

## **“Polar Poll” 2017**

### **STUDENT Sample**

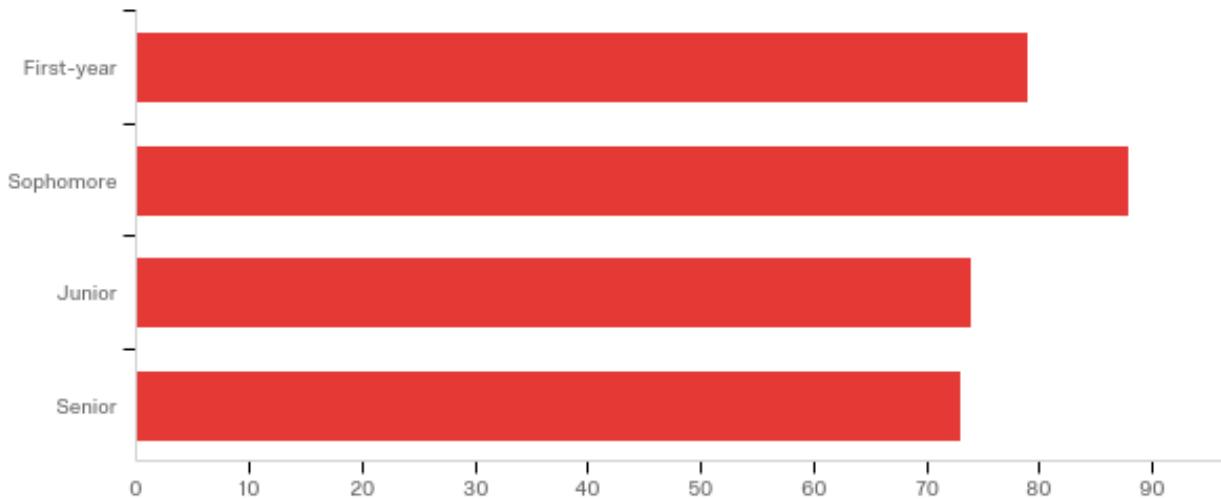
**Administered by Professor Michael Franz and students in Gov 2080  
(Quantitative Analysis of Political Science)**

**Last Modified: 03/23/2017**

**NOTE:** This poll is based on 315 full or partially completed surveys of a random selection of Bowdoin students between March 6 and March 23, 2017. An initial sample of 475 enrolled Bowdoin students received the survey. The survey was distributed via email using the Qualtrics software system. Results are not weighted. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 5.4 percent of what they would have been had the entire Bowdoin student population been surveyed.

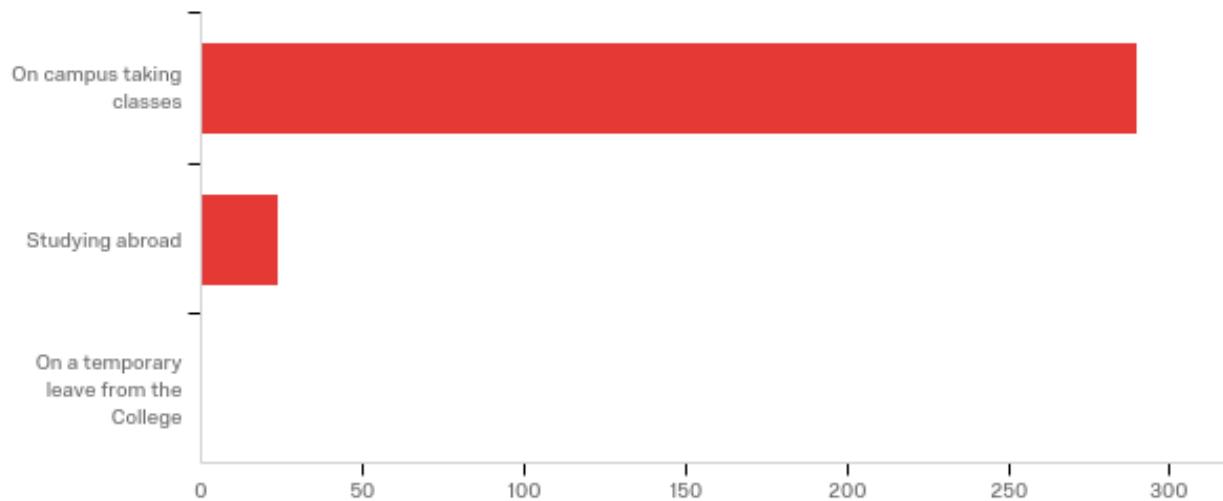
As with all surveys and polls, one should be cautious in drawing too many strong inferences about Bowdoin student attitudes and opinions. Inferences from data like these assume a representative sample and unbiased instruments. Moreover, research has indicated that salient external events can influence the way survey respondents answer certain questions. In designing this survey, we have worked to minimize bias in sample selection and question wording/order, but we must make assumptions that respondents answer truthfully and/or understand the intention of the questions.

## What year are you?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	First-year	25.16%	79
2	Sophomore	28.03%	88
3	Junior	23.57%	74
4	Senior	23.25%	73
	Total	100%	314

## Are you currently...



#	Answer	%	Count
1	On campus taking classes	92.36%	290
2	Studying abroad	7.64%	24
3	On a temporary leave from the College	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	314

Below are some most frequently used #hashtags on Twitter in 2016. A hashtag is simply a way for people to search for tweets that have a common topic and to begin a conversation. How do you react to the message implied with these hashtags? Choose any number between 0 and 100. The higher the number, the warmer or more favorable you feel towards the message implied by the hashtag; the lower the number, the colder or less favorable. You would rate the item at the 50-degree mark if you feel neither warm nor cold toward them.

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
#blacklivesmatter	0.00	100.00	75.34	25.70	660.57	299
#lockherup	0.00	100.00	16.99	24.04	577.93	299
#buildthewall	0.00	100.00	9.92	20.17	406.76	299
#alllivesmatter	0.00	100.00	32.35	32.71	1069.75	299
#feelthebern	0.00	100.00	59.04	29.08	845.92	299

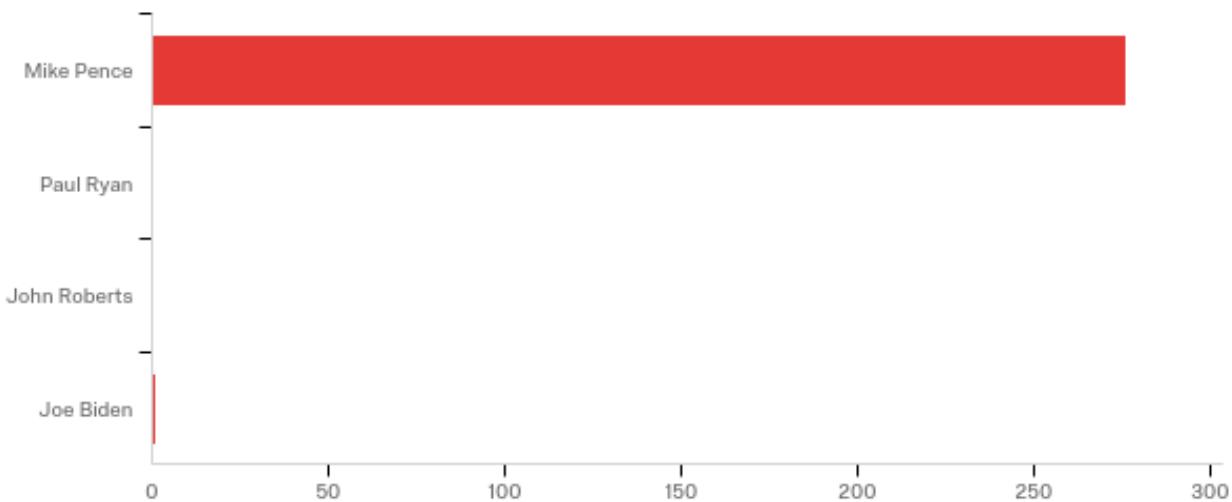
**What was your approximate GPA at the beginning of this semester?**

