

Surveyor: _____

Respondent: _____

Date: _____

Geometry: Why Bother?

Opinions

- Our country must emphasize Geometry and other college prep courses so that we are competitive in STEM careers.
- The traditional math pathway is tried and true. Alternative ways of teaching don't work, and alternative courses sell our students short.
- Math curriculums need to be more flexible and tailored to the abilities of students and the needs of employers.
- The problem isn't the courses - it is the teaching. Teachers need support and training to be more effective with Geometry and other conceptually challenging subjects.
- Geometry should be allowed to be separated from the traditional college prep courses, and it should be offered as part of multiple math pathways - along with statistics, data analysis, and other courses.
- Geometry, and the other "college prep" courses, are dinosaurs and should be taught only when needed. There are better ways to teach the math and "thinking skills" people need nowadays.
- _____

Beliefs –

- Geometry is embedded in the traditional math pathway (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2/ Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus).
- Geometry is essential for visual arts and pattern recognition tasks, not just STEM careers.
- Geometry is different than most math classes - it involves abstract reasoning and spatial relationship thinking.
- Our schools have an obligation to prepare students for college.
- Colleges perpetuate the traditional math pathway by requiring "college-prep" courses, so high schools must stick with college prep and are not able to offer alternative math pathways.
- To do well in high school geometry, most students need to learn basic geometry concepts in elementary and middle school first. Teachers need to be supported better to be successful.
- Students with different learning abilities can be very successful in technical careers, but they get labelled as slow learners early and held back in math.
- The math skills needed in today's industries and careers are not the same as years ago.
- Many careers need alternative courses: statistics, computer sciences, data analytics, and finance. College prep prerequisites make it hard to fit these other classes in a schedule.
- Our schools have an obligation to adapt and prepare students for the real world.
- Rather than college-prep math courses, some students need consumer math.
- Some students struggle or have learning challenges, and they benefit from alternative teaching methods or taking Geometry later in high school.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

INSTRUCTIONS

For the Respondent

Review the survey. You should be able to find some statements that you agree with and check them off. Feel free to add some of your own opinions and beliefs. Perhaps add a personal note. Then, ask that the document be stored in a way that a future generation will discover it.

For the Surveyor

Find someone in your life who is part of an older generation. Don't confront them. Just work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone you trust can access it in the year 2070. Storing a digital image is a fine idea, but how many of the thousands of images you have stored will ever see the light of day? Consider preserving a physical copy.

Background Information

There are many strongly held opinions about this survey topic. There is some uncertainty about how it will play out over the next few decades. Many of us will not be here to defend ourselves when future generations judge us. More importantly, how will our direct descendants remember us?

You can fill out and archive this survey for yourself. Or you can ask someone else to fill it out and archive it for them. The survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a topic without being biased. Whoever fills out the survey should be able to find a few comments that they agree with. There are blank lines for respondents to write-in their own beliefs. If respondents do not have clearly defined beliefs on this topic, then it is OK for them to take a little time and do some research.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or backup drives. It won't hurt to print and store key items from your life: birth and marriage certificates, concert tickets, family portraits, and this survey! Use acid-free paper (most ordinary copy paper will do). Keep items away from sunlight, heat, humidity – a closet is better than the attic or garage.

Call to Action

Be ready for the year 2070. We may not be there, but our adult children or grandchildren probably will be. At a family gathering, our descendants might be pulled aside by a young child. That child will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, "What were they thinking?" Don't let your adult descendants be caught flat-footed. Don't let them misrepresent your views – throw you under the bus – and blame you and your generation for the state of the world in 2070. Make sure your adult descendants have a record of your thoughts and beliefs. This survey is the simplest way to do that.

Good luck