

GCRReads 2020 Summary Report

Seventy-three GCRReads microseminars were held on Monday August 10th and Tuesday August 11th. Microseminar sessions were scheduled for 90 minutes, and were held both virtually and in-person. On Monday August 10th we held 35 sessions, of which 13 were in-person and 22 were virtual. On Tuesday August 11th we held 38 sessions, of which 14 were in-person and 24 were virtual. We had 52 faculty, staff, and administrators volunteer to facilitate sessions with representatives from every college.

Students were informed about GCRReads during their summer orientation session, and sent follow-up reminders via email. If students did not register themselves for a microseminar, they were assigned to one. This year 15 essays were selected for GCRReads. These essays were available to students at no cost through a libguide created by the GC library. Registration for GCRReads was also facilitated via LibGuide. Across the two days 1,323 first-year students attended a GCRReads microseminar.

Student Feedback

307 students responded to the GCRReads Student Survey. Of these respondents:

- 99.3% of students indicated they read their assigned essay
- 91.5% of students felt GCRReads was a good introduction to academics at Georgia College
- 82.8% of students rated their GCRReads experience as “excellent” or “good”

Select comments from students:

Got to talk to a professor before classes started so it made me feel more comfortable with how classes are going to be.

I felt like this event produced an authentic online classroom setting, and what might represent, the type of discussions that we'll have.

It was a very engaging conversation. Everyone was able to share their opinion, and the teacher respected everyone's opinion.

For those who have never participated in a Socratic seminar or discussion, this program is a great introduction to the level of academic discord expected at the collegiate level.

It gave every person a chance to meet new people. I personally met a lot of people who have the same major as me! I also got to discover that a lot of people are in the same boat as me when it comes to what they're nervous about and what they're looking forward to!

It allowed for open discussion, in a respectful environment, with a low-pressure style that made communicating ideas easier

