

MHCC Unit #2
Inquiry & Public Discourse & Decision Making
Rachel DeKuiper, Cannonsburg Elementary School
Rockford Public Schools

Grade Level: 4th and 5th

Abstract:

TLW gather support for the issue students have selected by conducting a survey and doing research using traditional and on-line resources.

Primary standards and benchmarks addressed:

Standard V.1.LE 2: Information Processing

Standard V.2.LE 1: Conducting Investigations

Standard V.2.LE 2: Conducting Investigations

Standard V.2.LE 3: Conducting Investigations

Estimated time to complete all components of lesson: 5-6 class periods of approximately 50 minutes in length. Note: Class periods should be scheduled over a time period of approximately 3 weeks. This is so that surveys will have time to be written, tested, conducted, and tabulated before student reflection can occur.

Materials needed:

- Computers with Internet Access
- Survey Template and Example (download)
- Data Collection Sample from Survey and template (download)
- Research Template (KWL) and Example (download)
- Assessment Rubric for KWL research (download)
- Assessment Rubric for Survey/Data Collection (download)

Procedure:

Day 1: The teacher will introduce a class discussion about surveys by explaining to students that they have identified a problem in their community or at the state level of government that they would like to see changed. The next step is to conduct a survey to determine whether or not they can do something about the issue or problem. The teacher will then ask students if they have ever been surveyed. If so, the teacher may decide to initiate further discussion by asking students the following questions:

- What was the purpose of the survey? Why do you think it was given to you?
- Were the questions easy for you to understand? Did they make sense?
- How was the survey conducted? Did you write responses or speak them?
- Were you comfortable taking the survey?

The teacher will explain to students that these are some of the things that they will need to keep in mind as they work in small groups to develop a survey. The teacher will then distribute a K-W-L chart (download #1) that the students will use as they go through the survey process.

The teacher will then distribute the Sample of Survey Data worksheet (download #2) explaining to students that the top portion of the worksheet is an example of data taken from a previous survey on year-round schooling. The teacher will show students that data taken from a survey can be placed in the “K” portion of the K-W-L chart about what the students know about a particular topic.

2. The teacher will assist students in recording some of their “wonder” statements with regard to their selected issue. This discussion will assist with the formation of survey questions that students will compose. The document, “4 Steps to Successful Surveying” (download #3) will guide students through the process of creating, selecting, conducting, and tabulating a survey. At this time, the teacher may want to distribute the handout and discuss its contents with the class.

Procedure:

Day 2:

3. The teacher will assist students with the formation of a survey. Once the survey has been created, students will need to answer all logistical questions. For example:

- Who will be surveyed?
- How will individuals be surveyed?
- When will individuals be surveyed?
- Where will individuals be surveyed?

(Download #4: Holistic Scoring: Survey and Data Section Rubric may be used to grade students on the creation of a survey. Download #5: Sample Survey Questions worksheet may help students in the creation of their own survey.)

Once a deadline has been set for the collection of all data, students will then be responsible for collecting the data.

Procedure:

Day 3: (It is important to note that this day of instruction may not occur right after day #2 but rather a week or two later as students will need time to conduct surveys.)

4. Once all data has been collected, the teacher will assist students with the tabulation of survey data. Students will compile results and complete the “L” portion of the K-W-L chart. It is also recommended that students display results of the survey for presentation purposes using appropriate charts and graphs. The teacher should assist students with instruction on how to prepare a chart and/or graph to display survey results.

As a class it is important to discuss the survey process as well as the results. The teacher may want to ask students about their experiences while conducting the survey. Questions may include the following:

- Were there any funny, embarrassing, or tense moments associated with conducting the survey? If so, describe them.
- Do you think that the individuals you surveyed were cooperative? Why or why not?
- Do you think that people take surveys seriously? Why or why not? Do you think that people feel they have a say in how problems are solved in their communities when they respond to a survey?

Assessment: In a journal entry, students will cognitively reflect upon what they have learned about surveys. (Download #6 provides a journal entry assignment and scoring rubric.)

