

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 wrongfully 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. Primary school teachers need more support and resources.
- ☐ Students with different learning abilities can be very successful in technical careers, but they get labelled as slow learners early and held back in all courses when they struggle with 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

Call to Action

What will our great-great-grandchildren say about us?

Imagine the year 2070. We may not be there, but our children or grandchildren probably will be. Their grandchildren will ask about the olden days, back in the early 21st century, saying, “What were they thinking? Didn’t grown-ups know back then how bad this was going to be?”

These survey topics may seem vast and impersonal. We may shrug and claim that our actions as individuals don’t matter. As one of more than 8 billion people, it’s easy for us to hide in the herd and dodge blame. However, these topics become personal, and we feel more accountable, when we realize that our direct descendants will judge us for our actions and beliefs.

Our grandchildren will be caught flat-footed – or worse, misrepresent our beliefs! – when their kids confront them about our generation’s legacy. Don’t let *your* grandchildren throw you under the bus when talking to *their* grandkids in the year 2070. (Unless you deserve to be blamed for the state of the world in the late 21st century.) Ensure your descendants have an accurate record of your thoughts and beliefs. These surveys are the simplest way to do that.

Guidance

Each survey is meant to cover a wide range of beliefs about a single topic without being biased. Respondents 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 that uncertainty may lead to some healthy research and introspection before they feel ready to share their beliefs with posterity.

This survey may inspire you to archive hard copy versions of other documents and photos that are important to you. We all have thousands of digital files and images stored in the cloud or on backup drives. Consider storing physical copies of 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. How about a time capsule?

For the Respondent

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

For the Surveyor

Take the time to sit down with people who matter to you, especially older folks. Don’t confront them. Instead, work with them to capture their point of view. Archive the document in a way that someone will be able to access it in the year 2070.

Good luck