

“Ecological Place Meaning” Survey

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Feel free to adapt and use the “ecological place meaning” survey with participants of your environmental education programs. I have developed this survey (Likert-scale items) for my research in the Bronx. Read more in this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES11-00318.1>

Ecological place meaning reflects how strongly people ascribe ecological symbols and attributes to a place. These attributes can be things (e.g., rivers, parks, animals, trees, gardens, green infrastructure), and activities (stewardship, restoration, gardening, birdwatching, spending time in nature).

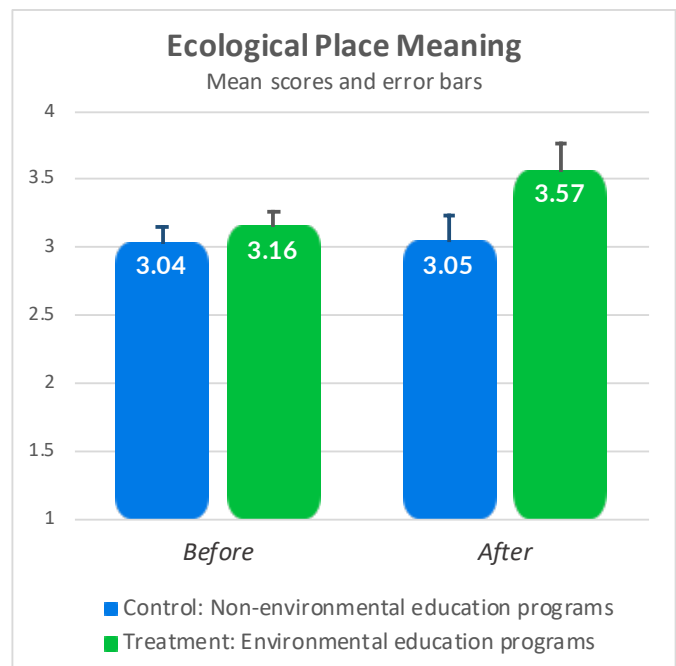
Why to conduct this survey? If you are an environmental educator you can use this pre-post survey to measure the impact of your program on participants’ ecological place meaning in your location.

How to adapt this survey? (1) Adapt the questions of this survey for your location. For example, exclude a question about rivers if your place has not rivers, and add a question about mountain hiking if your place has mountain trails. (2) Make sure the survey reflects ecological things *and* environmental activities that characterize your place. (3) In each question, replace “the Bronx” with your own location (e.g., your city, or neighborhood).

How to conduct this survey? Administer this survey with your program’s participants before and after your environmental education program (e.g., on the first and last days). Survey can be anonymous, but you can ask participants’ names if you want to match the before/after results in a statistical test. Tell participants that there are no right or wrong answers. Survey participation must be voluntary. Obtain parental permissions if you conduct this survey with children.

How to analyze the results? (1) Code all survey answers from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Enter all answers into a spreadsheet. (2) Calculate a mean score for all answers in the whole group of participants before the program, and then after the program. Has the mean score changed after the program? (3) If you want to compare the before/after mean scores statistically, I recommend a *paired t-test* to see whether the difference between means is significant.

Example. I conducted this survey with high-school students in non-environmental education programs (blue), and environmental education programs (green). Survey was administered before and after one-year programs. Ecological place meaning has significantly improved among students in environmental education programs, but not in non-environmental education programs.



Survey

Please read carefully each statement about your attitude towards the Bronx. Indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement by drawing an X. It is important that you answer thoughtfully.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
1. The Bronx is a place to connect with nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Bronx is a place to watch animals and birds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The Bronx is a place where people can find nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Bronx is a place where trees are an important part of community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The Bronx is a place where people have access to rivers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The Bronx is a place where people come to community gardens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The Bronx is a place where people have access to parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The Bronx is a place to canoe and boat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The Bronx is a place to have fun in nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The Bronx is a place to learn about nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The Bronx is a place to enjoy nature's beauty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. The Bronx is a place to grow food.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>