

Environmental Philosophy Questionnaire

This is a study on environmental ethics, more specifically, on the personal philosophies of environmentally conscious Olin students (especially those who consider themselves environmentalists). Participation in this study will be essential to the completion of Emily Shackleton's AHS Capstone Project, which aims to analyze student perspectives on the environment and environmentalism.

Participants will receive no benefits from this study and will not be paid or reimbursed for the time it takes to complete this survey. We hope that taking the survey will be a fun and interesting experience for participants.

Each participant may choose to provide her/his name for possible follow-up questions. In any written work, participants' identities will be changed so that participants cannot be identified.

This survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes, however participants may choose to discontinue at any time.

* Required

Definitions of Environmentalism

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Skip to question 18.

1. **Being an "environmentalist" can mean a lot of different things to different people. How would you define an environmentalist?**

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Environmental Identity

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2. **Which of the following best describes your identity in relation to the environment?**

Mark only one oval.

- Environmentally Aware: I value environmental conservation, but it is not a priority for me.
- Environmentally Concerned: I value environmental conservation, and I try to be environmentally conscious when it's convenient.
- Environmental Proponent: Conservation is important to me, and I try to make environmentally conscious decisions on a daily basis.
- Environmental Advocate: Conservation is a priority for me, and I regularly shape my decisions/actions around my value for the environment.
- Environmental Activist: Conservation is a huge priority to me, and a big part of my life and identity, and I speak openly to others about my values and beliefs as an environmentalist.

Being an Environmentalist

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According to the Oxford Dictionary, an environmentalist is "a person who is concerned with or advocates the protection of the environment". For this survey, the phrases "environmentalism" or "environmentalist" are meant to reflect this broad definition of the term.

Skip to question 15.

3. Use the scale to indicate how much you agree with the following statements reflecting an “environmentalist identity.”

Mark only one oval per row.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree Nor Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I have spent time trying to find out more about environmentalism. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have a strong sense of belonging to a group of environmentalists. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I understand pretty well what environmentalism means to me. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have often done things that will help me understand environmentalism better. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I have often talked to other people in order to learn more about what being an environmentalist means. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel a strong attachment towards being an environmentalist. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Being an environmentalist is an important part of how I define myself. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Background Information

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Skip to question 12.

4. What is your name? (optional)

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5. Age?

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6. Gender?

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Other

7. Year of graduation?

Mark only one oval.

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013

8. Major?

Mark only one oval.

- Undecided
- ME
- ECE
- Bio-E
- Systems
- Robotics
- Other:

9. In which U.S. state did you complete most of your primary and secondary schooling?

Mark only one oval.

- I was educated outside of the U.S.
- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia

- Florida
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Northern Marianas Islands
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota

- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Virgin Islands
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

10. **Do your environmental values dictate any future plans / career paths? If so, how?**
Mark only one oval.

- No
- Other:

Final Thoughts?

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11. **Any comments / questions / concerns about the survey?**

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Environmental Priorities

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Stop filling out this form.

13. **How important to you are the following environmental issues?**

Mark only one oval per row.

| | Supreme Importance | Very Important | | | Somewhat Important | Not at all Important | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Global Warming / Climate Change | <input type="radio"/> |
| Species Extinction | <input type="radio"/> |
| Energy Conservation | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ecosystem / Habitat Conservation | <input type="radio"/> |
| Air Quality | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sustainable Food Production | <input type="radio"/> |
| Land Degradation / Soil Conservation | <input type="radio"/> |
| Urban Issues | <input type="radio"/> |
| Overpopulation | <input type="radio"/> |
| Resource Conservation | <input type="radio"/> |

Environmental Beliefs

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14. **For each of the following statements about the relationship between humans and the environment, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree, using the scale.**

Mark only one oval per row.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree Nor Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| We are approaching the limit of the number of people the earth can support | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| When humans interfere with nature it often produces disastrous consequences | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Human ingenuity will ensure that we do NOT make the earth unlivable | <input type="radio"/> |
| Humans are severely abusing the environment | <input type="radio"/> |
| The earth has plenty of natural resources if we just learn how to develop them | <input type="radio"/> |
| Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist | <input type="radio"/> |
| The balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations | <input type="radio"/> |
| Despite our special abilities humans are still subject to the laws of nature | <input type="radio"/> |
| The so-called "ecological crisis" facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated | <input type="radio"/> |
| The earth is like a spaceship with very limited room and resources | <input type="radio"/> |
| Humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature | <input type="radio"/> |
| The balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset | <input type="radio"/> |
| Humans will eventually learn enough about how nature works to be able to control it | <input type="radio"/> |
| If things continue on their present course, we will soon experience a major ecological catastrophe | <input type="radio"/> |

Environmental Philosophy

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Skip to question 4.

15. **Why do you care about the environment / where do your environmental values stem from?**

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Environmental Values

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16. **Fundamentally, my environmental values stem from a concern / sense of responsibility toward:**

Mark only one oval.

- Human beings (including future generations)
- Sentient beings (capable of experiencing pleasure / pain)
- All animals
- All living things (plants, animals, etc.)
- Ecosystems (including non-living things)

Environmental Practices

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17. How often do you employ each of the following practices?

Mark only one oval per row.

| | As often as possible | Regularly | Only when it's convenient | Rarely / almost never |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Recycling | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Participating in environmental activism | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reducing meat consumption | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Choosing public transportation (or biking) over driving a car | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Choosing "green" products over a less expensive brand | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Replacing less energy efficient technologies (i.e. lightbulbs) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reusing containers | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Supporting environmental causes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Fixing rather than replacing defective goods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchasing second-hand goods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Choosing re-usable over disposable goods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Purchasing locally grown foods | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Identity

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Skip to question 3.

18. How important to you are the following aspects of your identity?

Mark only one oval per row.

| | Supreme Importance | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not at all important |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Appearance | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Education, skills, and career | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ethics and personal values | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ethnicity | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Family | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nationality | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Peer relationships | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Political beliefs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Religious beliefs | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sex, gender, and sexual orientation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Socioeconomic background | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

19. Name some of the values / principles you live by (i.e. gender equality, freedom of speech, social equality, etc.)

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20. Rank "environmentalism" among your values / concerns

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21. **Which of the following aspects of your identity tie to / effect your identity / values as an environmentalist?**

Check all that apply.

- Appearance
- Education, skills, and career
- Ethics and personal values
- Ethnicity
- Family
- Nationality
- Peer relationships
- Political beliefs
- Religious beliefs
- Sex, gender, and sexual orientation
- Socioeconomic background

Untitled Page

Skip to question 1.