Issue:

Researcher: _____ Date: _____

<p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What I <u>Know</u>...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(use prior knowledge including survey results)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What I <u>Wonder</u>...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(ask questions about the issue)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What I <u>Learned</u>...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(answer questions while researching)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% like current school schedule • 86% think students would perform better if they went to school year-round • Year-round school would have 3, 2-week vacations • 93% have trouble keeping children busy and happy in the summer • students don't want to go to school year-round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do students attending year-round school like it? • Do these students perform better on the MEAP? • How did the current school year schedule get started? • How do we pay for year-round schools...the state? • Who else would be affect by year-round schools? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a toss-up. About 50% like it and 50% don't. • Performance on the MEAP increased with 30% more passing. • Summers off to help on the farm (harvest) – no longer necessary • Taxes would have to increased to pay teachers and others • Tourism industry my lose \$\$ from vacationers

FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL SURVEYING

There are 4 steps to successful surveying:

1. Creating the survey.
2. Selecting the sample.
3. Conducting the survey.
4. Tabulating the results of the survey.

1. CREATING THE SURVEY

Tips to keep in mind:

1. Make sure that most of your questions are multiple choice or “yes or no” questions. Too many open-ended questions that require a written response are difficult to score and require too much time for individuals (respondents) to answer. A few open-ended questions will probably need to be asked but construct those questions carefully.
2. Checklists may be a consideration. This is an easy way to ask individuals (respondents) to rank ideas or concerns. Remember: at the conclusion of your survey you may have to select one course of action and ranking by respondents may help you do that.
3. Keep the survey as short and as simple as possible. If questions are hard to understand or require a lot of time to answer, respondents won’t take the time to complete the survey.
4. Make sure that your questions are unbiased. Don’t lead respondents into marking a certain answer because of the way that your questions are worded. Your research will not be pure and people may doubt your research.
5. Be sure to ask for demographic information that you might need after your results are tabulated. For example, age or gender might be an important way of breaking down results after your survey has been conducted.
6. Avoid embarrassing questions that might cause respondents to become angry or to not complete your survey.
7. Be sure to give your survey a “trial run.” Test your questions on your classmates, parents, or teachers to be sure that they are clear, straightforward, and unbiased.

2. SELECTING THE SAMPLE

It is not necessary to poll everyone in the community to get a clear idea of how people in a community feel about an issue. A representative sample (a smaller selection of individuals who take a survey) can help you gather a good number of individuals representing the different views in your community. Just be sure to consider a way to include:

- People of different age groups
- People who have different living arrangements (those who own their home, those who might rent a home, etc.)
- People who own and run businesses in the community
- Working people, students, and the elderly
- People of various ethnic groups
- Males and females

3. CONDUCTING THE SURVEY

Here are some things to keep in mind when conducting your survey:

- Prepare an introduction that every questioner can use and practice introductions. In your introduction be sure that you:
 1. Introduce yourself.
 2. Explain what school you are from or what group you are representing.
 3. Explain the purpose of the survey.
 4. Inquire as to whether the person would mind spending a few minutes to complete the survey. If the person agrees to do so, ask if they would like to fill out the survey or respond verbally to the survey questions.
- Remember that not everyone will cooperate in taking the survey. Move on to someone who will be willing.
- Keep your survey anonymous. You will get more honest results and respondents will feel less pressure to complete the survey.
- Be organized and have plenty of supplies. (surveys and writing utensils)
- Work together. You will find it easier if you are there to support each other.
- Make sure that each survey is complete before moving on to the next respondent. It's much easier to ask for clarification from that person on the spot than to try and guess a response later on.
- **BE POLITE!**

4. TABULATING SURVEY RESULTS

Before tabulating your results, be sure to write down how your sample of respondents was chosen. People who are interested in your results will also be interested in knowing this as well.

1. Count the number of completed surveys you have gathered.
2. Use a blank survey form to tabulate your results.
3. Be sure to write down your most significant findings. This might be something that you expected to find or conversely, an unusual comparison or unexpected finding.
4. Decide how to present your data. You may decide to use raw numbers, percentages, pie charts, or bar graphs. Whatever method you choose, be sure to make sure that your data is accurate and is not misrepresented in your survey.

