

# Textbox List Question Type

A Textbox List is a list of short-answer, open-text fields with labels for each row.

You can define the textbox width and choose to position the labels on the left or right side of the input field.

## When To Use It

Use a Textbox List to allow respondents to provide a short-answer response for a list of items. While these fields were designed to collect short answers there is actually no character limit set on these fields.

## Setup

1. On your survey's **Build** tab, click to add a question and select **Textbox List** from the available options.
2. Input the text for the question that you want to ask and use the **Multiple Choice Options** section to provide the list rows for your question. Here, you can also use the **Prefill** text fields to provide default answers for your respondents. These can be overridden by the respondents.

The screenshot shows the 'Multiple Choice Options' configuration panel. It features a table with two columns: 'OPTION' and 'Prefill'. The 'OPTION' column contains text boxes with the labels 'Drama', 'Comedy', 'Foreign', and 'Western'. The 'Prefill' column contains corresponding text boxes with the placeholder text 'Prefill'. To the right of each 'Prefill' box are three small icons: a pencil (edit), a vertical bar (collapse/expand), and a trash can (delete). Below the table is a '+ Click to Add Option' button and a 'Paste in Options' button. On the right side of the panel, there are links for 'Common Answer Library' and 'Advanced Option Settings'. A blue 'Getting Started Guide' popup is visible, containing the text: 'A Textbox List is a list of short-answer, open-text fields with labels for each row. Check out our documentation below for best practice tips on keeping open-text data neat and tidy. Learn More'.

3. Make sure to **Save** your question when you are finished.

The screenshot shows a survey question: 'What is your favorite movie in the following genres?'. Below the question is a list of genres with corresponding text input fields: 'Drama' with 'Schindler's List', 'Comedy' with 'Annie Hall', 'Foreign' with 'Amelie', and 'Western' with 'h Cassidy and the Sundance Kid'. A dark grey banner at the bottom of the screenshot contains the text: 'Check it out in an [example survey](#)! Add a [survey](#) with this question to your account!'.

## Best Practice Tip - Validation

Because Textbox Lists do not have validation settings by default, the data from these questions can get pretty messy. Never Fear! There are a couple of tools to help assist you with collecting cleaner data!

- One of the quickest methods for cleaning up data entered into textbox questions is to select the option on the **Validation** tab to **Capitalize each word**. This will clean up your reporting a bit by eliminating case-sensitivity as a variation in your data.
- We have [Basic and Advanced Validation](#) tools available on the Validation tab to ensure respondent entries are in a format you expect.
- Our [Auto Suggest Answers](#) feature will suggest answers while the survey respondent types.
- Finally, if you know the list of possible answers and want to ensure that your data is tidy, use a [Dropdown Menu](#) question type instead!

## Layout Options

On the **Layout** tab, you can make several adjustments:

- Use the **Number of Columns** field to indicate whether you want to display your textboxes in multiple columns. This is particularly helpful if you have a large amount of list rows.
  - The **Label Position** setting allows you to place labels to the right of your textboxes, instead of the default left.
  - Additionally, you can adjust the width of the textboxes in your textbox list question.
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**Textbox List**

Question Logic Validation **Layout** Piping / Repeat

Number of Columns

Label Position  
 Place labels on the right side of the input

Option Sorting  
 Original option order  
 Randomize options  
 Alphabetize options

Comments  
 Allow comments for this question  
 Require comments for this question

