

# *StudentLink*

## First Reflections

In StudentLink you will be responsible for creating your own learning experiences. The staff will be there to give you support and advice if you ever need it. Here are a few questions that we came up with to get you started on the process of creating your own learning opportunity -- unique to you.

These questions are intended to help you identify the things that you care about and would like to learn more about, or do more. They also are meant to help you understand any frustrations you might have had over the years when you have been in any kind of learning situation (like school, or a new job, or snow boarding for the first time, or whatever). Of course it helps to dream big and beautiful if you're going to create something beautiful and fun (like your own personal learning experience), but it also helps to remember the bad stuff so that you know what you don't want to happen. That's true whether you're creating something only for yourself, or if you are trying to change society.

Try these questions out, and also feel free to write more (or draw, or sing...) or make up some other questions if you feel like it. The staff will want to read what you write so that we can learn more about you and what you want. So, if there is anything really personal that you don't want us to read, write it somewhere else, like in a journal, and keep it for yourself. *(Personal note from the authors: We are really excited to see what you will say! There are such infinite possibilities...)*

**USE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE PAPER AS YOU NEED**

**Please remember to put your name on it. Also put the date so that in twenty years you can read it again and remember exactly when and where you were.**

**One:** List five (more if you want) things that you would like to know more about.

**Two:** What are three things that you love to do or would like to do (you know, what would you love to spend your time doing if you didn't have to go to school -- hey, you don't have to go to school!)

**Three:** Write about two or three of your best life experiences. What were they and why were they meaningful to you?

**Four:** What was your best experience learning (something -- anything, anywhere, from anyone, or no one)? What about it made it "the best?"

**Five:** And, yes you guessed it, what was the worst experience you've had learning (something -- anything, anywhere, from anyone, or no one)? Actually, write about as many bad learning experiences as you need to so that you can unleash the energy that's in remembering the bad stuff.

**Six:** Go through your house and any other places you go regularly. List all the learning resources to which you have access. By learning resources we mean anything that you can learn something from. These can be people, books, magazines, computers, cookbooks, cars, musical instruments, art supplies, spiritual practices and guides, boy / girlfriends, friends in general, buildings, jobs, libraries, forests, mud flats...you get the idea.