure that the students questions are gathering participants perspectives.



4. Students may need a few days to complete the survey project if they are interviewing school members. Once the students have completed collecting, displaying and analysing the data discuss the findings with the students:
 - What did the findings reveal about people's perceptions of canteen/tuckshop food?

- What were the different perspectives? (write these on the board)
- Why do you think there were different perspectives?
- Can you group/categorise any of the perspectives?
- Is there a strategy that can be used to accommodate the different points of views?
- What is your point of view about the different types of canteen food?

5. In reflection, ask students why it is important to listen to and understand other's perspectives. Considering other points of view is important in many parts of life – can students connect to other circumstances where perspective is important?

Survey findings can be shared with the school community. Findings could feature in a school newsletter or a display be created for the school foyer or library for viewing.

RESOURCES

- Planning materials – paper, pens etc
- Computers to make data displays
- Optional – materials for making a display about the survey and findings
- An example of a survey for teacher information:

http://healthy-kids.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Canteen_Use_Survey.pdf

