

# Common Core FACTivity



## Time Needed

About 15 minutes for an interview (may be out of class)

40 minutes of class time

## Materials

- Piece of lined paper (one for each student; plus one extra piece for each group)
- Pencils
- Digital recorder (optional)

The questions you will answer in this FACTivity are: What patterns do you find in interview responses to the same question? Who and why do young people admire others?

You and your class will conduct a survey. You and your fellow students will each interview one other person. After the interview is completed and notes are taken, you and your classmates will analyze the responses. You and your classmates will look for patterns in all of the responses. This analysis is similar to the analysis done by the scientists in this study of memorial gardens.

You and your classmates will each select a person to interview. No one should be interviewed more than once. Expect to take 5–10 minutes for the interview. This interview can be done for homework or over the weekend. You may interview a friend, a brother or sister, a cousin, or another student.

Before the interview, be ready to take notes with your pencil and paper. If you have a digital recorder, you may also use the recorder. Do not identify the person you are interviewing. This interview will be confidential. Confidential means that the identity of the person being interviewed is kept a secret.

You will ask the following question:

Who is one person you admire and why do you admire them?

Take notes as the person responds. If you have a digital recorder, use it to take notes for later or to check the accuracy of your note taking. Keep the interview going by asking further questions. Examples of further questions might be:

1. When did this happen?
2. How did you feel?
3. Why did you feel that way?

4. Why do you think that happened?
5. Why do you think the person did what they did?
6. Why is that important to you?

Do not ask questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no.” Rather, ask questions that require an explanation. These questions usually begin with who, what, when, where, why, or how. You should take at least 5 minutes to conduct your interview, but do not take longer than 10 minutes. Remember, you want to discover who is admired and why.

Take notes as the person responds to your questions. Be as complete as possible in your note-taking. Remember that your goal is to completely understand who the person admires and why. Only write what your person is telling you. Do not guess or fill in responses. If you need more clarification, ask the person for more information.

When you are finished, thank the person for taking time for the interview. Assure the interviewee that the interview will be kept confidential.

After your interview, underline key words you feel are important to understanding the person’s responses. These might be words like “kind,” “generous,” “voluntarily,” “bold,” “sense of accomplishment,” or “brave.” You might find other key words like “brother,” “aunt,” “friend.” Any word that you think is important is a key word. Most key words will be nouns, verbs, adverbs, or adjectives. Take your notes to class on the day you will analyze the responses.

Your teacher will help you form groups of three to four students. In your group, look for patterns

in all of the key words. For example, are admired people often relatives or friends? Are admired actions usually positive or negative? Which words or types of words appear in more than one of the interview responses? When you look for patterns, you should look for similar words or similar categories of words across the different interview responses.

Once you have identified patterns, one of your group members will write a short paragraph summarizing the patterns found in your group’s key words. All group members will contribute to the summary.

Your teacher will lead a class discussion about the patterns found in your small groups. Your class will identify patterns found across all small groups.

With help from the class, one student will write a summary paragraph for the entire class. What does your class analysis reveal about who people admire and why?

Compare and contrast your methods, analysis, and findings with the findings in this research about memorial gardens. What are two similarities? What are two differences?

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### Common Core Standards Addressed

- W.7.2; W.7.4; W.7.5; W.7.7
- SL.7.1; SL.7.4
- L.7.1L.7.2L.7.3
- RST.6-8.3
- WHST.6-8.2; WHST.6-8.4; WHST.6-8.7