

**STUDENT INTERVIEW**

**1997-98**

Student's ID code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ RA's code: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMMIGRATION**

1 When did you first come to the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Did your family come all together at the same time? *(If not collect history)*

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

3 What are some of the reasons why your family decided to come to the United States?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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4 When you lived in (country of origin) what did you imagine the US was like?

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5 Where did you get most of your ideas about the United States?

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6 a- Is life here different than what you expected? YES NO  
b- If so, in what ways?

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7 What do you like most about living here?

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8 What do you like least?

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9 What is the hardest thing about immigrating?

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10 a- If it were up to you, would you go back to live in (country of origin) or would you stay here?

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b- Why?

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11 a- Do you keep in touch with friends and relatives back home? YES NO

b- How often do you keep in touch with them?

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c- And how do you keep in touch with them?

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**THE FUTURE/GETTING AHEAD**

12 People measure success in different ways. How would you describe someone who is successful?

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13 If a cousin who just arrived from (country of origin) asks you how a person becomes successful in the United States, what would you tell her/him?

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14 a- Does school prepare you to get ahead in the U.S.?                      Yes                      No  
b- If not, what other ways can one get ahead in the U.S.?

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15 a- What do you think you would like to do when you grow up?

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b- How much school do you think you need to get that job?

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16 Do you think the chances for success here are the same for a (Chinese, Dominican, Haitian, Mexican, or a Central American--*select appropriate*) as they are for an American?

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17 a- To be successful in life, does it matter what you look like?

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b- (If so,) How?

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**GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**

18 Did you go to school in (country of origin) ?

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19 How was your school back home different than here?

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20 What do you like best about school here?

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21 What do you like least about school here?

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22 What kind of student would you say you were in (country of origin)?

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23 a-Now that you are in the United States, what kind of student would you say you here?

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b- If you had to choose, would you say you are an:  
ABOVE AVERAGE    AVERAGE,    or    BELOW AVERAGE    Student?

c- Why?

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24 What kind of student would your teacher say you are?

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25 How does your teacher (or most of your teachers) treat most kids?

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26 How does your teacher (or most of your teachers) treat most (Chinese, Dominicans, Haitians, Mexicans, or Central Americans-*select appropriate*)?

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27 How does your teacher (or most of your teachers) treat you?

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28 What is the most difficult thing about school?

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29 a- Do you usually get most of your assignments in on time?      Yes      No

b- If not, why not?

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**STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOLS**

a-- Getting good grades in school is:

1	2	3	4
Not important to me	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to me

b--Going to college after high school is:

1	2	3	4
Not important to me	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to me

#31

**PERCEIVED PARENTAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOLS**

a--Getting good grades in school is:

1	2	3	4
Not important to my parents	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to my parents

b--Going to college after high school is:)

1	2	3	4
Not important to my parents	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to my parents

#32

**PERCEIVED PEER ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOLS**

a-- Getting good grades in school is:

1	2	3	4
Not important to my friends	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to my friends

b-- Going to college after high school is:

1	2	3	4
Not important to my friends	Somewhat important	Important	Very important to my friends

#33

**STUDENT EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS**

Do you plan to:

1	2	3
Finish some high school	Graduate from high school	Graduate from 2-year college
4	5	
Graduate from 4-year college	Graduate from law, medicine, or graduate school	

[Adapted from Fuligni (1997)]



38 What do you appreciate most about your parents?

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39 What would you change about your parents if you could?

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40 How do you show your parents that you love them?

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41 Do you talk to your parents about problems when you have them?

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42 When you disagree with your parents, how do you resolve the problem?

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43 Who does the disciplining at your house?

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44 If you receive a poor grade in school what happens at home?

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45 If there is any problem at school who is most likely to come to school to see the teacher?

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**FAMILY SOCIAL SUPPORT**

46 a- How often does your family get together with other friends (from country of origin) ?

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b- For what kinds of events?

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47 Does your family get together with American friends on a regular basis?

YES                  NO

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48 When your family has a problem or needs help, who do they usually go to for help?

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HEALTH

49 Would you say that you are in pretty good health?

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\_\_\_\_\_

50 How many days in the last three months have you had to stay at home because you were sick?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

51 How many days in the last three months have you had to stay in bed because you were sick?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#52 Lately, do you...

(If so, ask Sometimes, Often, or All the Time)

*(show informant choice cards)*

- 0 = Never
- 1 = Sometimes
- 2 = Often
- 3 = All the Time

a-Feel nervous	0	1	2	3
b-Feel critical of others	0	1	2	3
c-Have trouble remembering things	0	1	2	3
d-Feel annoyed too easily	0	1	2	3
e-Have stomach aches	0	1	2	3
f-Not have much energy	0	1	2	3
g-Not feel like eating	0	1	2	3
h-Cry easily	0	1	2	3
i-Feel like something terrible is going to happen	0	1	2	3
j- Feel shy	0	1	2	3
k-Lose your temper too easily	0	1	2	3
l-Feel like your heart is racing	0	1	2	3
m-Feel sad	0	1	2	3
n-Feel not interested in much of anything	0	1	2	3
o-Worry too much	0	1	2	3
p- Feel guilty	0	1	2	3
q-Have trouble making decisions	0	1	2	3
r-Have trouble concentrating	0	1	2	3

s-Feel others do not understand you	0	1	2	3
t-Feel tense	0	1	2	3
u-Eat too much	0	1	2	3
v-Get into arguments too easily	0	1	2	3
w- Feel people do not like you.	0	1	2	3
x-Have trouble sleeping	0	1	2	3
y-Feel like you are not as good as other people	0	1	2	3
z- Keep remembering something frightening	0	1	2	3

**DAILY ACTIVITIES**

53 What is your day like after school?

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54 About how many hours of homework do you do every day?