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Count
GPA	2	4	3.48	0.335	298

## What do you think is the average GPA at Bowdoin?

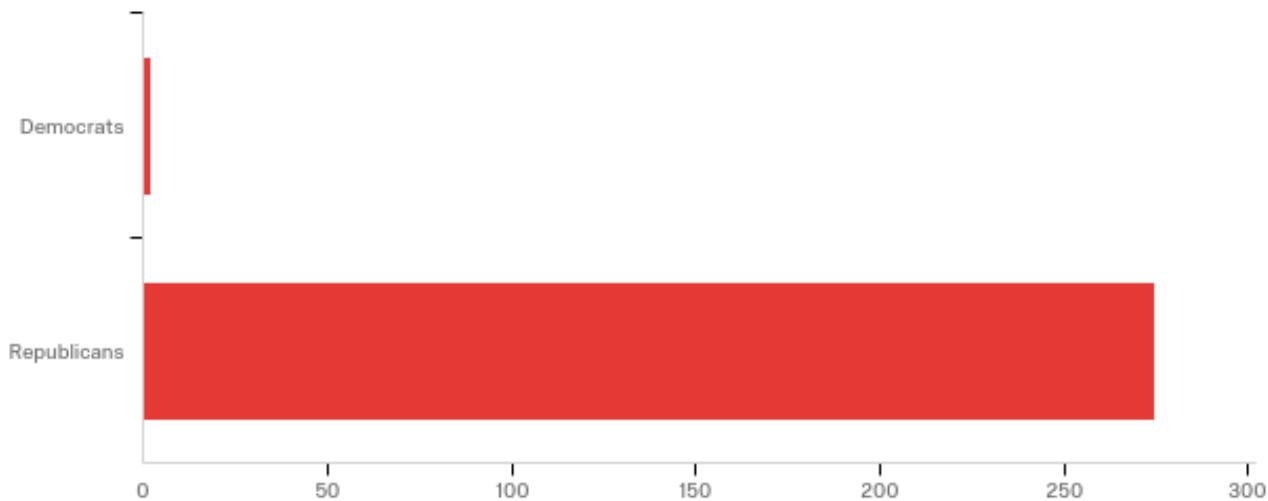
Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Count
GPA	3	4	3.31	0.225	302

Below are a handful of questions about politics and government. Do your best to answer as many correctly as possible. Who currently is the Vice President of the United States?



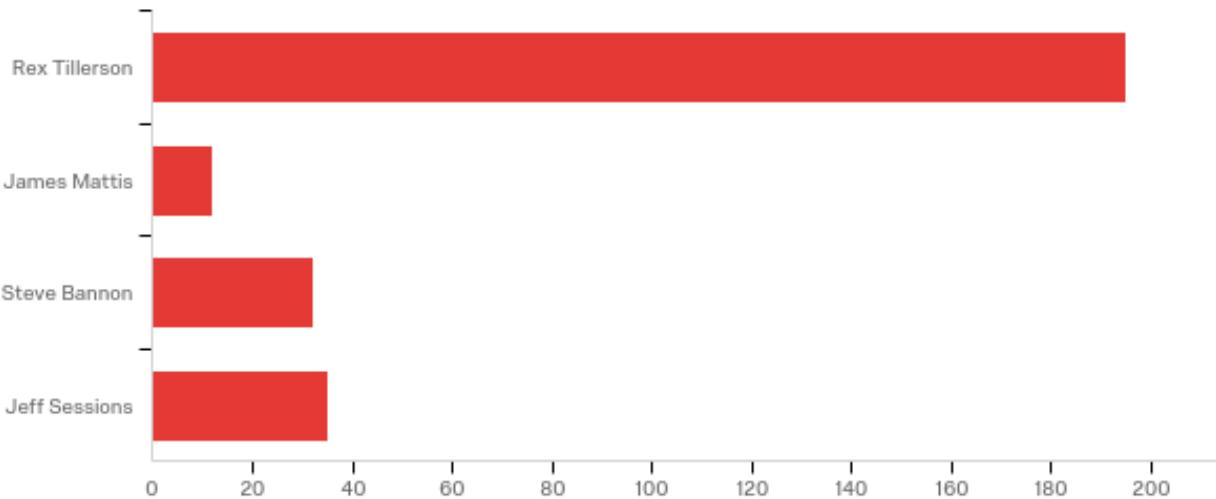
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Mike Pence	99.64%	276
2	Paul Ryan	0.00%	0
3	John Roberts	0.00%	0
4	Joe Biden	0.36%	1
Total		100%	277

## Which party controls the majority of seats in the U.S. Senate?



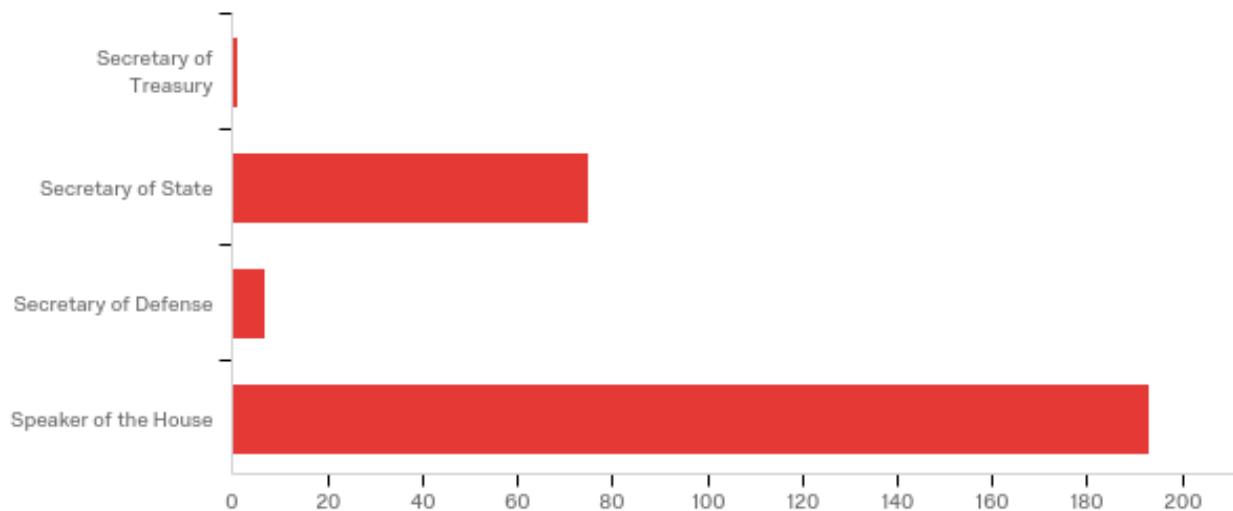
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Democrats	0.72%	2
2	Republicans	99.28%	275
	Total	100%	277

## Who is currently the Secretary of State?



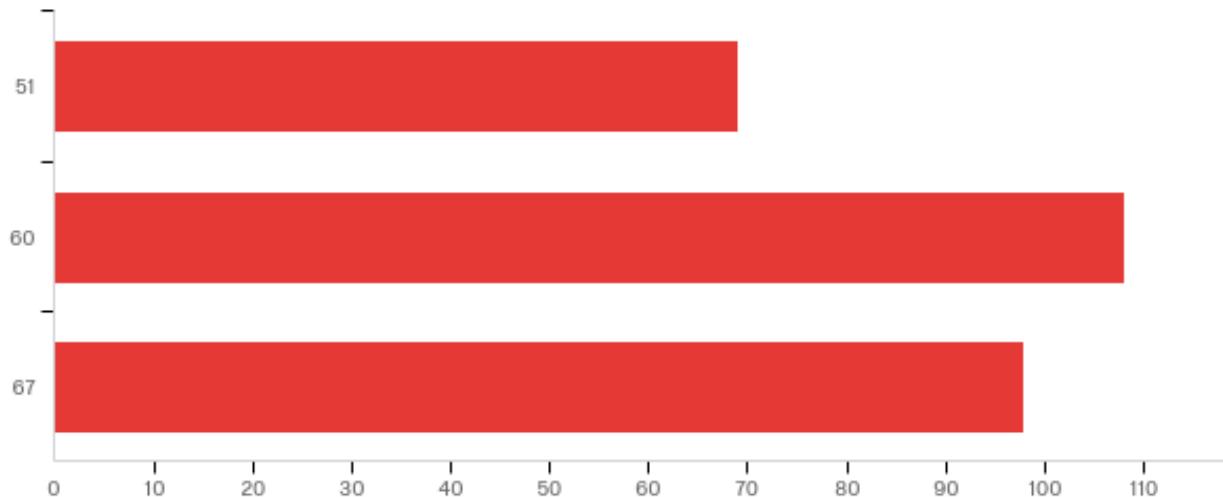
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Rex Tillerson	71.17%	195
2	James Mattis	4.38%	12
3	Steve Bannon	11.68%	32
4	Jeff Sessions	12.77%	35
	Total	100%	274

