The Impact of Student Input: Using Student Interest Inventories in Gifted Education

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Overview

- Today we will take a look at...
  - What is an interest inventory?
  - How interest inventories are useful
  - Sample inventories
  - How to create an inventory
  - Student results
  - A link to several example inventories

What is an interest inventory?

- A tool used to match a student's learning preferences or interests with appropriate instructional strategies

- Much like the relationship of a doctor/patient

- As a way to gather information so that instruction can be tailored to accommodate for student learning styles when appropriate

Sample Interest Inventories

Please answer these questions to the best of your ability. You may skip answers you find to be uncomfortable.

1. What is your favorite book from childhood? _____

_____

2. What is the farthest point you've traveled away from home? _____

_____

3. What is a recent movie you enjoyed, and what did you like about it? _____

_____

4. What is your favorite place to be and why? _____

_____

_____

_____ Actor

_____ Director

_____ Design Costumes

_____ Make Costumes

_____ Light / Sound Person

_____ Design Scenery

_____ Build and Paint Scenery

_____ Playwright

_____ Musician

_____ Dancer

_____ Singer

_____ Business Manager

_____ Design Advertisements

_____ Photographer (to prepare photos for newspapers, bulletin boards, and other advertisements)

2. Pretend that someday you will be the famous author of a well-known book. What type of book will it be (History, Science, Poetry, Fiction, Fashion, *etc.*) and what will the book be about?

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Why are interest inventories useful to teachers?

Three broad areas of student characteristics we need to be aware of:

- Abilities (through identification and programming)
- Interests (personal, occupational, hobbies, etc.)
- Learning Styles (how a student is allowed to pursue a topic)

The big idea

Teachers should make **informed decisions** about the areas or units **within** which learning style differences can be **incorporated**.

What kinds of things do we ask on interest inventories?

- About Learning Styles:
  - How do you learn best?
  - Do you prefer to work in a group or alone?

- About Student Interests:
  - Rate your favorite subjects in school
  - What activities do you participate in after school?

- About Student Abilities:
  - What courses have you taken previous to this?
  - What are your strengths? What are your limitations?
  - Which class do you work the hardest in? Which class do you learn the fastest in?

5 Keys to Designing Your Own Inventory

*Purpose – how do you intend to use the inventory in a purposeful way to plan instruction?

*Accurate – is the information you are collecting accurate and reflective of your students honest thoughts?

*Non-threatening – not graded, not shared with the world, used appropriately

*Age-appropriate language – is it written in a way that a kid can understand?

*Open-ended vs. closed-ended questions – will your results be easy to interpret?