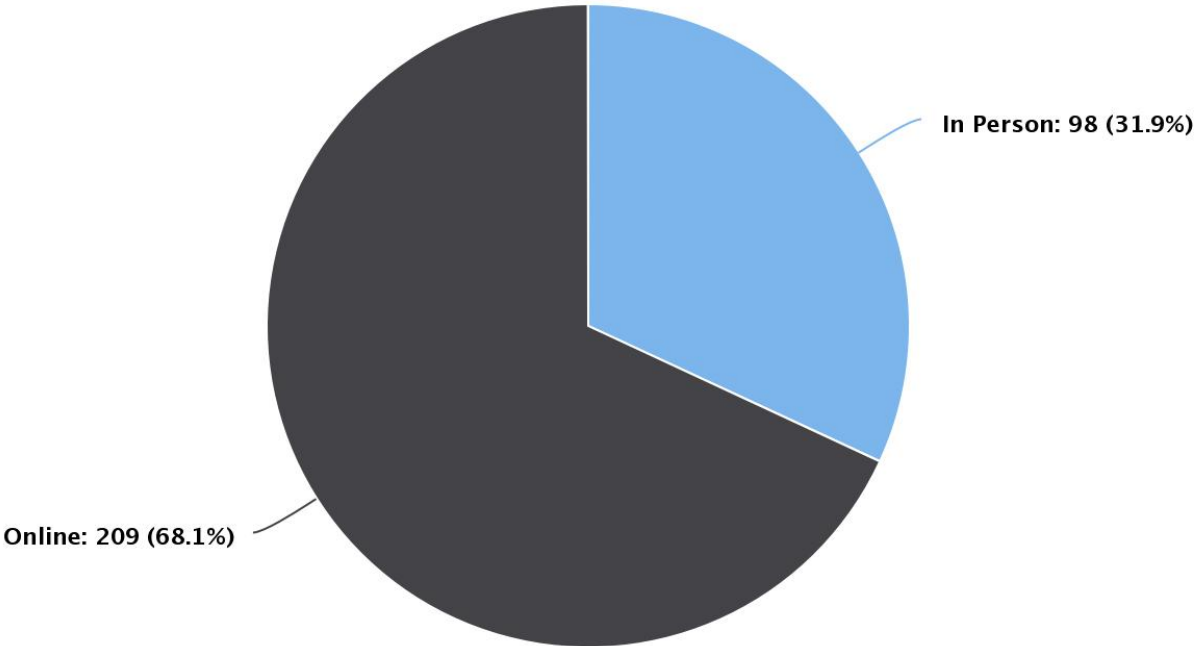
Facilitator Feedback

- 30 facilitators responded to the GCRReads Facilitator Survey. Of these respondents:
- 90% rated their experience with GCRReads as “excellent” or “good”
- 93% reported that “all” or “most” of their students were present
- 100% reported that organization of GCRReads was “excellent” or “good”

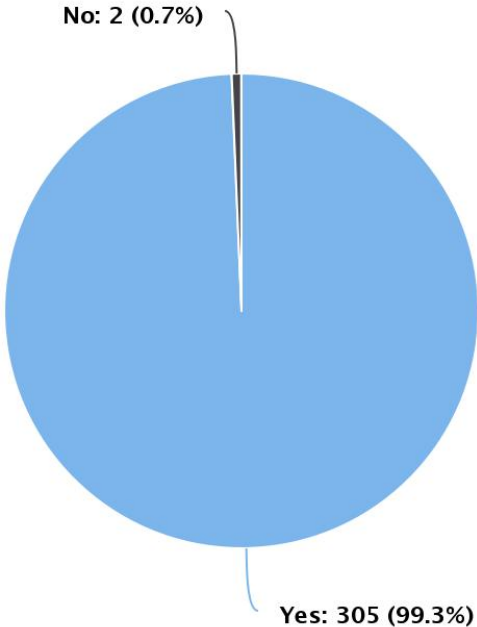
Detailed Student Survey Results

GC Reads 2020: A snapshot of student engagement

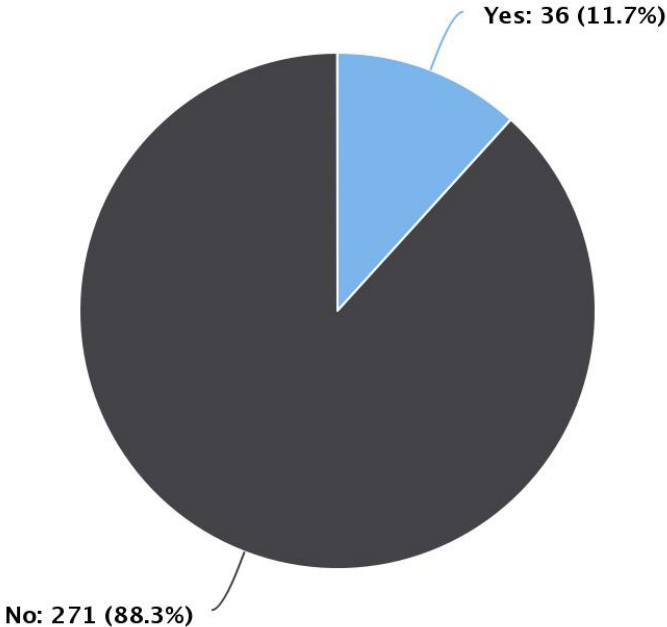
What type of seminar did you attend?



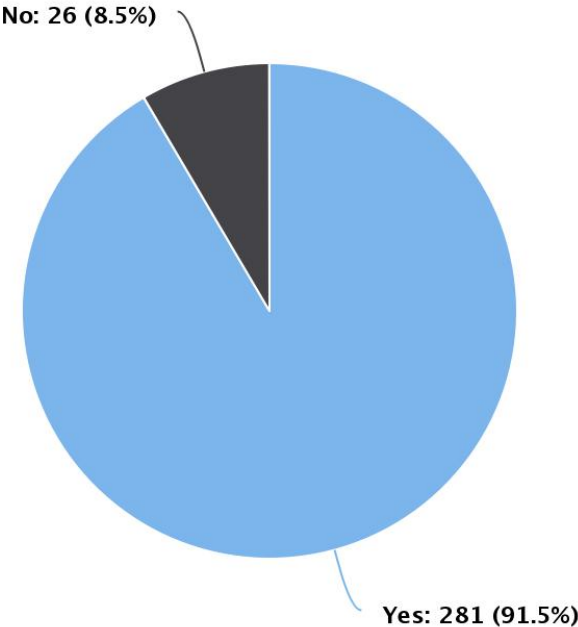
Did you read the article which was the topic for your seminar session?



