

Young Inventors Worksheet- Survey Others About Your Invention

Prepared by Susan Casey, author of *Kids Inventing! A Handbook for Young Inventors* and *Women Invent! Two Centuries of Discoveries That Have Shaped Our World*



Before you go to the expense of patenting or making/manufacturing an invention, you want to find out if anyone would buy your invention product. Ask others about it, especially the people most likely to use it—your target audience.

STEP 1: WRITE OUT AN EXPLANATION OF YOUR INVENTION

1. Write a sentence or two explaining the problem you are trying to solve with your invention.

2. Explain why your invention solves the problem.

STEP 2: PRACTICE SAYING YOUR EXPLANATION WITH A PARTNER. Make sure your explanation is no longer than one minute!

STEP 3: MAKE UP A LIST OF QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR INVENTION.

Suggested questions:

- What is your opinion of my invention?
- What (color/shape/character) do you like?
- What do you like about it?
- What don't you like?
- How much would you pay for it? (Give them some choices: \$2.00/\$5.00/10.00 etc.)
- Do you like the name?
- How would you improve it?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR SURVEY

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

STEP 4: PRACTICE ASKING YOUR QUESTIONS WITH A PARTNER.

STEP 5: MAKE A LIST OF PEOPLE YOU KNOW THAT ARE IN YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE, THE ONES WHO WOULD BUY YOUR INVENTION?

Who's your target audience? In other words, who would buy your invention? Would it be kids who like sports? Or students? Or elderly people? Or teachers? Or people that like music? Or people in an emergency situation, like a fire or flood? List people you could talk to who are in your target audience.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

STEP 6: MEET WITH THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST.

ASK THEM THE SURVEY QUESTIONS YOU WROTE IN STEP 2.

1. Show them your invention or a picture of it.
2. Explain the problem your invention solves. (What you wrote in Step 1) Let them hold it and look at it closely or use it. Let them try it out or play with it, depending on what it is.
3. Ask them the survey questions you wrote in Step 2.

STEP 7: WHAT DID THE PEOPLE IN YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE SAY ABOUT YOUR INVENTION? WRITE THEIR COMMENTS BELOW:

STEP 8: THINK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR SURVEY. HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE OR MODIFY YOUR INVENTION BASED ON THE SURVEY? WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS BELOW.