

QUESTIONNAIRE

Youth and Opportunity

What Should We Do for Future Generations to Thrive?

You may also fill out this questionnaire online: www.nifi.org/questionnaires.

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you're thinking. Anonymous responses will be included in summary reports on the forums and in research to help us better understand how people are thinking about current issues.

1. Here are some priorities for ensuring that future generations will thrive. Thinking about yourself and your community, which of these items do you see as one of the top two or three priorities, which do you see as helpful but not a top priority, which is not a priority at all, and which do you oppose. Keep in mind that making major changes will be difficult and we'll have to make some choices about what to work on first.

	One of my top three priorities	Helpful but not a top priority	Not a priority at all	I oppose this	I am unsure about this
A. Increase the minimum wage.					
B. Local utilities should switch to renewable energy sources.					
C. Reduce class size and provide extra support for students who need it.					
D. Individuals and government agencies should do business only with companies that hire Americans and build factories in the US.					
E. Drastically reduce the importance of standardized testing in evaluating student achievement.					
F. Invest in a nationwide program to rebuild crumbling infrastructure and create jobs.					
G. Forgive higher education loans for students who perform a year of national service in underserved communities.					
H. Invest tax dollars to provide two years of tuition-free community college for anyone who wants it.					
I. Expand mentorship and internship programs to encourage young people to gain job skills.					
J. End deficit spending and work to bring down the federal debt.					
K. Change US K-12 history curricula to include more about the contributions and experiences of the nation's minority populations.					
L. Increase mental health services for K-12 and college students.					

For the following questions, let us know *which is more important to you*. If you're not sure, please let us know.

2. Investing in beefed-up K-12 vocational and other training programs to better prepare our young people for success in the workplace

VERSUS:

Making community college free so all students can obtain some education beyond high school

OR:

Not sure

Forum questionnaires are designed to help individual participants and forum groups clarify their priorities. The results should not be interpreted as a scientific public opinion study.

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3. Tightening our belts to control our towering federal debt so it doesn't threaten the next generation

VERSUS:

Making needed investments in education, technology, infrastructure, and social programs to improve opportunities for the next generation

OR:

Not sure

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view? If you're not sure, please let us know.

4. Even without drastic policy changes, this generation, like generations before it, will overcome its challenges and build a solid future.

VERSUS:

Unless we make major reforms in our economic, educational, and social policies, the next generation will not be able to build a solid future.

OR:

Not sure

5. There is a massive shortage of mental health counseling for today's young people, and we need to increase it in every community.

VERSUS:

We are in danger of medicalizing the regular strains and stresses of growing up, and we're over-treating too many young people. Mental health counseling should be focused on the most serious problems.

OR:

Not sure

6. Thinking about your forum overall, how much disagreement was there among the group?

A lot of disagreement Some disagreement Hardly any disagreement at all

7. Did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before? Yes No

If so, please explain. _____

8. Were there ideas or proposals that you tended to favor coming into the forum that you now have second thoughts about?

Yes No

If so, please explain. _____

9. What could citizens, working together, do in their own communities to address this problem? _____

10. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

0 1-3 4-6 7 or more Not sure

11. Are you male or female? Male Female Other (please specify) _____

12. How old are you?

17 or younger 18-30 31-45 46-64 65 or older

13. Are you: African American Asian American Hispanic or Latinx Native American

White/Caucasian Other (please specify) _____

14. In what type of community do you live? City/Urban Suburban Rural

15. What is your ZIP code? _____ What state do you live in? _____

16. What issue would you like to see covered in a future forum? _____

Please give this form to the moderator, email to forumreports@nifi.org, or mail to: National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459. You may also fill out this questionnaire on line at www.nifi.org/questionnaires.