Textbox Width

## Survey Taking

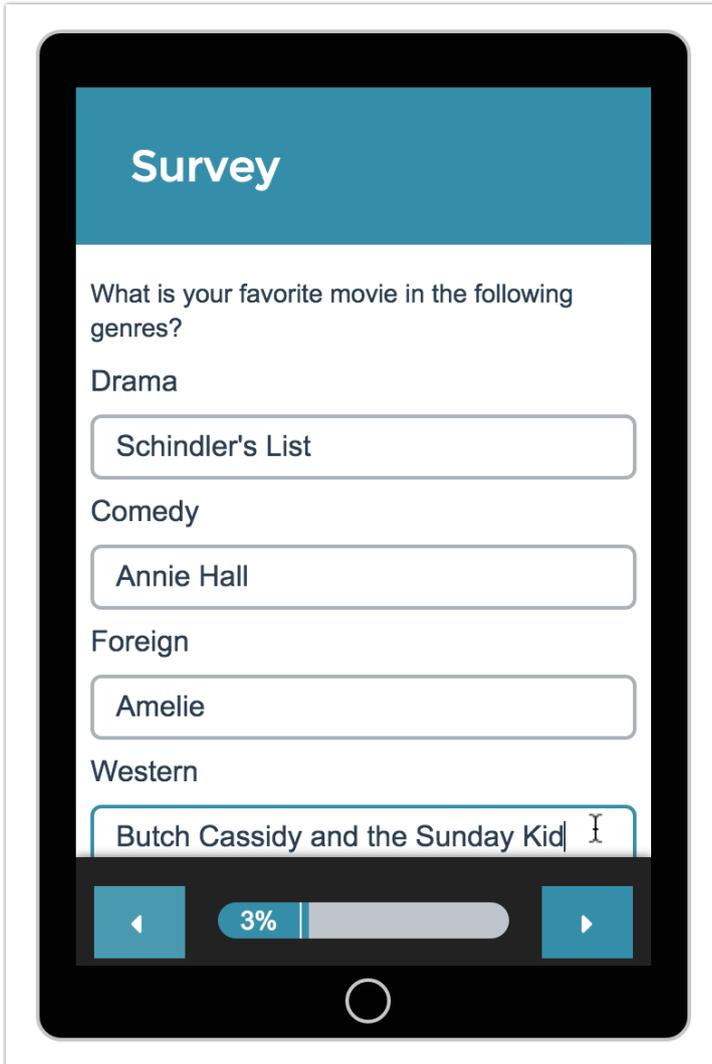
On a desktop and most laptops the Textbox List question type looks like so.

What is your favorite movie in the following genres?

Drama	<input type="text" value="Schindler's List"/>
Comedy	<input type="text" value="Annie Hall"/>
Foreign	<input type="text" value="Amelie"/>
Western	<input type="text" value="h Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"/>

When optimized for mobile devices the Textbox List question type looks very similar.

By default, survey questions show one at a time on mobile devices to prevent the need for scrolling on smaller screens. You can turn off this [one-at-a-time interaction](#) if you wish.

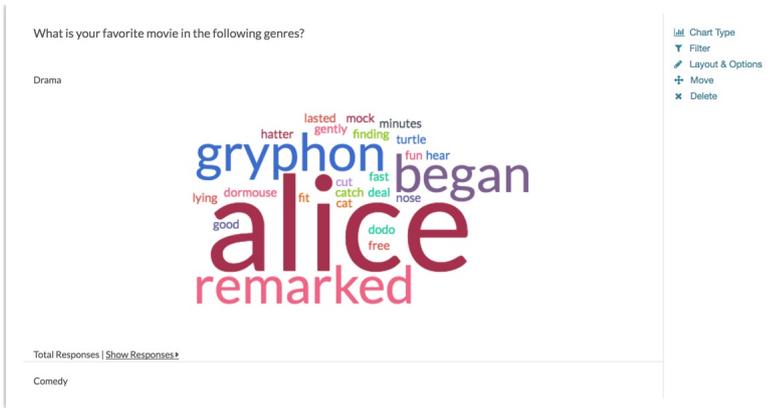


## Reporting

### Standard Report

In the Standard Report Textbox List questions include a [Word Cloud](#) per row. Below each word cloud is a [Collapsed Response List](#) of all responses for that row.

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- + See additional compatible chart types
- + See what other report types are compatible

### Legacy Summary Report

In the Legacy Summary Report the Textbox List question reports as an Appendix element for each textbox.

**What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?:Drama**

Count	Response
1	Brick
1	Shawshank Repemption
1	Sophie's Choice

**What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?:Comedy**

Count	Response
1	10 Things I Hate About You
1	Blazing Saddles
1	Half Baked

## Exporting

In the [CSV/Excel export](#) , will display a column for each list item. The column header will display the list item first, then the question title.

Drama:What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?	Comedy:What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?	Foreign:What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?	Western:What is your favorite movie in each of the following genres?
Shawshank Redemption	Bruce Almighty	Seven Samurai	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
Pan's Labryinth	Blazing Saddles	Lola	A Fistful of Dollars
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo	Tootsie	The Burmese Harp	The Shootist

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