## After the President and Vice President, who is next in the line of succession to become the President?



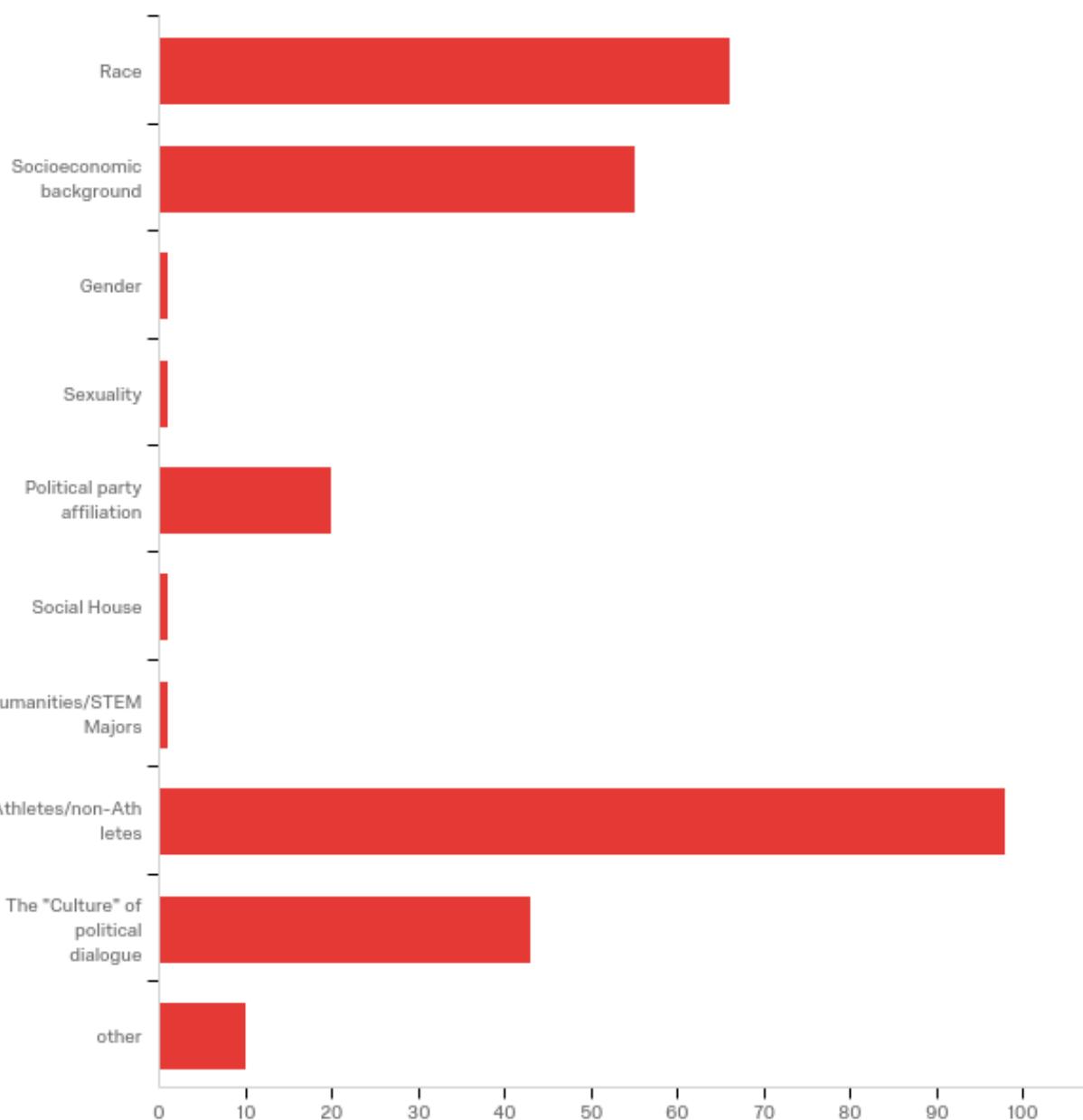
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Secretary of Treasury	0.36%	1
2	Secretary of State	27.17%	75
3	Secretary of Defense	2.54%	7
4	Speaker of the House	69.93%	193
	Total	100%	276

## How many votes in the U.S. Senate does it take to stop a filibuster?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	51	25.09%	69
2	60	39.27%	108
3	67	35.64%	98
Total		100%	275

What do you think is the greatest point of division among students on campus? By this, we mean the issue that most polarizes students.



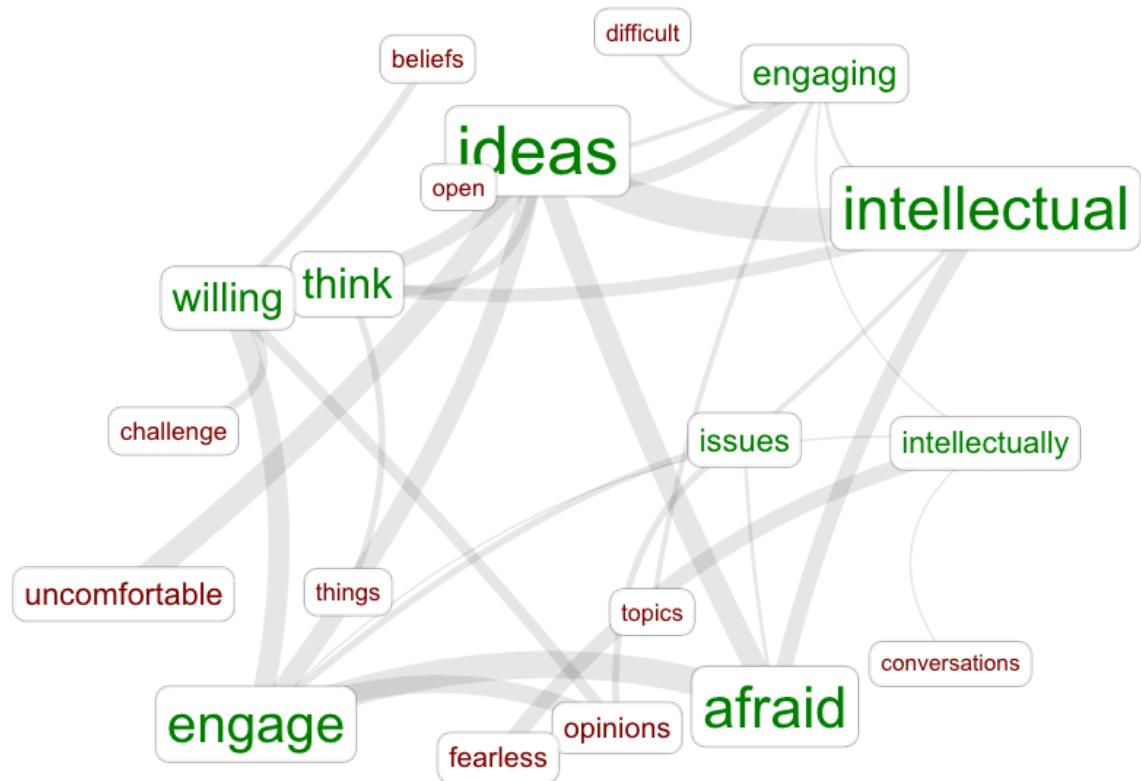
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Race	22.30%	66
10	Socioeconomic background	18.58%	55
2	Gender	0.34%	1
17	Sexuality	0.34%	1

3	Political party affiliation	6.76%	20
18	Social House	0.34%	1
19	Humanities/STEM Majors	0.34%	1
4	Athletes/non-Athletes	33.11%	98
5	The "Culture" of political dialogue	14.53%	43
9	other	3.38%	10
	Total	100%	296

Clayton Rose has advocated that students become "intellectually fearless" in their engagement with ideas and controversies. What does the term "intellectual fearlessness" mean to you?

