

Appendix B

Student and Teacher Interview Guides

STUDENT INTERVIEW GUIDE COVER SHEET

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Age: _____ Sex: M F Name of School: _____

Borough: _____ Year in School: _____

Residence: What neighborhood _____

Junior High School Attended: _____ Elementary School: _____

Type of Secondary School: Public or Catholic

If Public High School:	If Public School:
Neighborhood	Regents Classes
Vocational	Non-Regents Classes
Educational-Option	
Science	

Usual arrival time: _____ Usual departure time: _____

Are you enrolled in special program such as a magnet or educational option in this school: _____

Do you work after school? _____

Do you work on the weekends: _____ Total hours of work per week: _____

STUDENT INTERVIEW GUIDE

(Responses were written in after the questions during the original interviews.)

1. Please tell me what happens in your school during the school week. What classes do you take? What labs or special programs do you go to?
 2. Do you have a different teacher for each subject? *Probe:* Which subjects are combined?
 3. Are there any special programs after school or before school that you go to?
 4. Does this school give you a list of books that your teachers want you to read for each course such as English?
 5. Did this school give you a list of books to read during the summer before school started?
- (Skip question 6 for high school students.)
6. In your school, do you go to a separate English and a separate Language Arts class, or are the two classes combined?
 7. Are you enrolled in a separate reading class? Is it a Chapter I class?
 8. In this school, do you have a time to read to yourself during the school day? *Probe:* What is this reading period like?
 9. How long does this reading period last?
 10. How many times a week do you have this reading period?
 11. Do you choose what you read during this silent reading period? What do you usually read during this silent reading period?
 12. What does your teacher do during this reading period?
 13. In this school, do you buy your books or do you borrow them from the school?
 14. What kinds of things do you work on in your English class?
 15. Does your English class that you are taking now have a particular name, like English I or English II?
 16. Tell me about the books that you use in your English class. If little response, then *probe:* Do you have a textbook? What else do you read in your English class?
 17. What are these books like that your teacher asks you to read for your English class?
 18. How much of the books do you really read?
 19. Does your English teacher or reading teacher or language arts teacher take you to the library each week?
 20. Do you go to the library on your own each week?
 21. When was the last time that you went to the library?

22. About how many books have you taken out of the school library this year?
23. Which book was the best one?
24. Getting back to the books, are you allowed to take all of your English books home? *Probe:* Which of your English books are you allowed to take home?
25. How many books have you read this year for your English class?
26. Which of the books that you have read in year in English would you recommend to a friend to read?
27. Are there other good books that you read this year in English class?
28. Which was the worst book assigned so far this year in English class?
29. What kind of shape are your English books in?
30. How many times a week do you take books home in order to do English homework?
31. We talked about buying books before, and you said that you buy _____ books in this school. *Probe if appropriate:* Does this ever change? Do any of your teachers ever ask you to buy paperback books? (The next three questions will then only be asked for students who have ever bought books.)
32. Which books have you bought so far this year?
33. Where do you get the money to buy these books?
34. Where do you buy these books?

If the student has a social studies class, then the next thirteen questions will be asked.

35. What have you worked on so far this year in your social studies class? What kinds of things are you studying now in social studies?
36. Does your social studies class that you are taking now have a particular name, like Social Studies I or Social Studies II or Global History?
37. Tell me about the books that you use in your social studies class. If little response, then *probe:* Do you have a textbook? What else do you read in your social studies class?
38. What are these books like that your social studies teacher asks you to read?
39. Does your social studies teacher take you to the library each week?

40. Getting back to the books, are you allowed to take all of your social studies books home? If not, which social studies books are you allowed to take home? Which social studies books are you not allowed to take home?
41. How many times a week do you take books from your social studies class home in order to do homework?
42. How many books have you read this year for your social studies class?
43. Which of the books that you have read in year in social studies would you recommend a friend to read?
44. Are there other good books that you read this year in social studies class?
45. Which was the worst book assigned so far this year in social studies class?
46. If appropriate—that is, affirmative in 13 or 31: Does your social studies teacher have you buy any of the books you read for social studies class?
47. Which social studies books have you bought so far this year?

The next thirteen questions will only be asked of students who take reading or language arts in addition to English and social studies. Skip to 61 if student has a Chapter I class, but not a language arts class. Skip to 73 if student doesn't have a separate language arts class or Chapter I class.

48. What do you work on in your language arts class?
49. Does your language arts class that you are taking now have a particular name, like Language Arts I or Language Arts II?
50. Tell me about the books that you use in your language arts class. If little response, then *probe*: Do you have a textbook? What else do you read in your language arts class? What are the books in language arts class like?
51. Does your language arts teacher or reading teacher take you to the library each week?
52. Getting back to the books, are you allowed to take all of your language arts books home? *Probe if appropriate*: Which books are you allowed to take home? Which books aren't you allowed to take home?

53. How many books have you read this year for your language arts class?
54. Which of the books that you have read in year in language arts would you recommend a friend to read?
55. Are there other good books that you read this year in language arts class?
56. Which was the worst book assigned so far this year in language arts class?

