

SWEARING SURVEY

For this informal survey, consider swearing to constitute the use of taboo language. Jot down some thoughtful, honest responses. The goal is to explore your language use, not to deny or justify it.

1. How comfortable are you with swearing?

2. What do you remember about when you first became of anyone’s swearing?

3. What do you remember about when you first became aware of your own swearing?

4. How regularly do you swear with the following words or phrases?

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Substitution curses (e.g., “gosh” instead of “God”)				
Sexual / excremental terms				
swear words as general adjectives (e.g., “that’s a ____ shame”)				
curses against people or things (e.g., Well, ____ you!)				
use of <i>God, Jesus, Christ</i> as expletives				

5. Explain what difference you see with swearing in any of these contexts:

- ~ to yourself (but not said aloud)
- ~ by yourself (but said aloud)
- ~ around friends from home
- ~ around friends at college
- ~ around people you don’t know well
- ~ around parents
- ~ around teachers, employers

6. In which contexts are you MOST comfortable swearing? In which are the LEAST comfortable?

7. Why do you most often swear?

8. What experiences, people, contexts have influenced your attitudes toward swearing?

9. What attitudes do you think society holds toward people who swear? Who never swear? [For “society” use a group that you know well enough about which to generalize.]

10. Anything else?