Open-ended question. Responses omitted to preserve anonymity.

Using the open-ended responses, commonly used words are displayed below, with more regularly linked words in responses connected with thicker or thinner gray lines.



**Bowdoin fashion trends are interesting to consider. For example, of your (up to) five closest friends at Bowdoin, how many wear a Canada Goose jacket during the winter months?**

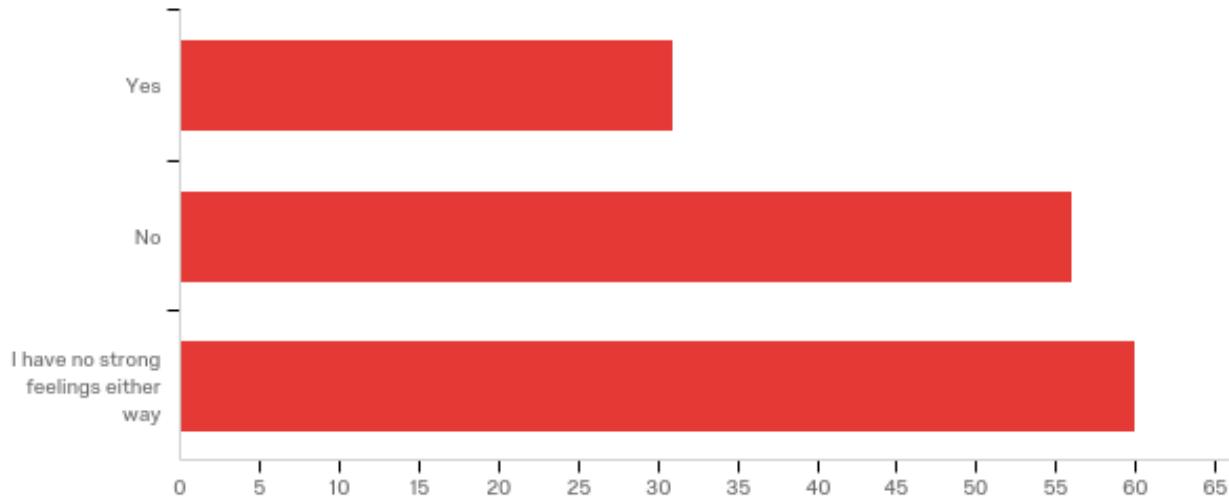
Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Count
Jackets	0	5	0.71	1.078	296

**Next, choose any number between 0 and 100. The higher the number, the warmer or more favorable you feel towards the items below; the lower the number, the colder or less favorable. You would rate the item at the 50-degree mark if you feel neither warm nor cold toward them.**

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
Career Planning Center	0.00	100.00	58.42	24.07	579.52	284
Bowdoin Student Government (BSG)	0.00	100.00	53.51	22.60	510.60	284
Clayton Rose	0.00	100.00	67.85	20.83	433.99	284
The Orient	0.00	100.00	56.73	24.88	618.86	284
Tim Foster	0.00	100.00	53.83	26.59	706.87	284

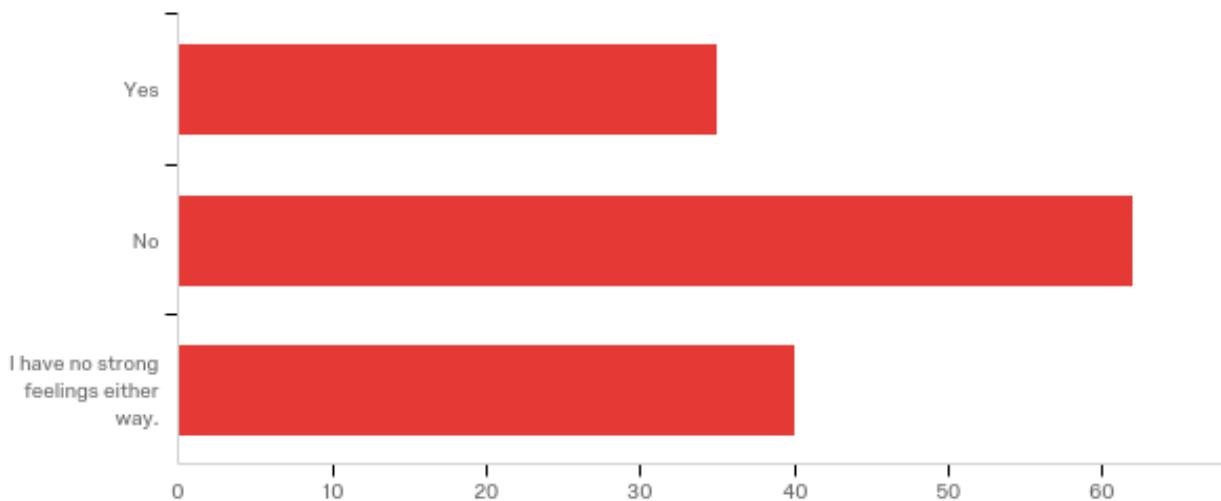
For this question, half received the question as worded below, while a random half received the question as worded on the next page.

**Starting next year, Bowdoin ResLife will limit the number of off-campus residents to 200 students. Do you agree with this decision?**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	21.09%	31
2	No	38.10%	56
3	I have no strong feelings either way	40.82%	60
Total		100%	147

Starting next year, Bowdoin ResLife will limit the number of off-campus residents to 200 students. This decision comes after a steady increase in off-campus living, which has had significant financial implications for the College and contributed to a deteriorating relationship with the Town of Brunswick. Do you agree with this decision?

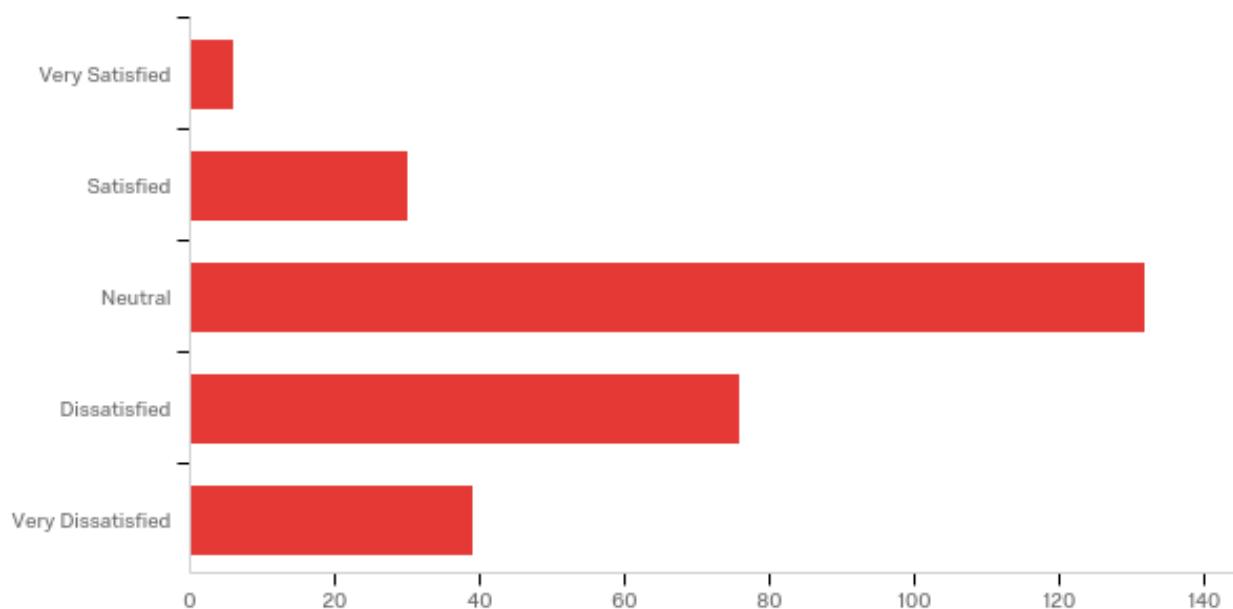


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	25.55%	35
2	No	45.26%	62
3	I have no strong feelings either way.	29.20%	40
	Total	100%	137

