Survey Examining the Perceived Value of Research

We would like you to complete this questionnaire with the most recent project you have worked on as the subject of your responses. We are interested in research, creative activities, and scholarship very broadly defined. These activities include theoretical reviews, policy analyses, literary critiques, as well as empirical studies or experiments performed by students in the social, behavioral, and natural sciences.

1. Your Academic Major: ________________________________
2. Your Academic Grade:  _Freshman  _Soph  _Junior  _Senior  _Graduate
3. What is your gender:  _Female  _Male
4. Did you receive academic credit for your participation in this project?  _Yes  _No
5. The name of Department in which this research was completed: ________________________________
6. Did you receiving any scholarship or academic monetary support for participating in the project:  _No  _Yes
7. Which of the following describes the origins of this project: (check all that apply)
   _ The project was required for one of my classes (e.g., Research Methods, required course for my major).
   _ This project was required for graduation (e.g., Senior Capstone/Thesis/Project).
   _ I received independent study/research credit for participating in the project.
   _ I volunteered or was recruited by a faculty member to participate in the project.
   _ After working under a faculty members supervision I was able to launch my own project.

Select only ONE response for the rest of the items on this survey.

8. Which of the following best describes the social context in which this project was conducted:
   a. I worked alone with very little faculty supervision.
   b. I worked alone with supportive faculty supervision.
   c. I was part of a team of students with little supervision from faculty.
   d. I was part of a team of students with supportive faculty supervision.

9. Which of the following best reflected your interest and motivation to participate in this project:
   a. I was really bored working on this project and did not get anything out of it.
   b. I was a little bored working on this project and did not get much out of it.
   c. I liked participating in this project and learned something too.
   d. I really felt engaged by this project and learned a great deal.
10. Which of the following best reflects your understanding of theories or concepts used in your project?
   a. My project addressed all relevant theories required for the assignment and I feel like I really understand the theories and concepts.
   b. My project addressed most of the relevant theories required for the assignment and I feel like I understand most of the theories and concepts.
   c. My project addressed some of the relevant theories required for the assignment but I feel like I do not really understand most of the theories and concepts.
   d. My project addressed none of the relevant theories required for the assignment and I feel like I do not understand any of the theories and concepts.

11. Which of the following best describes how you applied your experience-based knowledge of the discipline to your project?
   a. My project reveals I have a high level of practical knowledge about my discipline and that I was able to apply these experiences to my project.
   b. My project reveals I have an acceptable level of practical knowledge about my discipline and that I was able to apply some of these experiences to my project.
   c. My project reveals I have a minimal level of practical knowledge about my discipline and that I was not able to apply much of my experiences to my project.
   d. My project reveals I had little practical knowledge about my discipline and that I was unable to apply any of my experiences to my project.

12. Which of the following best describes your ability to apply theories and concepts to practical problems?
   a. My project clearly reflected my understanding of course theories and their relationship to practice, and it is clear that I exhibited strong skills in applying theories to practical problems.
   b. My project reflected I can apply most theories to practical problems, and I have average skills in applying theories to practical problems.
   c. My project reflected that I had some difficulty applying theories to practical problems, and that I have minimal skills applying theories to practical problems.
   d. My project reflects that I do not have any understanding of how to apply theories to practical problems, and that I demonstrated no skills in applying theories to practical problems.

13. Which of the following best describes your experience in the development, implementation, and performance/writing associated with this project?
   a. My project development and performance/writing included a step-by-step, methodical approach in the development of ideas, and it is obvious that I was logical in my approach to my project.
   b. My project development and performance/writing was somewhat methodical but there was a lack of cohesion in the development of ideas, and it is not clear that I was logical in my approach to my project.
   c. My project development and performance/writing was somewhat methodical but there was a lack of cohesion in the development of ideas, and I did not understand how to think logically and systematically about my project.
   d. My project development and performance/writing did not take a systematic approach, and I did not understand how to think logically and systematically about my project.
14. Which of the following best describes the extent to which your project required you to demonstrate the ability to think critically?
   a. My project required me to engage in a high level of analyzing, judging, and accepting/rejecting ideas, and I learned how to critically examine issues associated with my project.
   b. My project required me to engage in an acceptable level of analyzing, judging, and accepting/rejecting ideas, and though I learned to critically examine project issues I have to become better in performing my analyses.
   c. My project required a minimal ability to analyze, judge, accept/reject ideas; and I am not sure that I can critically examine issues associated with my project.
   d. My project required no ability to analyze, judge, accept/reject, and I would not know where to begin a critical examination of issues in my project.