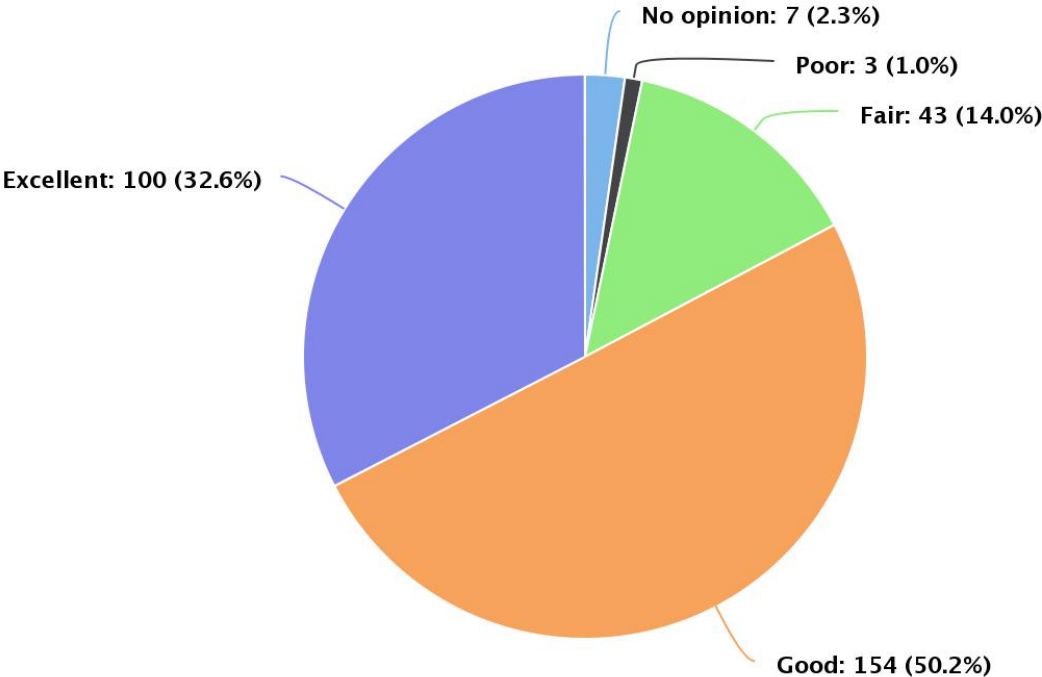
Did you read any additional articles from the GC Reads article selection?



Do you feel this event is a good introduction to academics at Georgia College?



How would you rate the GC Reads experience?



Select comments from Student Participants:

Rated Excellent

It is a good introduction because it is not hard, it gets you thinking, and it gets you to meet new professors

GC Reads class was a good practice/icebreaker for real classes. I noticed it took me a longer time to get to the Arts and Science building than I had thought. I was also less nervous about classes the next day because I had a good introduction through my GC Reads class. Plus I was happy to find out that the teacher was not mean and scary.

Got to talk to a professor before classes started so it made me feel more comfortable with how classes are going to be.

It allowed me to get a general understanding of what professors are looking for.

It was nice to have a more casual precursor to our normal classes

I felt like this event produced an authentic online classroom setting, and what might represent, the type of discussions that we'll have.

Rated Good

It was a very engaging conversation. Everyone was able to share their opinion, and the teacher respected everyone's opinion.

A simple small trial run of what classes are like and low pressure

It was a good opportunity to have a discussion and meet fellow students.

This program helped me familiarize myself with getting to class and navigating an instructed college course

For those who have never participated in a Socratic seminar or discussion, this program is a great introduction to the level of academic discord expected at the collegiate level.