**Why do you feel this way?**

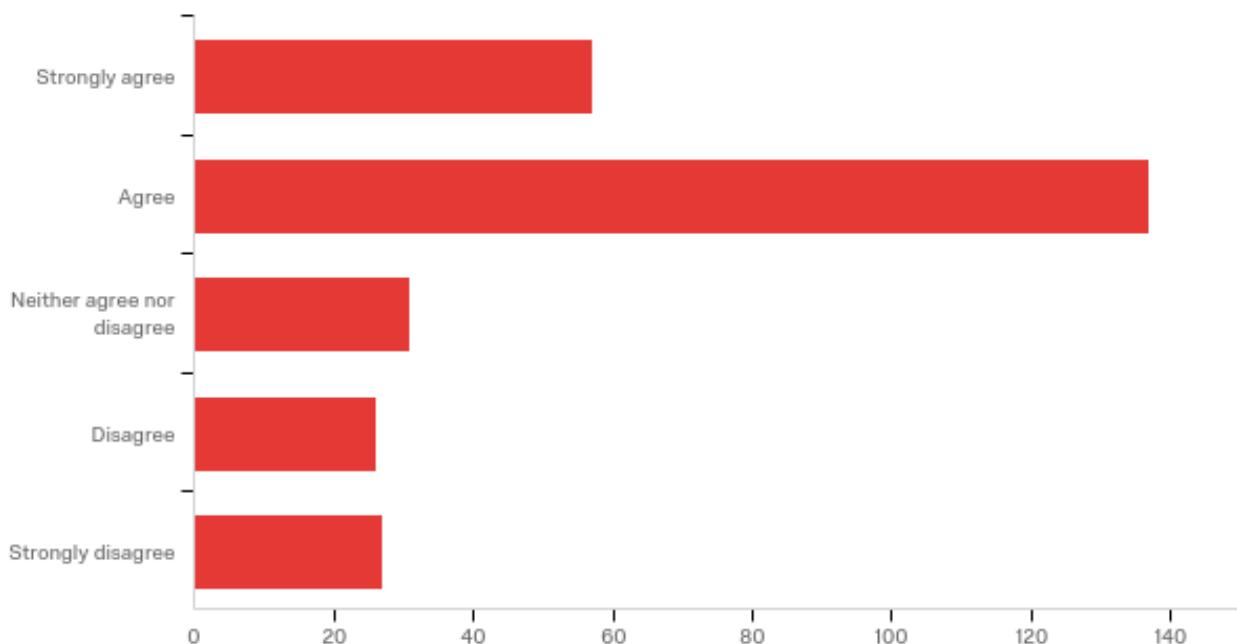
Open-ended question. Responses omitted to preserve anonymity.

**How satisfied are you with the recent decision of Bowdoin College to merge the Women's Resource Center (WRC) and the Resource Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity (RCGSD) into the Center for Gender and Sexuality?**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very Satisfied	2.12%	6
2	Satisfied	10.60%	30
3	Neutral	46.64%	132
4	Dissatisfied	26.86%	76
5	Very Dissatisfied	13.78%	39
Total		100%	283

**How do you evaluate this statement? I feel safe expressing my political views on Bowdoin's campus.**

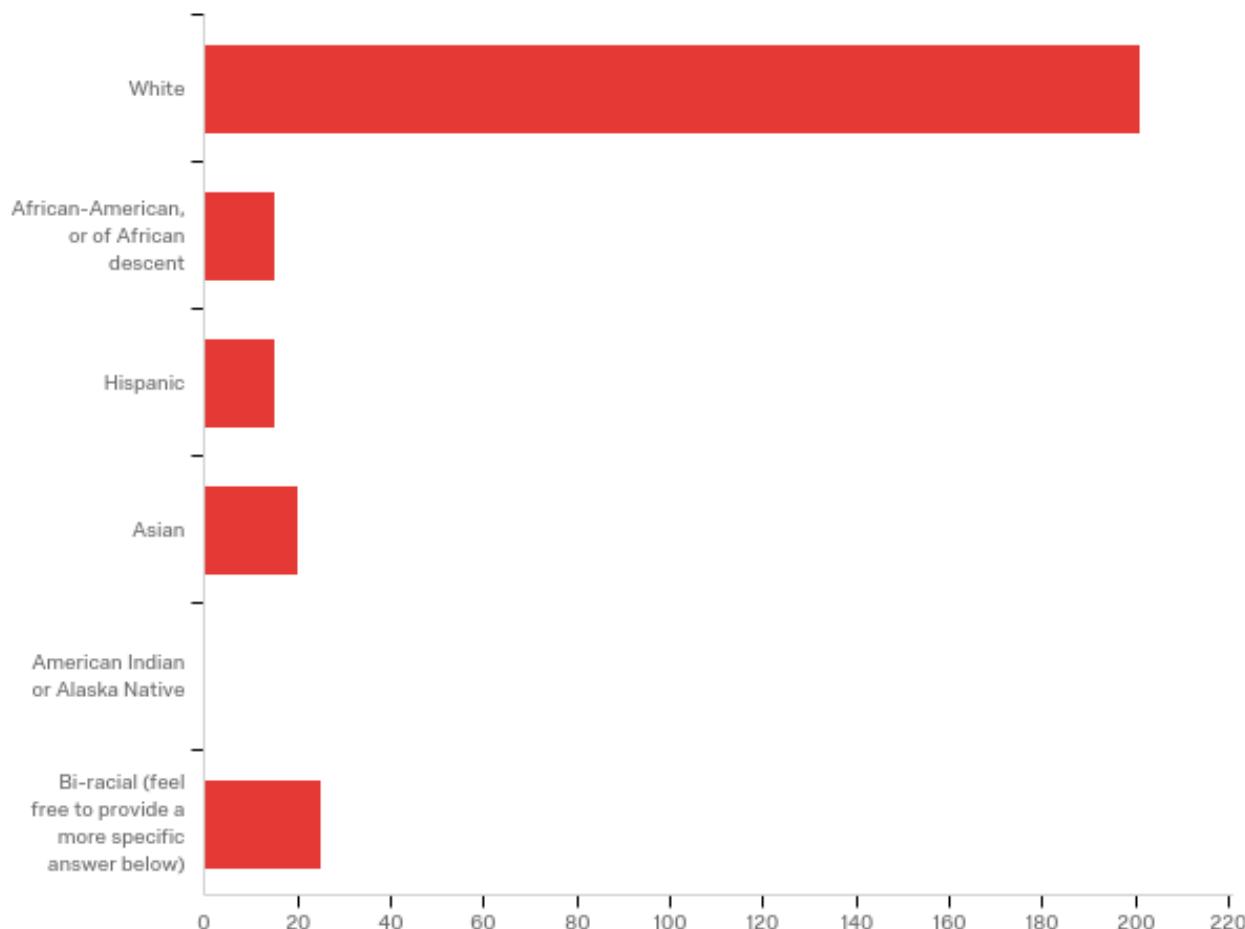


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	20.50%	57
5	Agree	49.28%	137
2	Neither agree nor disagree	11.15%	31
3	Disagree	9.35%	26
4	Strongly disagree	9.71%	27
	Total	100%	278

