

Claremont Graduate University, Teacher Education Program  
*Ethnography of a Classroom—Sample Questions*

**Parent/Family Interview**

*Be sure to schedule enough time for interview—minimum 30 minutes. If possible, use tape recorder and keep notes to a minimum so that you can maintain eye contact and a comfortable communication rhythm. It is advantageous to interview parents in their homes in order to establish rapport and get a better sense of your students and their families. If this is not possible, try to select another site in the neighborhood besides the school so that you are on more “neutral” ground.*

**Perceptions of their child**

- Describe the special talents you see emerging in your child.
- What dreams do you have for your child’s future?
- When \_\_\_\_ comes home from school, what does s/he like to do?
- Does \_\_\_\_ play a sport or attend any special activities during the week?

**Family history and values**

- Which family members are particularly close to \_\_\_\_? What kinds of things do they do together?
- What sorts of things do you enjoy doing as a family? What things do you do regularly as a family?
- What language is primarily spoken in your home?
- If you could teach \_\_\_\_ one special thing this year, what would it be?

**Perceptions of their community**

- How long have you lived in this neighborhood?
- What things do you like about your neighborhood?
- What, if anything, would you change about your neighborhood?

**Perceptions of their child’s learning**

- How do you think your child feels about school?
- If \_\_\_\_ is struggling with schoolwork, who in your family helps him/her?
- How often do you or other people in your home read? What sorts of things do you/they read?
- What is \_\_\_\_’s typical routine when s/he gets home from school? Does s/he have designated place and/or time to do his/her homework?
- What is \_\_\_\_’s favorite subject in school? What is \_\_\_\_’s least favorite subject in school?
- What things help \_\_\_\_ learn at school? What things make it difficult for \_\_\_\_ to learn at school?

**Perceptions of school and feelings of inclusion**

- Do you borrow books from the school or public library?
- How was your own schooling experience different than \_\_\_\_’s?
- In what ways are parents and families included in this school? How could we include you more?
- What qualities do you like to see in your children’s teachers?
- If there were one thing you could change about this school, what would it be?
- Is there anything else you would like me to know that would help your child have a good year at school?

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Ethnography of a Classroom—Sample Questions (May need to be adjusted for lower grades)*

**Student Interview**

Who do you live with?

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What is something you enjoy doing with your family?

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What do you like about your neighborhood?

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Would you change anything about your neighborhood?

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What sorts of things do you enjoy doing when you are not in school?

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When do you feel most safe?

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When do you feel least safe?

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How would your best friend describe you?

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Tell me about your best friend.

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What is something you do really well?

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What is something that is difficult for you? Why?

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What is your favorite television program? How often do you watch tv during the week?

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What was the last good book you read? Why did you like it?

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Does anyone read with you at home? Who?

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What is your favorite subject in school?

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What is your least favorite subject in school?

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When do you learn best?

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When is it hard for you to learn?

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If you could change anything about this school, what would it be?

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What is something you hope to learn this year?

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Is there anything you would like me to know that would help you have a good year at school? \_\_\_\_\_

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What sort of work will you do when you grow up?

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What will your family look like when you grow up?

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Directions:

Write about your family and draw a picture of them with you in it.

## Claremont Graduate University, Teacher Education Program

### *Ethnography of a Classroom—Sample Questions in Spanish*

#### **Parent/Family Interview**

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#### **Perceptions of their child**

- ¿Describe los talentos especiales de su hijo/a.
- ¿Qué sueños tiene usted para su hijo/a?
- ¿Cuando llega \_\_\_\_ de la escuela, qué le gusta hacer?
- ¿\_\_\_\_ juega algún deporte, o participa en alguna actividad durante la semana?

#### **Family history and values**

- ¿Con cuales familiares es más cercano/a \_\_\_\_ (o se lleva mejor)? ¿Qué cosas les gustan hacer juntos?
- ¿Qué cosas les gustan hacer como familia? ¿Qué cosas hacen regularmente como familia?
- ¿Cual idioma se habla principalmente en su casa?
- ¿Si pudiera enseñarle alguna cosa especial este año a \_\_\_\_, qué sería?

#### **Perceptions of their community**

- ¿Cuanto tiempo han vivido en esta vecindad?
- ¿Que cosas le gusta de esta vecindad?
- ¿Hay algo que cambiaría en esta vecindad?

#### **Perceptions of their child’s learning**

- ¿Como cree que su hijo/a se sienta acerca de la escuela?
- ¿Si a \_\_\_\_ se le dificulta algún trabajo de la escuela, quien le ayuda?
- ¿Qué tan seguido lee usted u otras personas en su casa? ¿Qué tipos de cosas leen?
- ¿Qué hace \_\_\_\_ rutinamente/normalmente cuando llega de la escuela? El/Ella tiene algún lugar o tiempo propio para hacer su tarea?
- ¿Cual es la materia escolar favorita de \_\_\_\_? ¿Cual materia(s) no le gustan(n)?
- ¿Qué cosas le ayudan a \_\_\_\_ aprender en la escuela? ¿Qué cosas le causan dificultades para aprender en la escuela?

#### **Perceptions of school and feelings of inclusion**

- ¿Usted saca libros prestados de la biblioteca pública, o la de la escuela?
- ¿Como fué diferente su experiencia escolar a la de su hijo/a?
- ¿En que maneras se incluyen los padres y familiares en esta escuela? ¿Como podriamos incluirlos más?
- ¿Qué cualidades le gusta ver en los maestros/as de sus hijos?
- ¿Si pudiera cambiar alguna cosa de esta escuela, qué sería?
- ¿Hay alguna otra cosa que le gustaría que yo supiera para poder ayudarle a su hijo/a que tenga un buen año en la escuela?

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Ethnography of a Classroom—Sample Questions (*May need to be adjusted for lower grades*)  
**Student Interview in Spanish**

¿Con quien vives?

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¿Qué cosas te gustan hacer con tu familia?

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¿Qué te gusta de tu vecindad?

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¿Qué cambiarías de tu vecindad?

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¿Qué cosas te gustan hacer cuando no estas en la escuela?

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¿Cuando te sientes más seguro/a?

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¿Cuando *no* te sientes seguro/a?

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¿Como te describiría tu mejor amigo/a?

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¿Cuéntame de tu mejor amigo/a...

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¿Qué es algo que sabes hacer muy bien?

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¿Qué es algo que se te hace difícil? ¿Porque?

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¿Cuál es tu programa favorito en la television? ¿Cuantos horas de tele vez durante la semana?

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¿Cuál fué el ultimo libro bueno que leíste? ¿Porqué te gustó?

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¿Hay alguien que lee contigo en casa? ¿Quien?

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¿Cuál es tu materia favortia en la escuela?

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¿Cuál es tu materia *menos* favortia en la escuela?

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¿Cuando aprendes mejor?

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¿Cuando se te hace dificil aprender?

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¿Si pudieras cambiar algo de esta esuela, que sería/

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¿Qué es algo que esperas aprender este año?

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¿Hay algo que quieres que yo sepa para poder ayudarte a tener un buen año en la escuela?

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¿Qué tipo de trabajo quieres hacer cuando seas grande?

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¿Como va a ser tu familia cuando seas grande?

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Direcciones:

Escribe de tu familia y debuja un retato de ellos contigo.