How to design an inventory on Google

Page 1 of 1
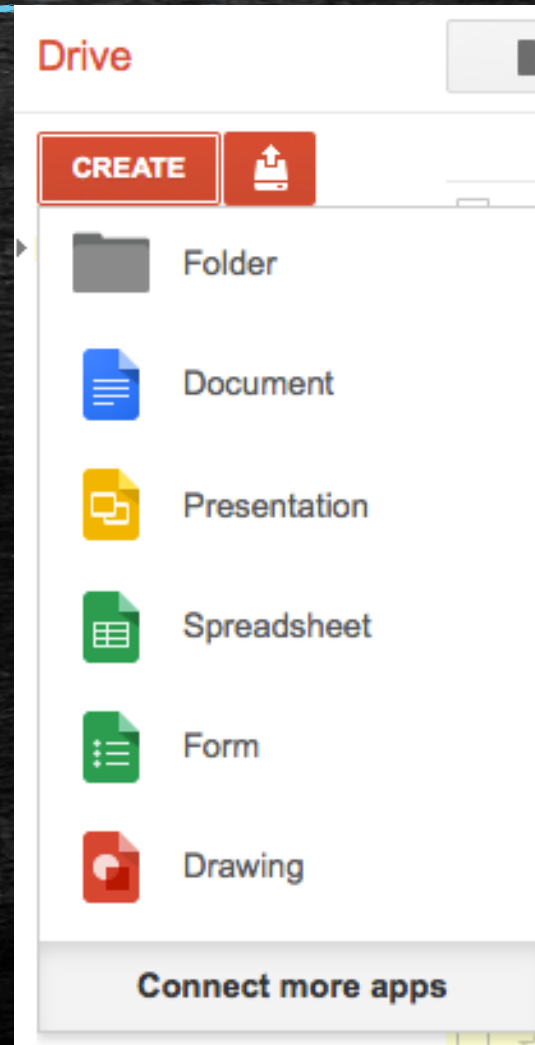
Example

Form description

Question Title

Untitled Question

Help Text

Question Type

Multiple choice ▾ ☐ Go to page based on answer

○ Option 1

○ Click to add option   or add "Other"

ample

description

n Title   What is your favorite class?

xt

n Type

| Text |
| Paragraph text |
| Multiple choice |
| Checkboxes |
| Choose from a list |
| Scale |
| Grid |

answer

Confirmation message

Your response has been recorded.

☑ Show link to submit another response

☐ Publish and show a link to the results of this form ⓘ

☐ Allow responders to edit responses after submitting

Send form

Link to share

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1iEYf2L5L

Embed

Share link via: [g+] [f] [twitter]

✉ Send form via email:

+ Enter names, email addresses, o

Looking to invite other editors to th

Choose response destination

FORM RESPONSES   SP

◉ New spreadsheet

Example (Responses)

○ New sheet in an existing spreadsheet...

Modify, re-arrange, and an
affecting original form r

☐ Always create a new Spreadsheet ?

Create   **Keep responses only in Forms**   Learn More

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	Your Grade

D	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
								If
								y
								w
				Which pace do you prefer when working and learning in school?		Which of these topics are you MOST interested in? Choose no more than 5	a
Your Grade	What is your second favorite subject in school?	What is your LEAST favorite subject in school?	How do you prefer to work and learn in school?	How do you prefer to work and learn in school?		How do you learn best?		y
5th	Math	Science	By yourself	Being able to choose your own activities	Working quickly to get things done	By seeing = Visual Learner (videos, charts, photographs, reading)	Art (drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery), Music (vocal, instrumental, composition), Reading (fiction, non-fiction), Writing (stories, poetry, myths, reports), Math (algebra, statistics, data, computation)	D be al
						By doing =	Art (drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery), Drama (acting, stage, directing), Music (vocal, instrumental	

+ ≡   Form Responses ▾

Edit View   Insert   Format   Data   Tools | Form   Help   Last edit was yester

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Grade

D	◄ ►	G		H

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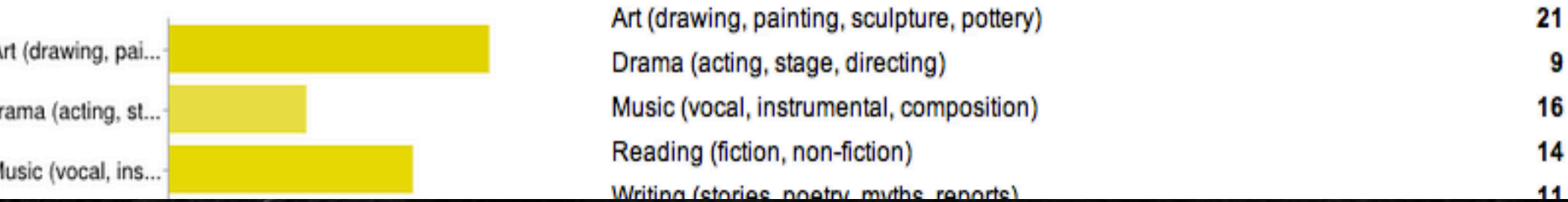
Edit form

Send form

Go to live form

Embed form in a webpage...

Show summary of responses

Unlink form

do you learn best?

