

Emory University
Problems and Research to Integrate Science and Mathematics (PRISM)
Program Evaluation
Graduate Student Focus Group

Script:

Now that you have completed your year as a PRISM fellow, we have brought you together for this focus group to gain insights from your experience. A focus group provides us an opportunity to get a very rich assessment of your experience. Our aims are to document your experience and collect information for improving the PRISM program.

Everything said here is to be kept in the strictest confidence. I will act as a facilitator of the process, and we will record main points on a flip chart. To be complete and accurate, the focus group will be recorded and transcribed. Nothing you say here will be reported in a manner that can be attributed to you as an individual. What you say here will not influence your relationship with the PRISM administration or Emory Faculty. We want you to be completely candid and frank in our discussion. When I transcribe the tape, I will remove any references that could specifically identify you. However, since you are a small group, someone maybe able to connect you to your comments by the context. If you are unwilling to participate in the focus group or be audiotaped, you are free to leave now. You are also free to stop participating and leave at anytime during our discussion. Let me remind you not to discuss the focus group with anyone after it is over.

After the focus group, if you feel a need to talk to anyone regarding what is said here, please talk to me afterwards or call me at 610-455-1463. If you have any questions at any time about this study or your rights as a research volunteer, you may contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Joseph B. Justice at 404-727-6610. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research, you may contact Dr. Karen Hegtvedt, Chair of the Emory University Social/Humanist/Behavioral Research Institutional Review Board at 404-727-7517.

We will be discussing 10 questions. Each one will be listed on the flip chart and key points will be listed under the question.

1. Overall how would you describe your experience in the PRISM program?
(Potential probes—What did you personally get out of it? Was it rewarding? Challenging? Interesting? What have you learned? What was the best part?)
2. What impact has the PRISM program had on you and your career plans?
(Potential probes—Has your interest in teaching changed? Has your approach to teaching changed?)
3. Describe the working relationship you had with
 - a) Your assigned teacher
 - b) The PRISM Administration

- c) Public School Students
- d) Other Emory Students in the PRISM Program

4. How well did the Summer Institute prepare you for the classroom?
What could be left out of the Summer Institute?
What needs to be added?
What needs to be changed?
5. Regarding the PRISM program, what was the biggest surprise for you?
6. Would you recommend the PRISM program to other students? Why?
7. How would you describe the workload of the PRISM project?
8. How did the PRISM program influence your research? (progress and content)
9. For the students that come after you, how could the PRISM program be improved?
10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?