

EVALUATION TOOL

FOR UNSCHOOLERS, HOMESCHOOLERS,
AND INTENTIONAL FAMILIES



Dear Intrepid Explorers,

I know what you are thinking... "Why in the world is a radical unschooler offering an evaluation tool?"

The truth is, friend, that while many unschoolers are definitely against testing for memorization or performance, many of us are constantly evaluating our lives. The learning progress of our children against imposed standards? Not so much. Whether we are living in alignment with our beliefs, values, and goals? Most definitely.

Integrity and authenticity are The Way, and evaluation tools can help us think deeply about how well we are living our truths.

This particular tool is a series of journal prompts- because I'm a writer. You could also use them as conversation starters with individual members of your tribe, or as discussion topics for a family circle meeting.

They can be used to evaluate nearly any experience, situation, event, chosen time period, field trip, play date, curricula, relationship, job, class, vacation, co-op, holiday, camping trip, you name it. I'm sure you'll find your own uses.

I am releasing it now, at the start of the new (Gregorian calendar) year because I have found that holidays are both exciting and full of busy-ness, stress, and social conditioning.

Add to that increased interactions with extended family, friends, and strangers, many of whom cannot relate to, much less agree with our choice to homeschool, or gasp! unschool our children. Many of us who are being intentional with our lives often choose to live other differences as well, such as in politics, spirituality, religion, gender, or sexuality. All of this comes together to create situations in which we might be pushed out of alignment with our values.

If we can look at our behavior with love and detachment, we can plan ways to repeat good behaviors as well as ways to act in better integrity when necessary. Consider this tool a mirror of your past self, for promoting a better understanding of yourself that you can use to nurture future growth.



The following questions can prompt some very deep and critical thinking. If you find yourself needing someone to talk to about any of this, I recommend you engage a trusted friend who knows you well and you feel makes you a better person.

If the event in question is related to intentional living, homeschooling, or especially unschooling, I offer 1:1 Uncharted Conversations, and you can find that opportunity in the menu of my website under Mentorship.

If you find this small thought exercise inspiring, and desire a longer expedition into intentional living- especially if your area of intention is unschooling or homeschooling!- I am launching a course this spring called Deschooling With Direction: Autopilot to Authenticity: Essential Skills for Intentional Adventures in Life and Education for Unschoolers, Homeschoolers, and Intentional Families. You can find this on my website menu as Deschooling with Direction, and you can get on the waitlist there to be reminded when I open it to the public.

I also have a blog and a Freesource Library full of recommended additional reading and listening. My website is UnchartedAuthenticity.com

Sincerely,
Audacious Rachel

DATES AND NAME OF EVENT TO BE EVALUATED:_____

DESCRIPTION:

THE BASIC QUESTIONS:

WHAT PARTS OF THIS WERE ENERGIZING OR LIFE GIVING?

WHAT PARTS OF THIS WERE DRAINING?

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

**WERE YOU ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPERIENCE,
OR DID YOU FIND A PATH THAT DOES NOT LEAD WHERE YOU
WANT TO GO?**

**IN EITHER CASE, WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE LED YOU TO THAT
DESTINATION? ONE STEP? MULTIPLE STEPS?**

WT'LL YOU DO THE SAME OR ACT DIFFERENTLY NEXT TIME? HOW?

THE EXTRA QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS THE OVERALL FEELING THE EVENT LEFT YOU WITH?

WERE THERE SPECIFIC PARTS THAT CREATED PARTICULAR FEELINGS? WHICH PARTS, WHICH FEELINGS? WOULD YOU CALL THESE FEELINGS GOOD, BAD, NEUTRAL? WHY?

WERE THERE ANY SPECIFIC PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING TO ANY OF THESE SPECIFIC PARTS? CAUSING? ENHANCING? DAMPENING?

WERE YOU EXPECTING ANY OF THOSE PARTS, FEELINGS, OR PEOPLE? OR WERE ANY OF THOSE PARTS SURPRISING?

DO YOU REMEMBER ANY DECISIONS YOU MADE AROUND ANY OF THOSE PARTS, FEELINGS, OR PEOPLE? WERE THOSE DECISIONS ALIGNED WITH YOUR VALUES, OR NOT?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE CAUSED ME TO ACT THAT WAY? A PERSON, A TRADITION, AN EXPECTATION, A BELIEF, OBVIOUS SOCIAL CONDITIONING, A DEEPLY HELD VALUE, A FEELING OF ACCEPTANCE AND SAFETY OR OF REJECTION AND DANGER?

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CHANGED TO CAUSE YOU TO ACT DIFFERENTLY? IF A CERTAIN PERSON SHOWED UP OR LEFT, WOULD YOU ACT DIFFERENTLY? IF A CERTAIN FEELING COULD BE HELD OR AVOIDED, WOULD THAT HELP?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE TO PREPARE?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD CHANGE IF YOU COULD?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PLAN FOR OR REMEMBER TO DO NEXT TIME? WRITE DOWN THE PLAN, AND PRACTICE IF NEEDED.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED TO ADD OR SUBTRACT TO MAKE A GOOD EXPERIENCE BETTER?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED TO INCLUDE OR REMOVE TO MAKE A NOT-GREAT SITUATION BETTER?

WHAT COULD YOU REPLICATE FROM A GOOD EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY AGAIN?

WHAT COULD YOU AVOID FROM A BAD EXPERIENCE NEXT TIME?

WHAT MIGHT YOU HAVE NEEDED IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION TO HELP YOU ACT IN BETTER INTEGRITY WITH YOUR VALUES? ANY EXPERIENCE CAN BE BETTER THAN IT WAS, WE ALWAYS HAVE ROOM TO GROW.

IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT OF ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS THAT PROMPT YOUR CRITICAL THINKING, ADD THEM HERE SO YOU CAN USE THEM REGULARLY: