

## Appendix: Survey Text and Survey Format

I recently was introduced to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) about our current state of affairs dealing with mathematics. I was not shocked to find that among the countries on the top of the list, the United States was not one of them. Having graduated high school in 1997, I am familiar with high school educational style, particularly in math. In today's society I think American teachers are starting to break away from methods of the past. Most of the classes that I have experienced have been based solely on the acquisition of facts and the ability to turn in the homework assigned. In a perfect world, this would be enough for everyone to understand, but we don't live in a perfect world. The U.S. does not seem interested in making sure people learn what they have been taught, as long as the work is turned in, everything is considered fine. I found that many times teachers would rush lesson plans because of some deadline that had to be met, so many chapters in so many weeks. Another problem that I see in teaching, math especially, is the use of technology. Students today use calculators for practically everything, even simple addition and subtraction. Why do we do this? The reason is that students are taught very early to learn how to use the calculator, and that they should use it for everything. Most of these calculators are very advanced and can do advanced math functions without the student's knowledge of how to do it the "old fashioned way". If the U.S. is ever going to raise their math aptitude, they must go to the heart of the problem and start early. The system must stop enacting programs that don't work, they need to understand what the real problem is, and then fix it.

Daniel B. Phillips

### A. Initial survey format

### B. Revised format

A. Do you agree or disagree with the above statement?

Agree	Dis-agree	Name	Year of Graduation	Comments
<u>X</u>	_____	██████ Volinska	HS 1996 College '00	I agree that something should be altered in us teaching styles, especially in math + science - kids need to be taught how to think on their own.
<u>X</u>	_____	██████ Bunday	HS '96	Irregardless of teaching styles - the curriculum and division of students by abilities is not hands enough. → ADSTL.

B. Do you agree or disagree with Daniel Phillips' statement? Feel free to make additional comments.

Agree	Dis-agree	Name	Year of H.S. Graduation
_____	<u>✓</u>	██████ Verkaik	<u>93</u>

Comments: I believe the information learned is more dependant on the individual teachers abilities rather than the overall program.