

NetDay Focus Group Discussion Questions

Internet Access

1. Do you have Internet access at your home?
 - Yes = _____
 - No = _____If "No" where outside of school do you go online?

2. Is that access dialup, cable, DSL? (list all answers provided – note most popular with your group)

3. Where do you usually access the Internet for schoolwork – at home or at school?
 - Home = _____
 - School = _____

4. Where do you usually access the Internet for schoolwork while on your school grounds – what classrooms or labs?

5. Do the majority of your friends have Internet access at home? What percentage?

6. Do you use the Internet to help you with your schoolwork?
 - For what classes?

 - How does it help you?

7. When do you go online – what time of day most often?

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Topic of Interest: High School Students' Internet Use & Attitudes



8. Do you find there are roadblocks to using the Internet at your school? What are they?

9. How do those roadblocks affect your abilities to use the Internet for school work? What can be done to eliminate or reduce those roadblocks?

10. How do you think your school can improve access to the Internet for students?

11. If you were describing the Internet to someone who has never heard of it before, how would you describe it within an education sense? *(list all answers provided)*

12. Are you familiar with the term, "Digital Divide?" *(Do not prompt this answer)*
(If they are familiar with the term, ask the following questions. If not, move on. Do not explain to the students what the term means.)
 - What does that term mean? Do you think a Digital Divide exists at your school, in your community? Can you give examples of it?

13. Do you use the Internet more in school or away from school?

Perceptions About Teachers

14. Who is more sophisticated about technology– you or your teachers?

15. How does your use of the Internet compare with your teachers' use of the Internet?

16. Do your teachers assign schoolwork that requires the use of the Internet on a regular basis? Give us an example of such an assignment.

17. Do your teachers regularly enhance their lesson plans with Internet research or activities? Do you think your teachers use the Internet to make their lessons more interesting or current?

18. Do your teachers have specific rules about how you can use the Internet for schoolwork? What are some of those rules?

19. Do students regularly abide by those rules or do they ignore those rules?

20. Which teachers do you think are the most sophisticated about technology in your school? (get specific examples – names, classes etc) Why do you say that?

21. What would you like your teachers to know about how to improve using the Internet for schoolwork?

Internet Usage

22. Are you a light, moderate or heavy Internet user? (If prompted for an explanation, define usage heaviness as follows: heavy usage = every day use, moderate usage = a few times a week, light usage = once a week.)

- Light = _____
- Moderate = _____
- Heavy = _____

23. How many minutes or hours a day are you online?

- Under a hour = _____
- 1 – 3 hours = _____
- 4 – 6 hours = _____
- More than 6 hours = _____ (how many hours?)

24. Do you consider yourself a beginner, intermediate or expert on Internet uses?

- Beginner = _____
- Intermediate = _____
- Expert = _____

25. Do you consider your teachers on a whole to be beginners, intermediates or experts on Internet uses?

- Beginner = _____
- Intermediate = _____
- Expert = _____

26. Do you have an email account? More than one? How many?

27. How long have you had your original email account?

28. Do you use AIM? How often?

29. Imagine that one day you were told that you would no longer have access to the Internet anywhere to help you with your schoolwork. What would be your reaction?

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30. Would that be a problem for you or not – why?

31. How do you search for information online?

32. Do you have a favorite search engine that you usually use? *(list all given – note most popular for your group)*

33. What websites do you access most often to help you with your schoolwork? *(list all given – note most popular for your group)*

34. What website do you access most often that is not for schoolwork? *(list all given – note most popular for your group)*

35. Does anything frustrate you when you are online?

36. What do you like about the Internet; what do you dislike?

- Likes:

- Dislikes:

37. If you had an assignment to research a particular question and you found the exact question and answer online, would copying (cut and paste) that answer for your homework be cheating?

- Yes = _____
- No = _____

38. Do you consider it cheating to copy materials from a website? Is it plagiarism? Do you know students who do that regularly?

39. Have your teachers talked to you about cheating and plagiarism using online materials? Which teachers, when?

40. Do your teachers have email addresses? Do you email with your teachers?

41. Do you think it would be beneficial to email your teachers? What would you email them about?

42. Do you seek out college, career and/or job training information online?

Overall Perceptions

43. Would you consider your high school to be very technology savvy, moderately technology savvy or technology naïve?

“My high school is”

- Very technology savvy = _____
- Moderately technology savvy = _____
- Technology naïve = _____

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44. If you were designing a new high school, what would you say that this new high school needed to be very technology savvy or sophisticated for students like you?
(Encourage creative thought here – list all answers provided)