Erica Wortham
Multicultural Education
Dr. Bowles
February 24, 2012

Class Profile Report

For this third rotation, I am placed at Howdy High School. Howdy is a small, rural town located in the Ozark Mountains. The town itself consists of about 2,000 people, but the school district covers all of Whatsitsname County. Each grade at Howdy High School has about 120 students, keeping the grades tight knit. The students I'm teaching -- 35 males and 30 females -- are all sophomores taking Algebra B. The class sizes range from 13 to 25 students. Every class completed the survey.

About 90 percent of the students are Caucasian, but over 50 percent stated they heard another language spoken at home while growing up. Of that 50 percent, the most common language heard spoken was Spanish. Howdy High School only has one African-American and one Asian student. My students seem to come from mostly lower middle class homes. Lots of families live on a farm or the parents have blue-collar jobs.   Being from a small town, the students seem to come from a very religious background, mostly Christian.

I gave the students the survey, which I called "Ms. Wortham Wants to Get to Know YOU!" on the second day I was at Howdy High School. Everyone was very willing to participate in the survey -- probably because it meant they weren't doing

math! While the students were filling out the survey, I would let them ask me questions from the paper. When reading some of their responses, I realized they weren't answering the questions the way I had intended them to. For example, I had asked their favorite home-cooked meal in hopes to learn their ethnicity. But some students would put an Asian dish when clearly they aren't Asian. The goal behind asking what their room looked like was to gain insight on their financial situation, but some students would just tell me they have a bed and that their walls are painted blue. This doesn't give me much information about their finances. Below is the data collected from 70 students:

Activities inside and outside of school:

Choir-5
None-12
Caregiver-1
FBLA/DECA-2
Farm-3
Cheer-4
FCCLA-1
Journalism-1
Sports-31
Band-4
Key Club-1
Art-5
Horses-3
Church-2
Shop-4
Outdoors-6

Weekend Activities:

Family-12
Sports-5
Horses-3
Church-2
Friends-33
Nothing-10

Video Games-6
Party-3
Sleep-11
TV-5
Movies-5
Outdoors-10
Housework-6
Cheer-1
Work-3
Shopping-5
Text-1
Schoolwork-1
Volunteer-1

5 Years from Now:

I don't know-1
Job-21
College-41
Military-5
Famous-1
Married-4
Parent-1

Favorite Home-Cooked Meal:

Steak-6
Salsa-1
Three Milk Cake-1
Lasagna-17
Fried Chicken-9
Mashed Potatoes-9
Burger-2
Pizza-3
Tacos-4
Beans and Corn Bread-1
BBQ-2
Beef Stew-2
Macaroni-1
Tamales-1
Cheese Cake-1
Shrimp Scampi-1
Mexican Cassarole-1
Enchilladas-1
Biscuits and Gravy-1
Deer Meat-1

Sweet and Sour Chicken-1

Number of Times Family Eats Together:

0-16
1-5
2-3
3-7
4-5
5-6
6-1
7-22

Another Language Spoken at Home:

Yes-24
No-36
Spanish-16
Indian-11
Italian-2

Room and Backyard:

TV-4
Decorated Nice-14
Messy-2
Big Room-6
Big Yard-8
Fenced-1
Farm-12
Dog-4
Trailer-2
Woods-6
Pool-2

Parent Expectations:

C and above-5
Do their best-10
Good grades-22
Do homework-2
Do better-3
Graduate-14
Go to college-10
B or better-8
A or better-4

From this activity, I learned several things. First, it is good practice to really think about what it is you want to know when creating questions for a survey. Make sure each question has a purpose. I also learned that you may not get the type of answer you want from a question, but it still tells you something about that student -- maybe something you wouldn't have learned otherwise. I learned that students are much more willing to give you answers if you are also willing to answer the questions about yourself. My favorite question to read answers from was the second language spoken at home question. It was so neat to learn which students grew up hearing another language and how for most of them I never would have guessed that. Next year, I definitely want to give a survey that has questions aimed at some of the 10 variables in hopes of better understanding my students and their parents.