

From: Larry Braskamp (2010): Interpretative Guide and Institutional Report for Global Perspectives Inventory (GPI), p. 1-2

Theoretical Foundation of GPI

The GPI is based on the idea that students are on a journey during college. In this journey, students are given opportunities to reflect on three “big questions”:

- How do I know?
- Who am I?
- How do I want to relate with others?

“How do I know?” reflects the Cognitive dimension. Cognitive development is centered on one’s knowledge and understanding of what is true and important to know. It includes viewing knowledge and knowing with greater complexity and taking into account multiple cultural perspectives. Reliance on external authorities to have absolute truth gives way to relativism when making commitments within the context of uncertainty.

“Who am I?” reflects and highlights the Intrapersonal dimension. Intrapersonal development focuses on one becoming more aware of and integrating one’s personal values and self-identity into one’s personhood. The end of this journey on this dimension is a sense of self-direction and purpose in one’s life, becoming more self aware of one’s strengths, values, and personal characteristics and sense of self, and viewing one’s development in terms of one’s self-identity. An ability to incorporate different and often conflicting ideas about who one is from an increasingly multicultural world is now an important aspect of developing a confident self-identity.

“How do I relate to others?” reflects the Interpersonal dimension. Interpersonal development is centered on one’s willingness to interact with persons with different social norms and cultural backgrounds, acceptance of others, and being comfortable when relating to others. It includes being able to view others differently; seeing one’s own uniqueness; and relating to others moving from dependency to independence to interdependence, which is a paradoxical merger.

Description of GPI Scales

There are six scales in the GPI, two each from the three domains: Cognitive, Intrapersonal, and Interpersonal.

Cognitive domain

Knowing. Complexity of one’s view of knowledge and the importance of cultural context in judging what is important to know and value. Q. 1r, 6r, 7r, 18, 23, 24r, 35r
Q. 8, 13, 19, 25, 32

Knowledge. Degree of understanding and awareness of various cultures and their impact on our global society; proficiency in languages. Q. 8, 13, 19, 25, 32

Intrapersonal domain

Identity. Level of awareness of unique identity; purpose in life; meaningful philosophy of life. Q2, 3, 9, 14, 22, 33

Affect. Level of respect and acceptance of cultural perspectives different from one's own; degree of emotional confidence when processing encounters with other cultures. Q10r, 11, 17, 20r, 26, 27, 29, 36r

Interpersonal domain

Social responsibility. Level of commitment of interdependent living. Q5, 16, 31, 38, 40r

Social Interactions. Degree of engagement with others who are different from oneself; degree of cultural sensitivity in living in pluralistic setting. Level of commitment of interdependent living. Q4r, 15, 21, 28, 34, 37, 39

CORE QUESTIONS OF THE GPI as of Fall 2010	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. When I notice cultural differences, my culture tends to have the better approach.	SA	A	N	D	SD
2. I have a definite purpose in my life.	SA	A	N	D	SD
3. I can explain my personal values to people who are different from me.	SA	A	N	D	SD
4. Most of my friends are from my own ethnic background.	SA	A	N	D	SD
5. I think of my life in terms of giving back to society.	SA	A	N	D	SD
6. Some people have a culture and others do not.	SA	A	N	D	SD
7. In different settings what is right and wrong is simple to determine.	SA	A	N	D	SD
8. I am informed of current issues that impact international relations.	SA	A	N	D	SD
9. I know who I am as a person.	SA	A	N	D	SD
10. I feel threatened around people from backgrounds very different from my own.	SA	A	N	D	SD
11. I often get out of my comfort zone to better understand myself.	SA	A	N	D	SD
12. I am willing to defend my own views when they differ from others	SA	A	N	D	SD
13. I understand the reasons and causes of conflict among nations of different cultures.	SA	A	N	D	SD
14. I am confident that I can take care of myself in a completely new situation.	SA	A	N	D	SD
15. People from other cultures tell me that I am successful at navigating their cultures.	SA	A	N	D	SD
16. I work for the rights of others.	SA	A	N	D	SD
17. I see myself as a global citizen.	SA	A	N	D	SD
18. I take into account different perspectives before drawing conclusions about the world around me.	SA	A	N	D	SD
19. I understand how various cultures of this world interact socially.	SA	A	N	D	SD

CORE QUESTIONS OF THE GPI as of Fall 2010	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
20. I get offended often by people who do not understand my point-of-view.	SA	A	N	D	SD
21. I am able to take on various roles as appropriate in different cultural and ethnic settings.	SA	A	N	D	SD
22. I put my beliefs into action by standing up for my principles.	SA	A	N	D	SD
23. I consider different cultural perspectives when evaluating global problems.	SA	A	N	D	SD
24. I rely primarily on authorities to determine what is true in the world	SA	A	N	D	SD
25. I know how to analyze the basic characteristics of a culture.	SA	A	N	D	SD
26. I am sensitive to those who are discriminated against.	SA	A	N	D	SD
27. I do not feel threatened emotionally when presented with multiple perspectives.	SA	A	N	D	SD
28. I prefer to work with people who have different cultural values from me.	SA	A	N	D	SD
29. I am accepting of people with different religious and spiritual traditions.	SA	A	N	D	SD
30. Cultural differences make me question what is really true.	SA	A	N	D	SD
31. I put the needs of others above my own personal wants.	SA	A	N	D	SD
32. I can discuss cultural differences from an informed perspective.	SA	A	N	D	SD
33. I am developing a meaningful philosophy of life.	SA	A	N	D	SD
34. I intentionally involve people from many cultural backgrounds in my life.	SA	A	N	D	SD
35. I rarely question what I have been taught about the world around me	SA	A	N	D	SD
36. I constantly need affirmative confirmation about myself from others.	SA	A	N	D	SD
37. I enjoy when my friends from other cultures teach me about our cultural differences.	SA	A	N	D	SD
38. I consciously behave in terms of making a difference.	SA	A	N	D	SD
39. I am open to people who strive to live lives very different from my own life style.	SA	A	N	D	SD
40. Volunteering is not an important priority in my life.	SA	A	N	D	SD
41. I have a strong sense of affiliation with my college/university.	SA	A	N	D	SD
42. I share personal feelings and problems with students and colleagues.	SA	A	N	D	SD
43. I have felt insulted or threatened based on my cultural/ethnic background at my college/university.	SA	A	N	D	SD
44. I feel that my college/university community honors diversity and internationalism.	SA	A	N	D	SD
45. I understand the mission of my college/university.	SA	A	N	D	SD
46. I am both challenged and supported at my college/university.	SA	A	N	D	SD
47. I have been encouraged to develop my strengths and talents at my college/university.	SA	A	N	D	SD
48. I feel I am a part of a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends.	SA	A	N	D	SD