By doing ... [29]

By hearing... [4]
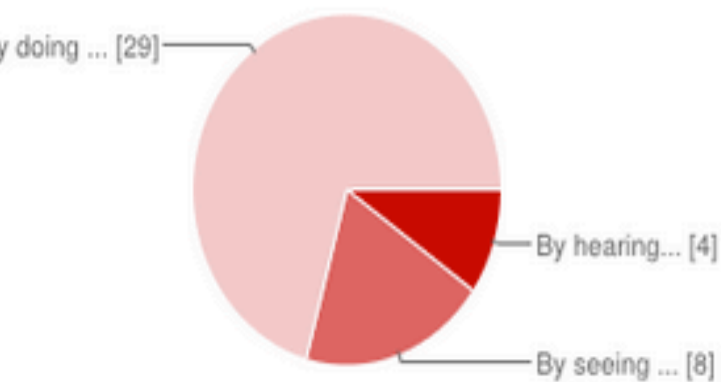
By seeing ... [8]

By hearing = Auditory Learner (lectures, audiotapes, speeches) **4**

By seeing = Visual Learner (videos, charts, photographs, reading) **8**

By doing = Kinesthetic Learner (experiments, building models, hands-on activities) **29**

ch of these topics are you MOST interested in? Choose no more than 5

Art (drawing, pai...

rama (acting, st...

Music (vocal, ins...

Art (drawing, painting, sculpture, pottery) **21**

Drama (acting, stage, directing) **9**

Music (vocal, instrumental, composition) **16**

Reading (fiction, non-fiction) **14**

Writing (stories, poetry, myths, reports) **11**

**ou could learn about anything you wanted, what would you choose to learn about? Choose one topic and explain why you would want
earn about that topic.**

blem solving | other languges or foriun places because i love learing about different places and there history and culture | How to predict

ther like snow ect.I want to learn that subject because I kind of know how to predict if it's going to do something but I want to know more

anced weather predicting. | Sports because it would be fun to learn many different sports games | Different cultures because I want to

n about parts of my family | I would learn about technology because I want to know everything I can about it. | I have always wanted to

n a different language I don't care what language | Cat because I want to know about the nine lives myth | Robotics.I want to know how to

it in the future | I would want to learn more about robotics because I have always wanted to make a robot. | I would choose the

erground railroad it interests me and makes me think plus I love history. | Drama, as in acting classes. I love acting, and it would be cool to