The next three questions will only be asked if student has previously said that he or she has bought books:

57. Does your language arts teacher have you buy any of the books you read for language arts class?
58. Which books for have you bought so far this year?
59. Where do you get the money to buy these books?
60. Where do you buy these books?
61. Some schools special programs for reading. Some of these programs are called Reading Enrichment, or Chapter I or PSEN. I would like to ask you if you are in any of these special programs. Do you go to a special reading program at any time during the week? What is it called?
62. Tell me about the books that you use in your special reading class. If little response, then *probe*: Do you have a textbook? Do you have workbooks? What do you read in your reading class? What are the books in your reading class like?
63. Does your reading teacher take you to the library each week?
64. Getting back to the books, are you allowed to take all of your reading books home? *Probe if appropriate*: Which books are you allowed to take home? Which books aren't you allowed to take home?
65. How many books have you read this year for your reading class?
66. Which of the books that you have read in year in reading would you recommend a friend to read?
67. Are there other good books that you read this year in reading class?
68. Which was the worst book assigned so far this year in reading class?

The next three questions will only be asked if student has previously said that he or she has bought books:

69. Does your reading teacher have you buy any of the books you read for reading class?
70. Which books for have you bought so far this year?
71. Where do you get the money to buy these books?
72. Where do you buy these books?
73. In total, in all of your classes, how many books have your teachers had you read this year?
74. How do the teachers know that you read the books?
75. Do you like writing book reports?
76. How many book reports have you written so far this year?
77. Do you like taking tests on books?
78. About how many tests on books have you taken so far this year?
79. In general, what are the textbooks like that you have used this year?
80. What about any other books that the school has assigned, what are they like?

TEACHER INTERVIEW GUIDE

Teacher Cover Sheet

Name: _____ Date _____
 School _____ Department _____
 Years at This School: _____ Years in Teaching _____
 State Licenses Held: _____
 Highest Level of Education: _____
 Any Administrative Duties: _____

 Any Duties in Extracurricular Programs: _____

 Any Duties in Staff Development: _____

Public School Teacher Interview Guide

These are the questions composed February 11, 1996; questions 2–4 and 34–39 were added on March 1, 1996, after the first interview. Responses were taped and then transcribed.

1. How has the school year been so far?
2. What are the students like in your school? Could you describe them, please?
3. What neighborhoods do the students come from?
4. Do students in your school choose your classes or are they scheduled into them?
5. What classes are you teaching this year? How many minutes does each class last? Are the sections together for the entire year or only one semester?
6. What kind of homework do you give your students in these classes this year?
7. What are your tests based on? In other words, what do your students need to study for your tests?
8. There has been talk about giving teachers more influence over budgeting? Who makes decisions about such items as buying new books for your classes?
9. Which new books were you able to order this year?
10. If applicable, how many copies of each title?
11. How many students do you have? In other words, does each student have a copy of each book? Can they take the books home or do the books stay in school?
12. We have talked about new books. Now, I'd like to look at all the reading available to the students? Which textbooks, paperbacks, magazines, newspapers, are your students reading for your class this year? What are all the titles?
13. Do you have your students read in class? Out loud or silently? How many times a week, for how long?
14. Do you hand out a booklist or a syllabus with reading assignments each semester? May I have a copy of your syllabus?
15. How do you like the books you are using this year?
16. About how many pages a week do they read in their textbook or paperback for homework for your class?
17. How do you know that they have done this reading?
18. Now I would like to ask some questions about how the students feel about the books they are reading. What do you think your students think of the books they are reading for your class? Any comments which really stick out in your mind?

19. Which books do you think your students have especially enjoyed this year?
20. Does your school or department have a procedure to evaluate what students think of the books they have been given?
21. Can you have the students buy paperback for your class? Is there a school policy about asking students to buy books beyond what the school provides? Or is this decision left up to individual teachers?
22. If applicable, which paperbacks did you ask them to buy this year?
23. In some schools—I.S. 51, for example—the PTA provides some funds for additional books? Any help from the PTA here?
24. What do you think of the books your students have?
25. How effective is your school in building the habit of reading in students?
26. Some teachers say that they see students who don't like to read. These students actively resist reading and may try to turn the class against reading assignments. Do you see resistance to reading assignments in your classes? If applicable, how do you deal with it?
27. How do you think students developed this resistance to reading?
28. What is the library in the school like in terms of books that you would like for your students to read?
29. About how many books have your students taken out of the library and read for your class this year?
30. Who are your favorite writers? Did you use any of these writers in school this year?
31. About how much does your school spent on books per student each year?
32. What do you think of this level of spending?
33. What changes, if any, would you like to see in terms of how your school obtains books?
34. What else should I ask you about books and reading and homework in your school? What additional questions could I ask to find out more about how your school deals with reading?
35. *For veteran teachers with more than two years at a school:* You have probably since more than one principal at this school. How many principals have you worked with? How effective have they been in improving the reading skills of students in this high school?
36. In your years at this school, what has the union done to improve education in the classrooms?

37. What has the teachers' choice program done for your classes? How does it work in your building? What have you been able to buy with it? Do you know the exact amount it provides?
38. What has the training been like this year? What has the training been like in general over your career?
39. Are teachers treated as professionals in your school? If applicable, what changes would you like to see in how teachers are treated in your school?
40. What else should I ask you about your school?