It gave every person a chance to meet new people. I personally met a lot of people who have the same major as me! I also got to discover that a lot of people are in the same boat as me when it comes to what they're nervous about and what they're looking forward to!

Rated Fair

It didn't really discuss the academic side of GCSU

Discussion is the basis of every good class because it allows students to engage with the topic, which is a thing that GCSU encourages students to do.

I don't understand how this introduces into academics

I was expecting the seminar to be more discussion-based, but there was a lot of lecture about the facts about Flannery O'Connor rather than discussion about the significance or meaning of her work.

Rated Poor

It felt pointless and did not seem important

I couldn't hear anything the entire time on the seminar and I tried reaching out to get help, but was not successful so I didn't get to hear any of the discussion. I know it's probably the software and not the leaders fault but I just thought I should share my troubles with it :)

Rated No Opinion

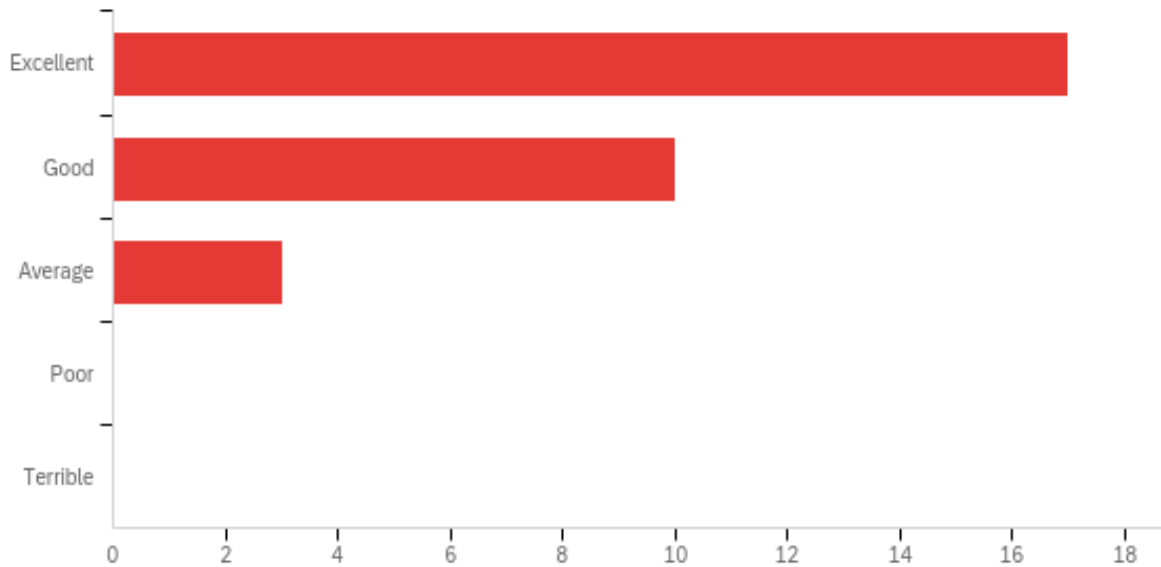
It just felt extra and pointless

Helps involve me in discussions with other students

It allowed for open discussion, in a respectful environment, with a low-pressure style that made communicating ideas easier

