Name: _____   Date: _____

Sensor or Survey?

Instructions:

For each scenario in the table below, identify which data collection method is more appropriate: a sensor (Participatory Sensing campaign) or a survey. Include your reasoning in the appropriate column.

Research Scenario	Sensor or Survey	Why did you choose this method?
You want to know the percentage of students in the school district who complete all of their homework each night.		
You want to know how many times per day, and at what times, students in the district play sports.		
You want to know what foods your class eats most often.		
You want to know your class's favorite food.		
A department store wants to know popular trends.		
You want to know what time of day students in the district wake up on school mornings.		
You are interested in determining patterns in your heart rate before, during, and after exercise sessions.		

Name: _____   Date: _____

Sensor or Survey?

Answer Key
(for teacher reference ONLY)

Research Scenario	Sensor or Survey	Why did you choose this method?
You want to know the percentage of students in the school district who complete all of their homework each night.	*Survey*	*This is a general question of interest. There is no trigger.*
You want to know how many times per day, and at what times, students in the district play sports.	*Sensor*	*There is a trigger – every time a student plays a sport is a trigger.*
You want to know what foods your class eats most often.	*Sensor*	*There is a trigger – every time someone eats food.*
You want to know your class' favorite food.	*Survey*	*This is a general question of interest. There is no trigger.*
A department store wants to know popular trends.	*Survey*	*This is a general question of interest. There is no trigger.*
You want to know what time of day students in the district wake up on school mornings.	*Survey*	*This is a general question of interest. There is no trigger.*
You are interested in determining patterns in your heart rate before, during, and after an exercise session.	*Sensor*	*There is a trigger – every time you exercise is a trigger.*