a head start in a possible career. | Cooking because it intruiges me | Chemistry | Space | science | Learn to speak and read Jappense, I
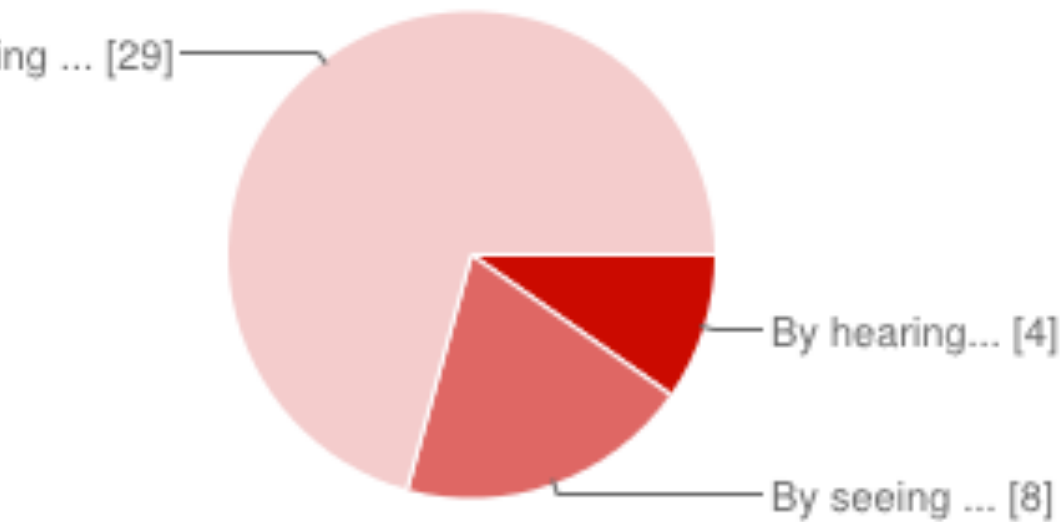
k it would just be fun and a challenge | Chemistry | Music composition | The cycle of a car. | Designing games, I want to learn about
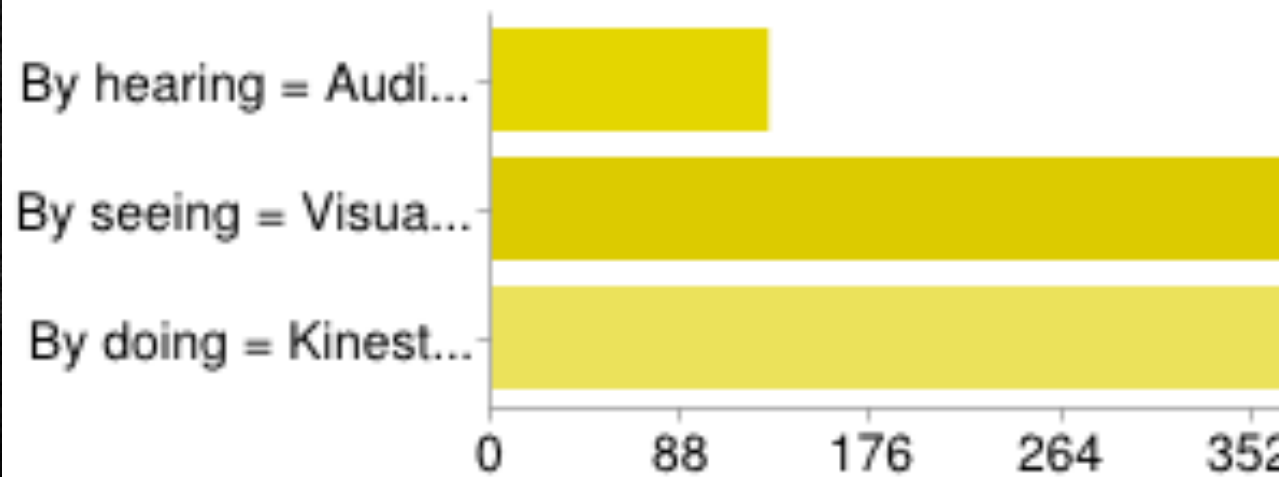
your favorite subject in school?

Stu... [5]

Writing/La... [4]

ence [10]

Other [5]

Math [10]

eading [7]
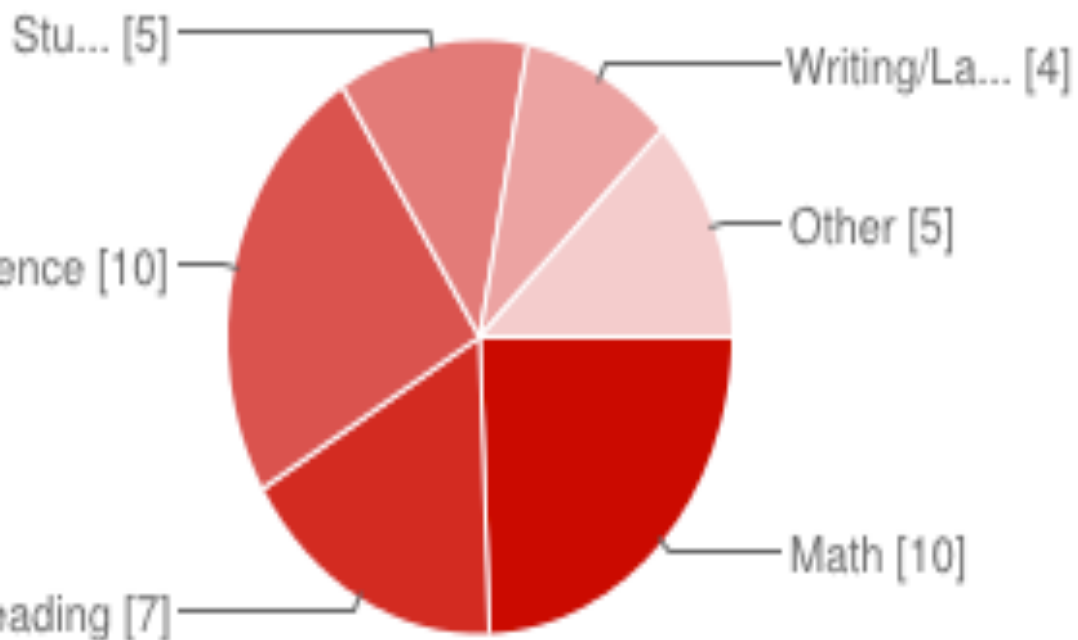
Subject	Count	%
Math	10	24%
Reading	7	17%
Science	10	24%
Social Studies	5	12%
Writing/Language Arts	4	10%
Other	5	12%

you learn best?