Detailed Facilitator Survey Responses

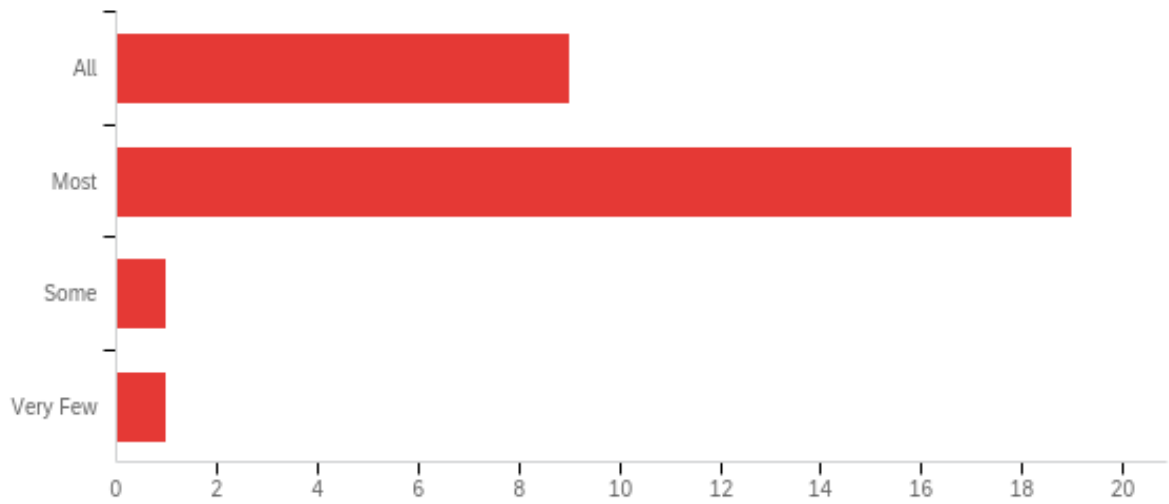
Q1 - Please rate your overall faculty experience with GCReads.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please rate your overall faculty experience with GCReads.	1.00	3.00	1.53	0.67	0.45	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Excellent	56.67%	17
2	Good	33.33%	10
3	Average	10.00%	3
4	Poor	0.00%	0
5	Terrible	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	30

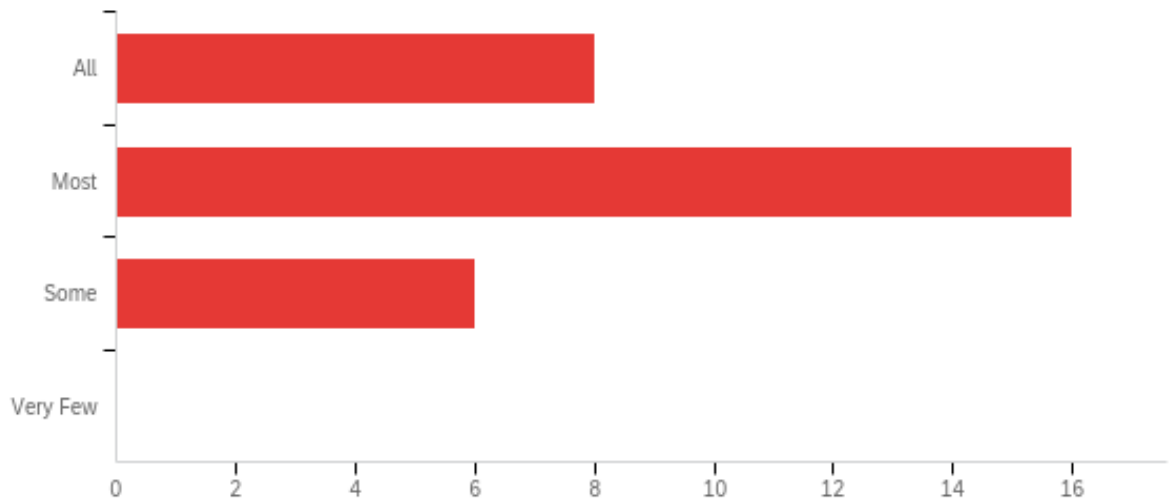
Q2 - How many of your students were present?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How many of your students were present?	1.00	4.00	1.80	0.65	0.43	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	All	30.00%	9
2	Most	63.33%	19
3	Some	3.33%	1
4	Very Few	3.33%	1
	Total	100%	30