**Generally speaking, on a scale of 0-100, with 0 being very liberal and 100 being very conservative, where would you place:**

Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
Your own political views	0.00	100.00	31.38	23.44	549.46	277
The political views of the average Bowdoin student	0.00	100.00	27.63	20.26	410.39	277

## What racial or ethnic background do you most identify with?



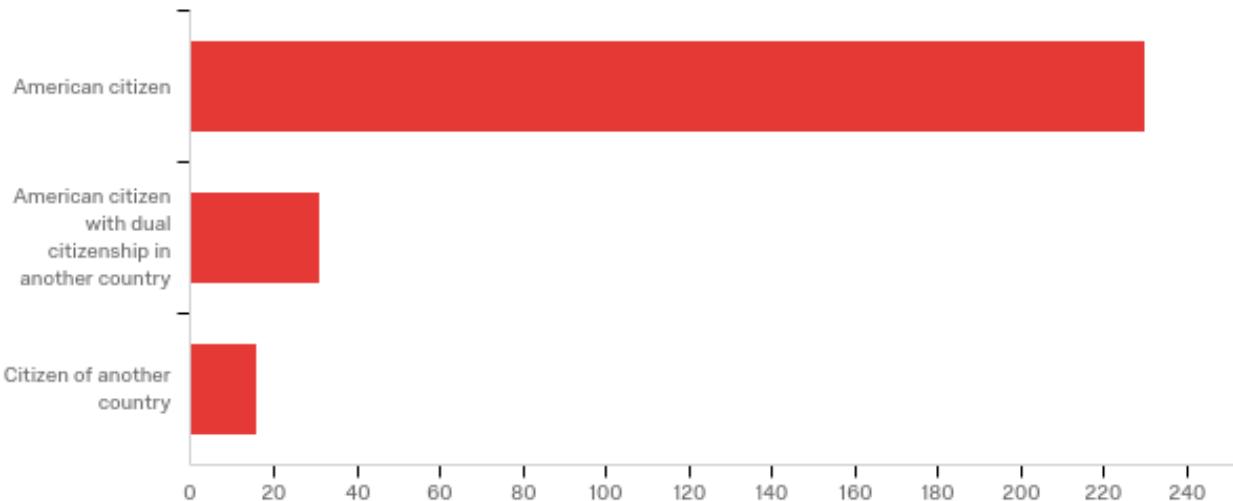
#	Answer	%	Count
1	White	72.83%	201
2	African-American, or of African descent	5.43%	15
3	Hispanic	5.43%	15
4	Asian	7.25%	20
5	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.00%	0
6	Bi-racial (feel free to provide a more specific answer below)	9.06%	25
	Total	100%	276

## What is your gender identity?

This was an open-ended question, to allow for student self-expression. Raw answers are omitted to preserve anonymity. Based on coding, self-identified male and female respondents are as follows.

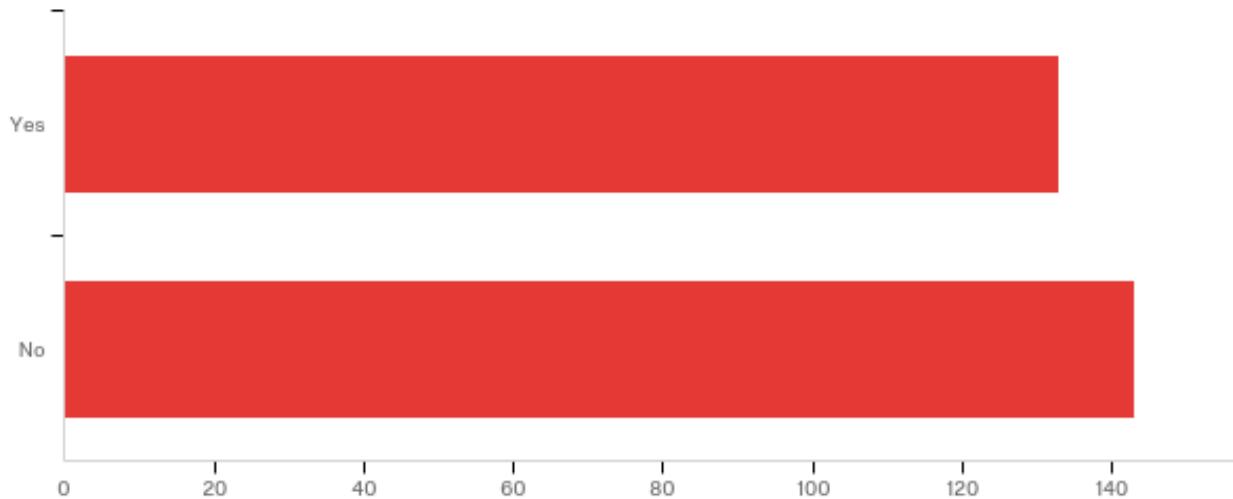
Field	%	Count
Male	44.9	123
Female	55.1	151

## What is your national citizenship?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	American citizen	83.03%	230
2	American citizen with dual citizenship in another country	11.19%	31
3	Citizen of another country	5.78%	16
Total		100%	277

## Do you receive financial aid?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	48.19%	133
2	No	51.81%	143
	Total	100%	276

## What is your major, or are you undeclared?

This was an open-ended question. Raw answers are omitted to preserve anonymity.

Majors with fewer than 5 responses omitted from summary table below. Percentages can add to more than 100 because of double-majoring.

Major	Frequency	Percent	Percent of Declared Students
Undeclared	64	18.55%	
Government	59	17.10%	21.00%
Economics	35	10.14%	12.46%
Math	20	5.80%	7.12%
English	18	5.22%	6.41%
Computer Science	17	4.93%	6.05%
History	14	4.06%	4.98%
Neuroscience	12	3.48%	4.27%
Biology	11	3.19%	3.91%
Biochemistry	10	2.90%	3.56%
Environmental Studies	10	2.90%	3.56%
Sociology	9	2.61%	3.20%
Earth and Oceanographic Science	7	2.03%	2.49%
Education	7	2.03%	2.49%
Physics	6	1.74%	2.14%
Psychology	6	1.74%	2.14%
Visual Arts	6	1.74%	2.14%
Hispanic Studies	5	1.45%	1.78%