15. Which of the following statements best describes the connections between your project and your disciplinary experience and knowledge?
   a. My project required a high level ability to relate disciplinary knowledge and experiences, and I understand the links between my project and my classroom experiences and disciplinary knowledge.
   b. My project helped me relate disciplinary knowledge and experience, and while I have an adequate understanding of these connections I could make these links stronger.
   c. My project led to some difficulty understanding the links between the project and my discipline, and I struggled to make these connections.
   d. My project required me to make few if any connections between my discipline and the project, and I do not feel like I was able to relate any classroom knowledge or experiences to my project.

16. Which of the following statements best describes how your project influenced the development of your planning skills?
   a. My project required me to develop a step-by-step, methodical approach toward the planning of the project, and my planning skills helped this project succeed.
   b. My project planning was somewhat methodical, but some elements of my planning was clearly disjointed.
   c. My project planning was a little methodical, but much of the planning process lacked cohesion.
   d. There was nothing systematic or methodical about my planning for this project.

17. Which of the following statements best describes how your project was related to your organizational skills?
   a. My project was well-organized and my organizational skills (in working with the team) enhanced the final project.
   b. My project was organized, but my organizational skills had little to do with the quality of the final project.
   c. My project was somewhat organized, but I am not sure that my organizational skills enhanced the team's work on the final project.
   d. My project required little organizational skill, and I did not really learn these skills through my work on the project.
18. Which of the following statements best describes how your project has influenced your problem-solving skills?
   a. My project required me to effectively handle problems and issues, and I learned how to make contingency plans as problems arose.
   b. In most cases I effectively handled problems and issues with my project; and I learned how to make contingency plans in some cases when needed.
   c. In some cases I effectively handled problems and issues with my project, but I had difficulty making contingency plans when needed.
   d. I did not effectively handled problems and issues with my project, and I did not make any contingency plans when needed.

19. Which of the following statements best describes how your project was associated you're your communication skills.
   a. I used/developed effective communication skills in working with the team and/or with clients to complete the project.
   b. I used the best communication skills I possessed in working with the team and/or with clients to complete the project, but I recognize the need to improve in this area.
   c. I possess weak communication skills and I did a poor job of communicating with the team and with clients to complete the project.
   d. My communication skills are very poor and I did not communication much with the team and with clients to complete the project.

20. Which of the following statements best summarizes your experience with this project:
   a. This was one of the best academic experiences of my career and I will definitely do another project.
   b. This was a good academic experience and I plan to do another project.
   c. This academic experience was alright but I will not do this again.
   d. This was the worst academic experience of my career and I will never do another project.
Each of the following items is to be answered with the scale below:

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On a scale of 1 - 7, rate each of the following items in terms of the importance for that item in becoming involved in research as an undergraduate (or graduate) student. Again, research is broadly defined as scholarship, creative activity, etc.

1. To have the experience of actually doing research.
2. To increase your knowledge of a discipline or area.
3. To experience or develop a mentoring relationship with faculty.
4. To obtain a knowledgeable letter of recommendation for graduate school.
5. To be academically challenged and pushed towards your potential.
6. To find out if research is really for you.
7. To help find what you want to study in graduate school.
8. To increase confidence and feelings of achievement.
9. To present papers at conferences.
10. To network with other bright capable students.
11. To develop and refine critical thinking skills.
12. To increase chances of getting a job.
13. To improve understanding of statistical methods.
14. To improve understanding of methodological approaches.
15. To develop more effective writing skills.
16. To strengthen lab/performance skills.
17. To improve public speaking and communication skills.
18. To obtain a publication in the discipline.
19. To help better understand courses in the discipline.
20. To help me score better on graduate school entry exams (ex., GRE, MCAT).
Each of the following items is to be answered with the scale below:

1  Not at All Accurate
2  3  5  6  7  Very Accurate

On a scale of 1-7, rate each of the following items in terms of how accurate or descriptive each was during the conduct of your project.

1. I ended up doing a lot of busy work on my project.
2. I did not understand much of what we were doing on our project, or why.
3. There were times when I felt like I was in over my head.
4. I got a good look at the process of conducting research from start to finish.
5. I sometimes felt I was put in a position I was not ready for.
6. I thought most of the work I was assigned was mindless and tedious.
7. I repeated the same work for my project over and over.
8. I had to work a lot of unusual hours for this project.
9. I felt like I was fully engaged in the project with members of our work group.
10. I did not like revising the work I submitted as part of this project.
11. The feedback I received from my faculty mentor was useful and reasonable.
12. At times I felt very frustrated with myself or others during my project.
13. Participating in this project was very time consuming.
14. My faculty mentor/work group met often to review progress on the project.
15. Some of the expectations of me were not realistic.
16. I found it very difficult to work with some people on the project.
17. I value the mentoring I received from my faculty supervisor.
18. I did not get enough out of this project that I would do this again.
19. This was a very positive and academically meaningful experience.
20. Participating in the project helped me better understand ethical issues.