

4. Understands multiple possibilities with "we all have a right to our own opinions," or "one answer is as good as another."
5. Doesn't distinguish between unconsidered and considered opinion.

4. "i don't agree with that candidate, but I guess his ideas are as good as anybody else's."
5. "I don't know why my interpretation of the poem got me a 'C' and John's got an 'A'. After all, the professor said to give our own opinions."

Relativism

General Characteristics: Student begins to see the multiple perspectives in a contextual framework, can now reason about different opinions or ideas; sees authority as having to reason, too; realizes some relativistic choices have to be made.

Attributes

1. Understands for the first time about making decisions in context.
2. Sees relativistic thinking as a way of doing things that can be applied to several areas.
3. Understands that authority is thinking that way too.

Developmental Clues

- 1a. "I guess the best career for me depends a lot on what's important to me."
- 1b. "The talks we've been having about religion are exciting; it depends so much on your own needs and basic beliefs."
2. "You know, I learned how to defend different positions in my Soc. class, but I can use that process in other classes, too."
3. "Just because he doesn't give us the answers doesn't mean he's dumb — he's trying to figure it all out too."

Commitment in Relativism

General Characteristics: Student makes an initial commitment about career, life style, values, etc; sees that such commitment affects and integrates other aspects of self.

Attributes

1. Makes an initial commitment in some area of life.
2. Understands that such commitments are an ongoing part of life.
3. Accepts the multiple aspects of self and that, although they may contradict one another, there is still a sense of unity and wholeness about self.

Developmental Clues

1. "When I was a freshman I decided to major in education. Now that I'm teaching I know that I love my work because through it I can express who I am."
2. "Although I know that graduate school is what I need to do now, I realize that it won't give me all the answers. I'll probably have more questions than answers, but that's life, isn't it?"
3. "I know on one hand that I can really understand and accept others and on the other hand that I can be very intolerant of them. But, that's me and it all fits together for me as me."