

SmarterMeasure

Discussion Board Questions

SmarterMeasure is a diagnostic assessment that quantifies a learner's readiness to learn based on non-cognitive success indicators. Educational institutions often embed this assessment as an 'Assignment' or 'Module' in the beginning of an orientation or student success course. Upon completion, students receive a score report with an interpretation guide.

To encourage students to read their score reports and reflect on their readiness, instructors often use discussion questions. These questions help students align course content with their personal experiences and insights, fostering reflection on their strengths and areas for improvement. This process not only deepens self-understanding but also promotes meaningful interactions among peers.

Using SmarterMeasure discussion questions can help students build connections, create a supportive learning environment, and take proactive steps toward academic success. These open-ended questions encourage thoughtful reflections rather than yes/no answers. Some institutions also use private journal entries for more personal reflections.

SmarterMeasure Discussion Board Questions

Life Factors

Time to Study – Finding time to study is often one of the major challenges of continuing your education. To succeed, it's crucial to be intentional and plan ahead for your school-related activities. Reflect on your weekly schedule and identify which days and times of day are best for you to dedicate to studying. How can you prioritize your free time to ensure you have sufficient study periods? Share your strategies for planning and making the most of your available time.

Finding a Dedicated Place to Study – Choosing the right environment is crucial for effective studying. Describe some places available to you for studying and doing schoolwork. Look for locations that are as free from distractions as possible and allow you to focus for extended periods of time.

Reason for Continuing Your Education – Why are you pursuing your degree? Beyond just obtaining a diploma, consider how earning your degree will benefit you and those around you. How do you envision your life changing once you complete your degree? Use your SmarterMeasure report to reflect on your motivations and strengths that will help you succeed. Identifying a clear purpose can keep you focused and motivated throughout your college journey. Share your thoughts and reflections.

Support Resources from Family, Friends and Others – Think about your graduation night. A group of people will gather to celebrate with you. Who do you imagine you'll want to thank for their support during your college journey? In what ways do you think these people will support you along the way? Consider how your support network can play a role in your success.

Perception of Academic Skills – Earning a degree is challenging. There will be many pages to read, papers to write, and exams to study for, and at times, it might feel overwhelming. Imagine you find yourself in that situation. What can you say to yourself to stay motivated and persevere? Your SmarterMeasure report can offer additional strategies to maintain motivation and overcome challenges.

(General Scale Question) Life Factors – Many students leave school because “life happens.” Each student’s situation is unique, whether it’s working multiple jobs, being a single parent, lacking support from family and friends, or feeling easily discouraged. What challenges do you anticipate facing? Reflect on your personal situation and identify potential obstacles. What steps can you take to overcome these challenges?

Individual Attributes

Control Over Procrastination – Refer to your SmarterMeasure reports as you reflect on your study habits. Describe a time when you procrastinated and how it affected the outcome. How often do you find yourself putting off tasks until the last minute? What strategies can you implement to start and complete your work on time? Why is effective time management crucial in your college coursework?

Time Management – Many people admit they could improve their time management skills. Simply knowing we need to do better often isn’t enough to motivate us. A better approach is identifying tools or strategies to help manage our time effectively. What are some apps, websites, books, calendar software, or other resources you have used or could use to manage your time better?

Persistence – Reflect on a time in your life when you found yourself in a difficult situation but managed to stick with it, or a time when it was just too hard and you had to give up. What did you learn from the experience? Reflecting on this can help you understand the importance of not giving up when faced with challenges and how overcoming obstacles can contribute to your personal growth and success.

Willingness to Ask for Help – If you’re struggling with the content in one of your courses, who besides the professor could you reach out to for assistance? Remember, asking for help shows your commitment to understanding the material and succeeding in your studies.

Academic Attributes – Think about something valuable you learned in your past educational experiences. How can you apply this knowledge to help you succeed in college? Reviewing your SmarterMeasure report can also help you identify areas you may need to work on to achieve academic success.

Locus of Control – Do you believe your success is influenced more by your actions or external factors? How have your efforts and decisions contributed to past successes or failures? Considering your SmarterMeasure report, how can taking responsibility and setting clear goals help you succeed in college?

(General Scale Question) Individual Attributes – Our personalities and habits can impact our success in college. Some students procrastinate, while others manage their time well. Reflect on a habit or attitude you have that might challenge your college success or contribute to it. How do these traits influence your educational journey, and what strategies can you use to overcome or leverage them?

Learning Styles

Identify your main learning style by reviewing your SmarterMeasure reports (you might have more than one). Do you agree or disagree with your results? Why or why not? Next, describe a method that aligns with your learning style to help you learn effectively. For instance, if you have a visual learning style, you might benefit from using charts, diagrams, and color-coded notes to better understand and retain information.

Reading Rate and Recall

Careful reading is crucial for understanding and retaining information in your college courses. Suppose you are assigned to read an article estimated to take about 30 minutes. The article is equally available in a book, on a computer, on a tablet, or on your phone. Which device would you choose to read it from and why? Consider how your choice might affect your reading pace and information retention. Why is it important to avoid speed reading through your course materials, especially when reading online?

Technical Knowledge and Competency

Many college courses now require the use of various advanced technologies. You might need to conduct research online, stream audio or video lectures, download specialized software, and use collaborative tools like virtual whiteboards and cloud-based document sharing. How do you feel about integrating these technologies into your learning experience? Do you see technology as a barrier or a helpful tool in your educational journey?

Typing Speed and Accuracy

Typing is an essential part of college life, especially for completing assignments and taking notes. Some students use a keyboard regularly, while others prefer smartphones or tablets. How often do you use a keyboard for your typing needs? Think about your typing skills—do you see them as a helpful tool or a challenge in your college coursework? Why do you think using a keyboard might be more effective than relying on smartphones or tablets for your schoolwork?

LMS Competency

Have you used a Learning Management System (LMS) before? If not, be sure to check out the tutorials and resources provided by our LMS for additional support. What do you think is the most crucial feature or tool within the LMS that you need to learn to be successful in your courses?