## What state or country are you from?

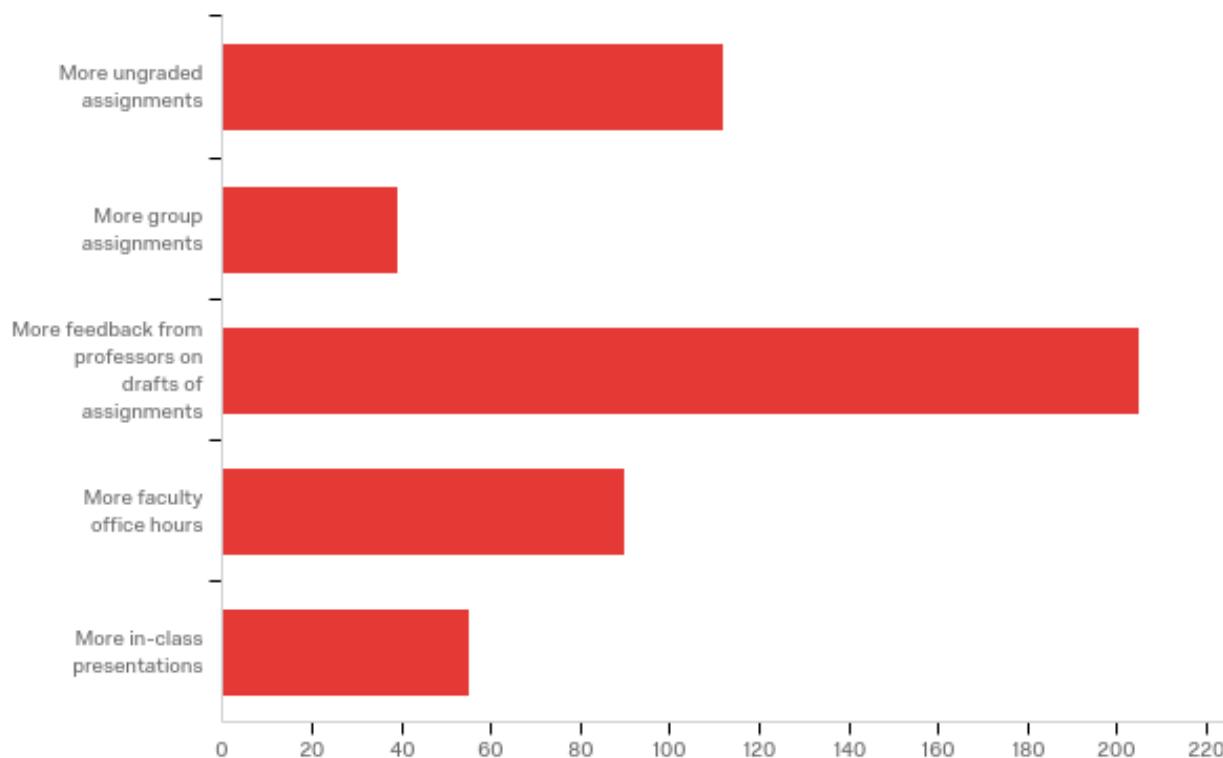
This was an open-ended question. Raw answers are omitted to preserve anonymity.  
States or countries with fewer than 5 responses omitted from summary table below.

State/Country	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	33	12.94%
California	27	10.59%
New York	24	9.41%
Maine	20	7.84%
New Jersey	14	5.49%
Connecticut	13	5.10%
Maryland	9	3.53%
Illinois	8	3.14%
Pennsylvania	8	3.14%
Minnesota	7	2.75%
New Hampshire	7	2.75%
Vermont	7	2.75%
Florida	5	1.96%
North Carolina	5	1.96%
Texas	5	1.96%
Virginia	5	1.96%
Washington	5	1.96%
34 other states and countries	53	20.78%

**What news source(s) do you trust to obtain reliable news about current events and politics? List as many as you like below.**

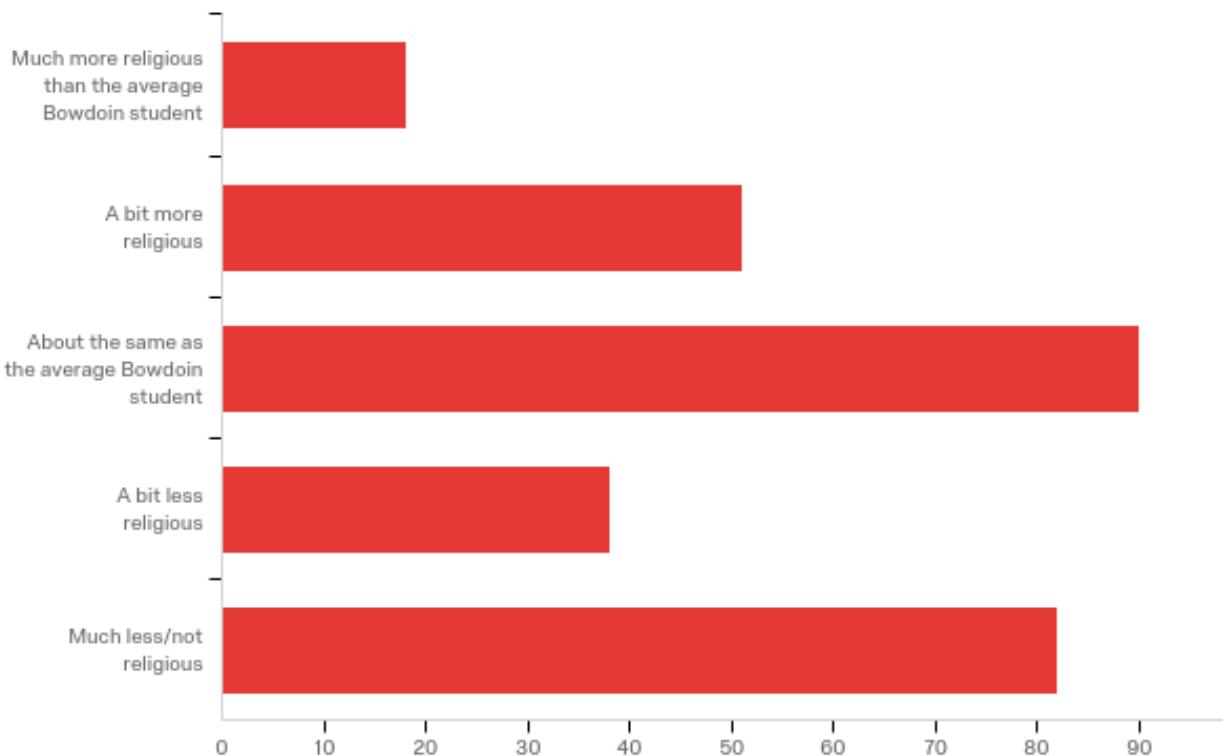
This was an open-ended question. Analysis of these results is on-going.

**Which of the following do you think would enhance how much you learn in your classes at Bowdoin? Select as many as you like.**



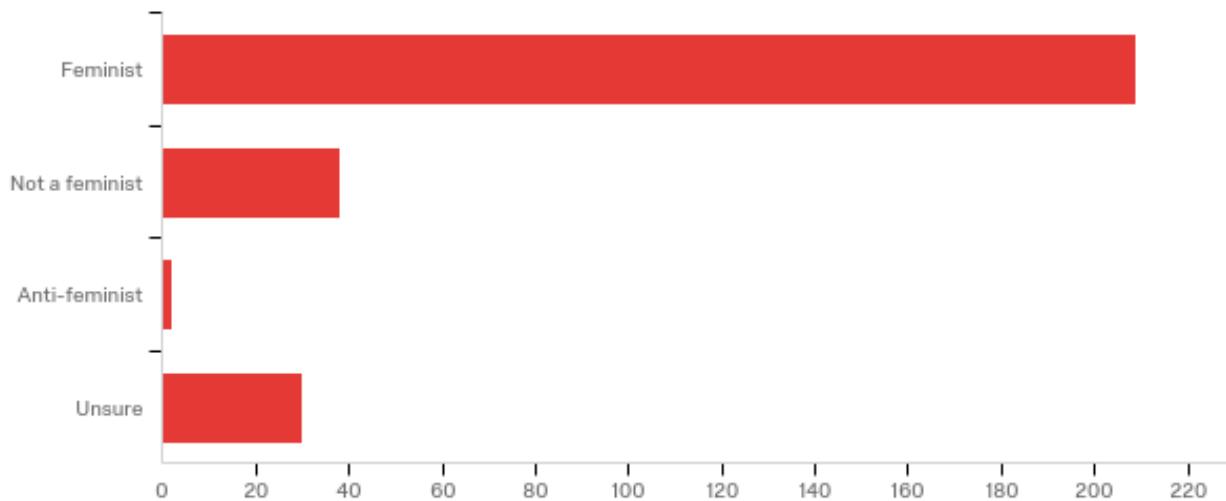
#	Answer	%	Count
1	More ungraded assignments	41.18%	112
3	More group assignments	14.34%	39
4	More feedback from professors on drafts of assignments	75.37%	205
5	More faculty office hours	33.09%	90
6	More in-class presentations	20.22%	55
Total		100%	272

**Students across campus practice many different faiths. In comparing yourself to what you perceive as the "average" Bowdoin student, how religious are you, if at all?**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Much more religious than the average Bowdoin student	6.45%	18
2	A bit more religious	18.28%	51
3	About the same as the average Bowdoin student	32.26%	90
4	A bit less religious	13.62%	38
5	Much less/not religious	29.39%	82
Total		100%	279