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55 Who helps you if you have a problem with your homework?

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56 a- What kinds of things do you do at home to help your family (like translating, cooking, taking care of your brothers and sisters, cleaning, and so on)?

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b- How many hours do you help your family, on average, every day?

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57 a- Do you work?

YES

NO

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b- If so, Number of hours per day: \_\_\_\_\_

c-Where?

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d-What do you do with the earnings?

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58 a- Do you do any extracurricular activities afterschool or on the weekends?

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b-If so, what kind?

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c- How many hours a week do you spend doing these kinds of activities?

Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_

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*Now I would like to ask you some questions. I would like you to respond yes or no.*

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| 59--To me school is the most important thing.                          | YES | NO |
| 60--Doing homework is more important than helping out in my house.     | YES | NO |
| 61--Doing homework is more important than hanging out with my friends. | YES | NO |
| 62--For me, being good at math is important.                           | YES | NO |
| 63--Learning English is important to me.                               | YES | NO |
| 64--Learning English is hard.  | YES | NO |
| 65--I like learning English.   | YES | NO |
| 66--Continuing to speak (language of origin) is important to me.       | YES | NO |

**LANGUAGE USAGE**

67 At home, what language does your father use most of the time?

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68 At home, what language does your mother use most of the time?

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69 What language(s) do you use when you are talking with your brothers and sisters?

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70 Who likes to read in your home?

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71 What kinds of reading materials do you have at home? *(circle all that apply)*  
**Newspapers Magazines Comic books Books Bible or religious materials**

72 a- Do you read for pleasure? Yes No

b- If so, in what language are most of the things you read in?

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c- And for how many hours a week (on average) do you read for pleasure?  
Number of hours \_\_\_\_\_

d- Has that changed since you came to the US? If so, how?

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73 How many hours of T.V. do you watch every day?

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74 What language are most of the programs in?

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75 What about radio? What language are most of the programs you listen to in?

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76 What about when your family rents or buys videos - what language are most of them in?

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- 77 a- How well do you understand (native language)? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- b- How well do you speak (native language)? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- c- How well do you read (native language)? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- d- How well do you write (native language)? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well

- 78 a- How well do you understand English? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- b- How well do you speak English? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- c- How well do you read English? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well
- d- How well do you write English? *(show informant choice cards)*  
 • not at all                      • not well                      • well                      • very well

**NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**

79 Do you live in a neighborhood where most people are from (country of origin) or from other places?

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80 a- In general, do you think people from your neighborhood get along?

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b- If not, What makes you say that?

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81 Do you feel safe walking around your neighborhood? Yes No

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82 a- Have you ever seen any violence in your neighborhood? Yes No  
b- If so, what kind?

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83 Are there any gangs in your school or neighborhood? Yes No

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**PEERS**

84 a- How much time do you spend with your friends each day?

Number of Hours: \_\_\_\_

b- What kinds of things do you do with your friends?

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85 a-Where would you say most of your friends are from?

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b- What ethnicity are most of your friends?

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c-What language do you speak with most of your friends?

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86 What do you call yourself? That is, what nationality or ethnicity do you consider yourself? *(show informant choice cards)*

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87 a- Do kids ever call you names you do not like? YES NO  
b- If so, what?

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88 As we explained when you agreed to participate in this study, we would like to keep in touch with you over the next 5 years. People often move so we would like you to let us know if this happens. However, sometimes people forget to let us know where their new school and address is. From experience, we have learned that close friends usually know where their friends have moved to. So, we would like you to tell us the names of your best friends and what school(s) they attend. If you were to move, we would ask them where your new home is. *(Interviewers, please get full names!)*

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**SENTENCE COMPLETION TASK**

*I will read you some incomplete sentences and I would ask you to finish them.*

89 A good friend is someone who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

90 When I have to study, I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

91 In life the most important thing is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

92 My family is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

93 I know I can not succeed unless \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

94 School is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

95 Teachers are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

96 I feel like quitting when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

97 (Chinese, Haitians, Mexicans ...etc.) are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

98 Most Americans think that (Chinese, Haitians, Mexicans...etc.) are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

99 Most (Mexicans, Haitians, Chinese...etc.) think Americans are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PROBLEM SITUATIONS**

*Now I will describe to you several difficult situations.*

100 Imagine that a teacher accuses you of cheating on a test when you did not cheat. What would you do to solve this problem? Who would you turn to for help?

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101 Your parents need you to come home after school to take care of your little brother or sister. Friends have invited you to go to a movie you really want to see. What would you do?

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102 Think about a problem that someone you know recently had. What was the problem? Who did they turn to for help? How was the problem resolved?

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