5. Do not drop “unsure” or “no opinion” answers from your reported results as doing so might misrepresent your results.

JOURNAL ENTRY
SURVEY REFLECTION

You have now completed the survey process. Think about the steps that you completed to conduct your survey and what your survey helped you learn. In a journal entry, be sure to answer the following questions as you reflect upon the surveying process.

- **What improvements would you now make to your survey and why?**
- *What problems does any survey have to overcome?*
- **How might your survey have been helpful to the individuals who responded?**
- *How might surveying be helpful for a community issue or project?*
- **Do you think that your survey will have any lasting effects on its respondents or the community? If so, what kind of lasting effects will it have?**
- *What effect do you think opinion polls have on decision makers in a community?*

In your answer be sure to:

- Thoroughly answer all questions pertaining to the class-created survey (bolded questions) using specific examples.
- Thoroughly answer all questions pertaining to survey research in general. (italicized questions)
- Utilize data collected from the survey to answer at least 2 of the questions asked.
- Reflect upon what was learned from the survey experience and predict how new knowledge would help with the conducting of a class survey in the future.

HOLISTIC SCORING RUBRIC JOURNAL ENTRY

Holistic Scoring Survey and Data Section

Points	Description
5	In order to receive five points, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a survey with at least five statements• Create a survey that is focused on the issue• Create a survey that is unbiased• Organize data from the survey in a table format• Figure accurate percentages for each statement on the survey
4	In order to receive four points, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a survey with at least five statements• Organize data from the survey in a table format• Complete at least two of the three remaining elements
3	In order to receive three points, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a survey with at least five statements• Organize data from the survey in a table format• Complete at least one of the three remaining elements
2	In order to receive two points, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a survey with at least five statements• Organize data from the survey in a table format
1	In order to receive one point, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a survey with at least five statements
0	In order to receive zero points, students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Show no evidence of any of the elements

Issue: Should Students Go To School Year-Round? A Community Survey

1. I am happy with the current school schedule.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

2. I believe students would perform better academically with a year-round schedule.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

3. I would be interested in seeing my child go to school in the summer months.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

4. My child reads regularly in the summer months.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

5. I make sure my child continues to grow as a learner in the summer months.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

6. I have trouble keeping my child busy and happy in the summer.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree

Issue: A Community Survey

1.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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2.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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3.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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4.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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5.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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6.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3 Agree	4	5 Strongly Agree
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KWL Research Holistic Scoring Rubric

Points	Description
4	In order to receive four points, the learner will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a KWL that focuses on the issue• Use prior knowledge to fill out the K (know) section• Ask appropriate questions in the W (wonder) section• Answer questions using the Internet and traditional resources in the L (learned) section
3	In order to receive three points, the learner will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a KWL that focuses on the issue• Complete two of the remaining three elements
2	In order to receive two points, the learner will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a KWL that focuses on the issue• Complete one of the remaining three elements
1	In order to receive one point, the learner will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a KWL that focuses on the issue
0	In order to receive zero points, the learner will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have no evidence of any of the elements

Points	Description
4	<p>In order to receive a 4-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly answer all questions pertaining to the class-created survey (bolded questions) using specific examples. • Thoroughly answer all questions pertaining to survey research in general. (italicized questions) • Utilize data collected from the survey to answer at least 2 of the questions asked. • Reflect upon what was learned from the survey experience and predict how new knowledge would help with the conducting of a class survey in the future.
3	<p>In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly answer at least 3 questions pertaining to the class-created survey (bolded questions) using specific examples. • Thoroughly answer at least 3 questions pertaining to survey research in general. (italicized questions) • Utilize data collected from the survey to answer at least 1 of the questions asked. • Reflect upon what was learned from the survey experience.
2	<p>In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly answer at least 2 questions pertaining to the class-created survey (bolded questions) using specific examples. • Thoroughly answer at least 2 questions pertaining to survey research in general. (italicized questions) • Contain evidence of 1 of the 2 remaining components
1	<p>In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly answer at least 1 question pertaining to the class-created survey (bolded questions). • Thoroughly answer at least 1 question pertaining to survey research in general. (italicized questions)