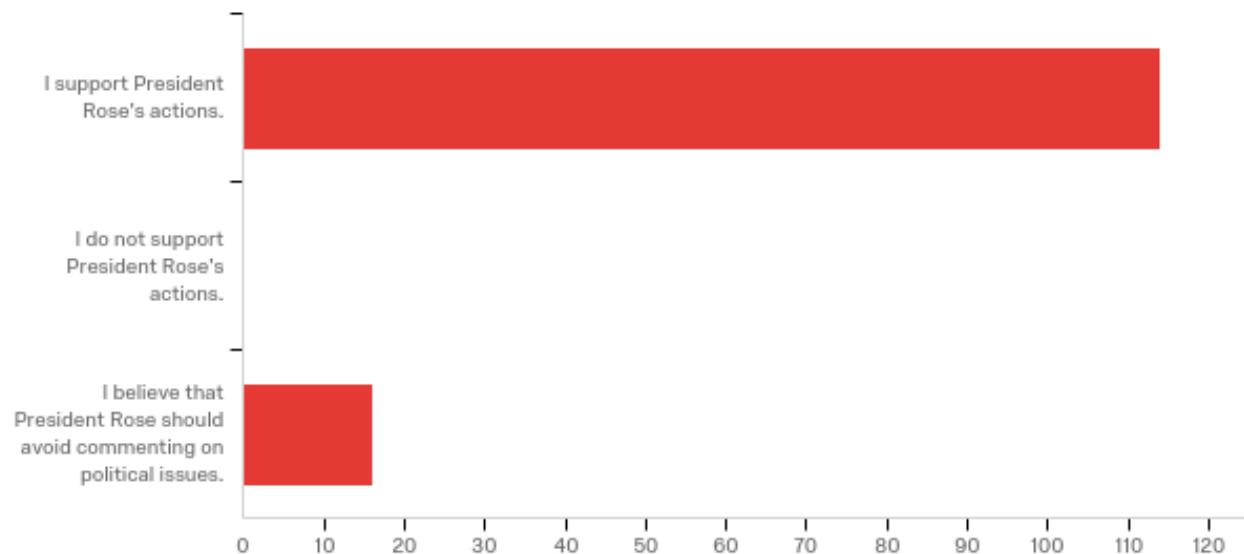
## Do you consider yourself to be a feminist, not a feminist or an anti-feminist?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Feminist	74.91%	209
2	Not a feminist	13.62%	38
3	Anti-feminist	0.72%	2
4	Unsure	10.75%	30
	Total	100%	279

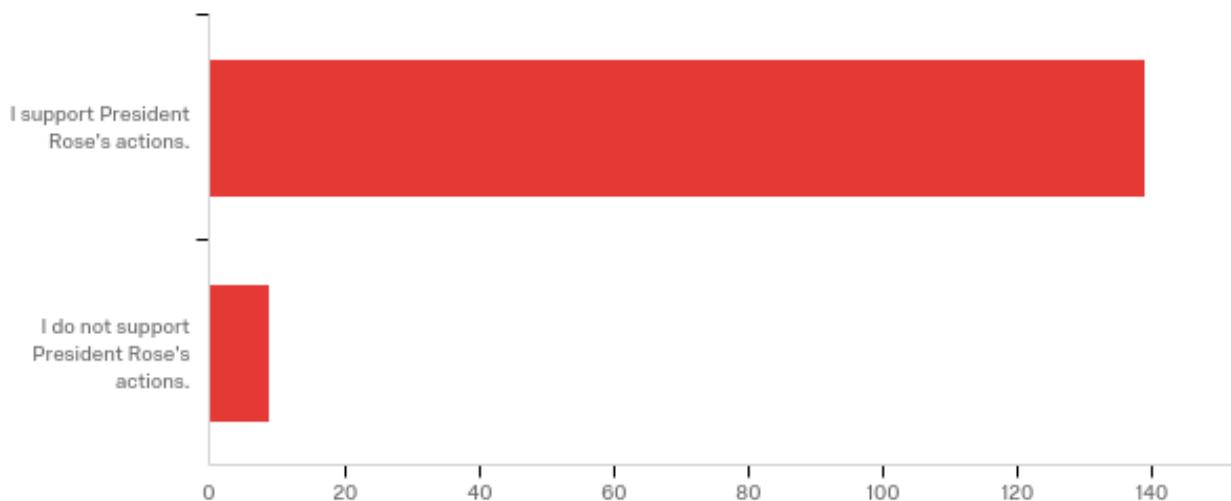
For this question, half received the question with the listed options below, while a random half received the question with the options listed on the next page.

**As you may know, President Rose has taken several actions related to Donald Trump's executive order on immigration. He sent an email last month to the campus community calling Trump's order "deeply troubling" and signed a petition along with forty-seven other college presidents urging the president to "rectify or rescind" the order. Which statement below is closest to your opinion?**



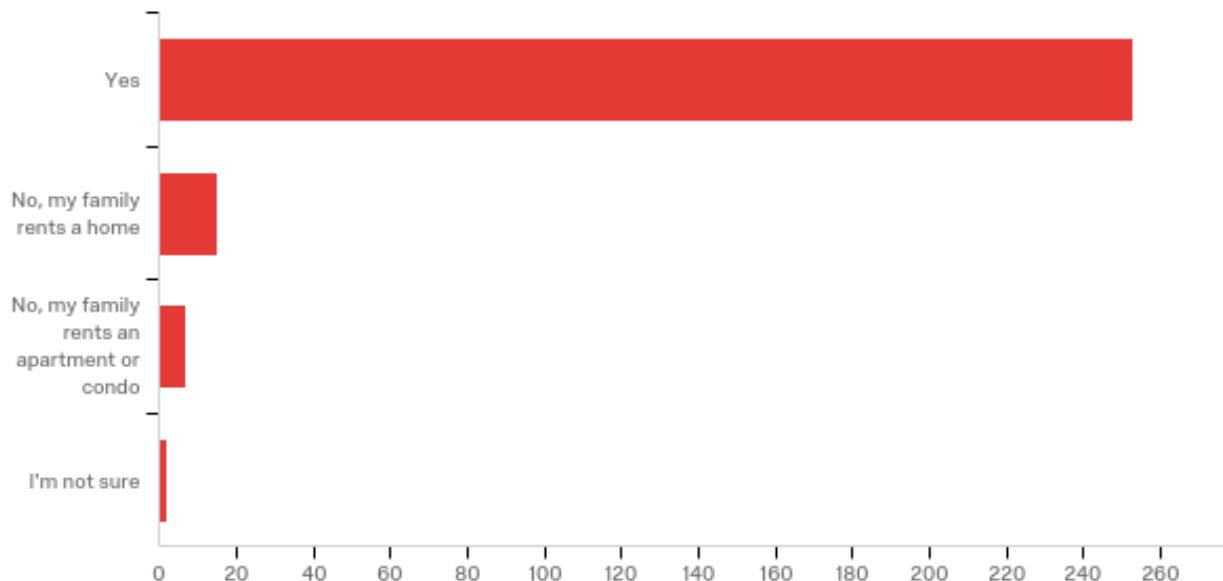
#	Answer	%	Count
1	I support President Rose's actions.	87.69%	114
2	I do not support President Rose's actions.	0.00%	0
3	I believe that President Rose should avoid commenting on political issues.	12.31%	16
Total		100%	130

As you may know, President Rose has taken several actions related to Donald Trump's executive order on immigration. He sent an email last month to the campus community calling Trump's order "deeply troubling" and signed a petition along with forty-seven other college presidents urging the president to "rectify or rescind" the order. Which statement below is closest to your opinion?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	I support President Rose's actions.	93.92%	139
2	I do not support President Rose's actions.	6.08%	9
	Total	100%	148

## Does your family currently own a home?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	91.34%	253
2	No, my family rents a home	5.42%	15
4	No, my family rents an apartment or condo	2.53%	7
5	I'm not sure	0.72%	2
	Total	100%	277