ing ... [29]

By hearing... [4]

By seeing ... [8]

How do you learn best?

By hearing = Audi...

By seeing = Visua...

By doing = Kinest...

| 0 | 88 | 176 | 264 | 352 |

you prefer to work and learn in school?

- By yourself
- e other pe...
- small group
- large group
- ng a leader
- g a follower

0 4 8 12 16 20

How do you prefer to work and learn in school?

- By yourself
- With one other pe...
- In a small group
- In a large group
- Being a leader
- Being a follower
- Being able to cho...
- Having a teacher ...
- Working quickly t...
- Working at a rela...

0 71 142 213 28

Left chart (purple):

Category	Value
he teacher ...	~1
or more diff...	~5
plain about it	0
Nothing	8
neone else...	9
something...	~17
a HAL pro...	12
Other	~17

x-axis: 0, 4, 8, 12, 16

Right chart (blue):

Category	Value
Tell the teacher ...	
Ask for more diff...	
Complain about it	
Nothing	~300
Help someone else...	~215
Work on something...	~330
Go to the counsel...	
Other	~190

x-axis: 0, 84, 168, 252, 33
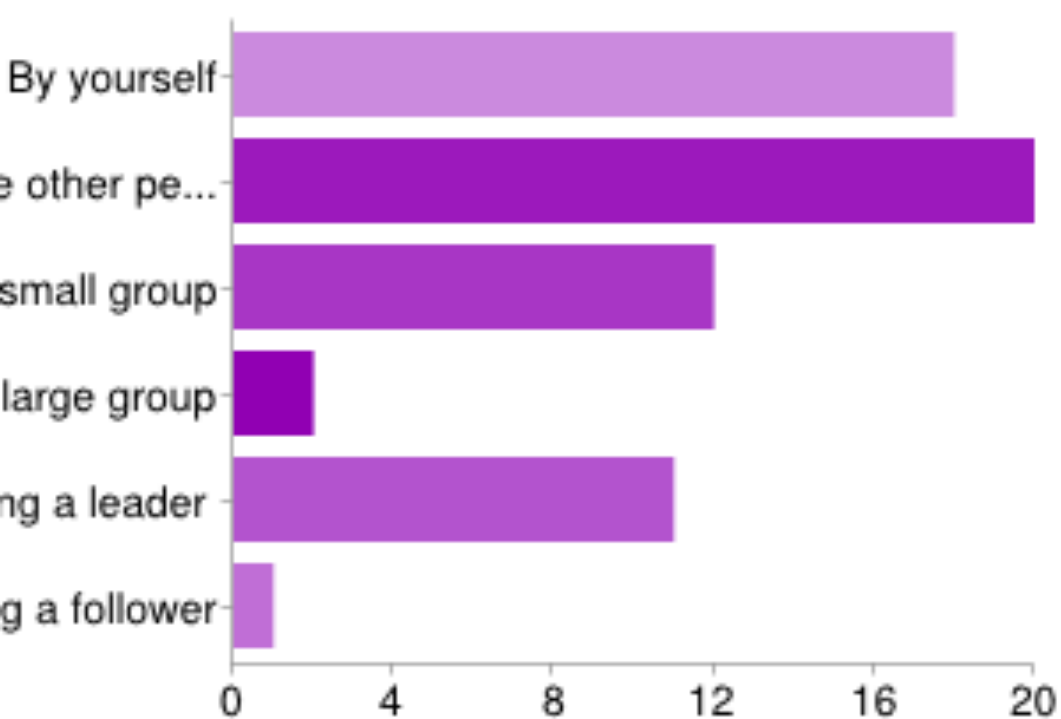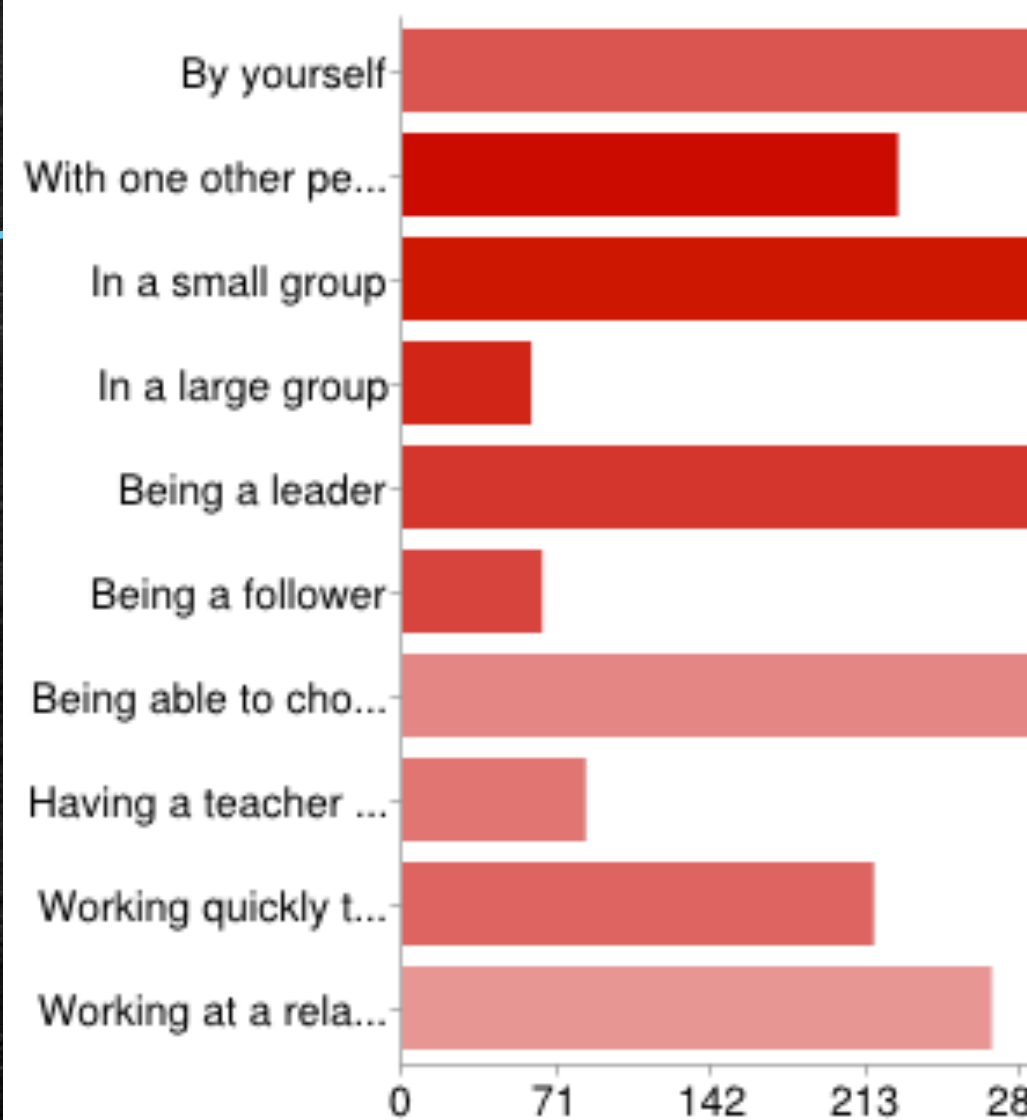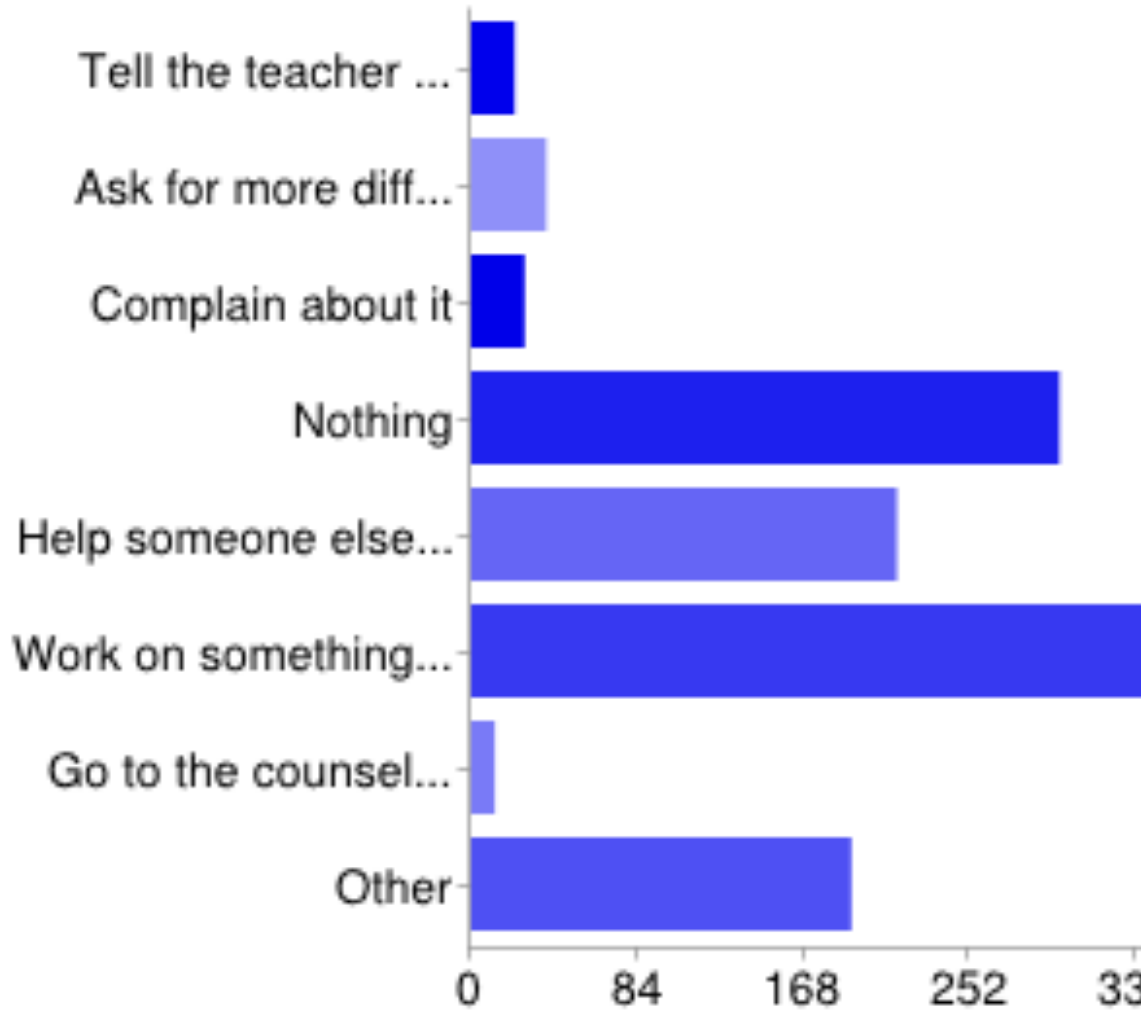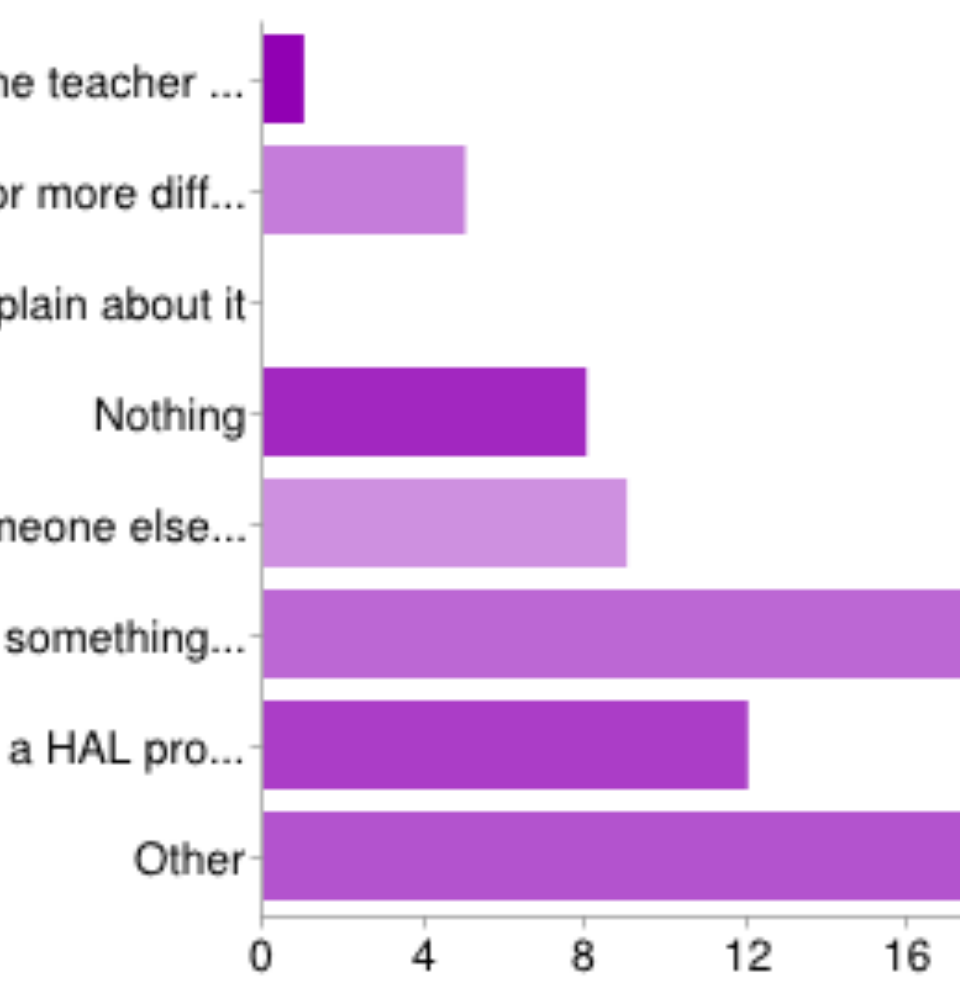
We asked :
   Do you have any questions about being a gifted student?

