The Classroom Critical Incident Questionnaire

Please take about five minutes to respond to the questions below about this week’s class. Don’t put your name on the form—your responses are anonymous. If nothing comes to mind for any of the questions, just leave the space blank. At the next class, we will share and discuss the group’s responses.

At what moment during this week did you feel you most engaged as a learner?

At what moment during this week did you feel most distanced as a learner?

What action that anyone (teacher or student) took during this week did you find most affirming or helpful?

What action that anyone (teacher or student) took this week did you find most frustrating, puzzling, or confusing?

What surprised you most about class this week? (This could be about your own reactions to what went on, something that someone did, or anything else that occurred.)

[Adapted from Stephen Brookfield and Stephen Preskill, Discussion as a Way of Teaching: Tools and Techniques for Democratic Classrooms, 2nd ed (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005).]