

Activity: Inquiry Projects

Source: Kari Beaty, Math

Materials needed: Worksheet handouts

Goals: Students will have a chance to demonstrate knowledge, subjective experience, and opinion.

Assessment: Depending on type of question: some are correct/incorrect and some are complete/incomplete. Marked with comment as needed.

Graded? Yes, as a percent of the Homework grade.

Method: Inquiry Projects are a flexible kind of homework used to check in on student engagement, comprehension and subjective experience. The “projects” are often in reaction to a lesson and allow the student to respond more fully than they might in a class discussion with a number of peers speaking. There might be as many as five questions. Some might have a student demonstrate the use of a concept (“solve this problem using this method”) or create a new solution (“create a math problem that would feature the following elements”) or a chance to show creative interpretation of an issue (“based on what your students’ responses, how could you introduce the next lesson?”).

Use Inquiry Projects to allow students a chance to show you how their understanding of a concept is coming along. Use them to see how a student solves problems creatively. Use them for students to show you individual data they have collected.

Possibilities:

- Give a brief overview of data from interviews or research
- Draft thesis statements or plans for a larger project in the future
- Respond to a text or concept
- React to important issues within the field of study