ne responses:

n I get kicked out of the gifted program?

 I take some sort of test to be gifted?

 I have more homework because I'm gifted?

y can't I be in HAL all day?

ructional Implications:

sign informational pieces that are accessible to students and in language students
understand

open about identification and the implications of identification

ovide an outlet to answer questions about affective gifted issues

What can I do to implement the results? (per Richard Cash, p. 56)

- Group students by interest

- Allow students to opt out of assigned work

- Allow students to design units, lessons, or projects

- Allow independent projects

- Incorporate authentic mentors and coaches

- Develop community or service-based projects

- Create an online wiki to share information

- Develop SIGS

Other interesting tidbits students shared….

- "I hate it when teachers keep teaching the same thing over and over. I heard it once and don't need to hear it 1,000 more times!"

- I focus better when the class is quiet and that I am plenty capable of doing my work on my own. In fact if we have the option to work in groups I'll prefer to work alone.

- That people my age sometimes do very stupid things, want to talk and socialize, and have fun

- I'm not a terribly fast learner but I'm smarter than they think. I also wish they'd take me more seriously as a person

- That I really want to learn but I having a huge talking problem.

- That I'm not an ordinary kid who comes to school because he has to. That I like school and want to learn and get challenges to solve.

Resources for you

Check our our Google folder for sample inventories from a variety of sources:

http://goo.gl/MfSX5

Or contact us:

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Megan Kinen – megan.kinen@bpsne.net