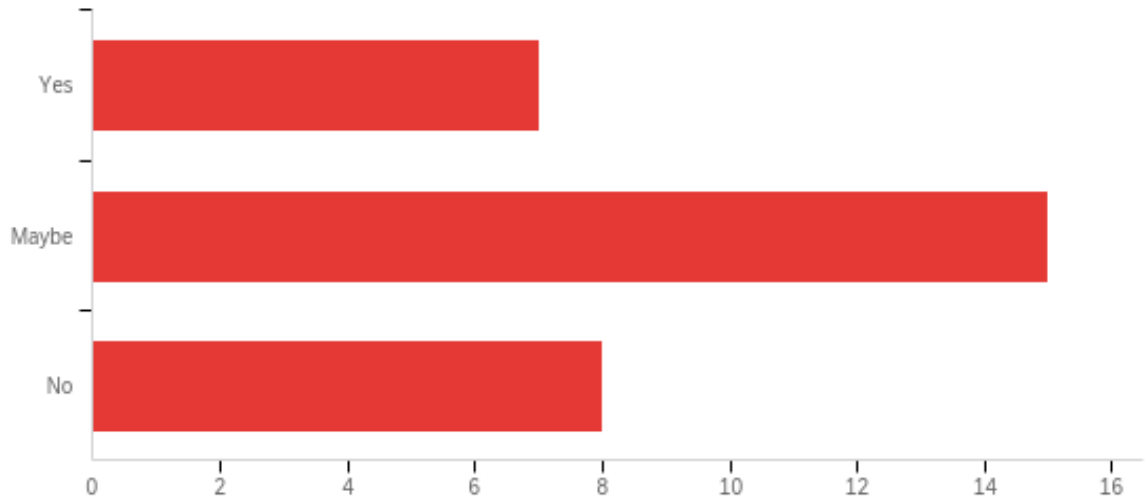
Q3 - How many students spoke up or otherwise participated?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How many students spoke up or otherwise participated?	1.00	3.00	1.93	0.68	0.46	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	All	26.67%	8
2	Most	53.33%	16
3	Some	20.00%	6
4	Very Few	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	30

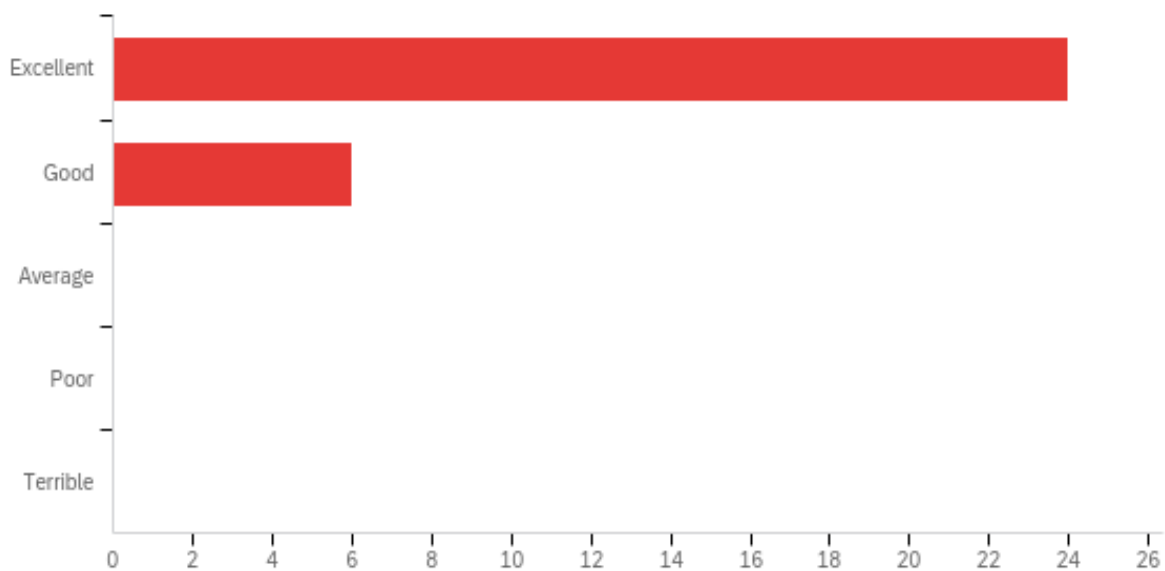
Q4 - Do you plan to follow up with your GCReads students?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you plan to follow up with your GCReads students?	1.00	3.00	2.03	0.71	0.50	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	23.33%	7
2	Maybe	50.00%	15
3	No	26.67%	8
	Total	100%	30

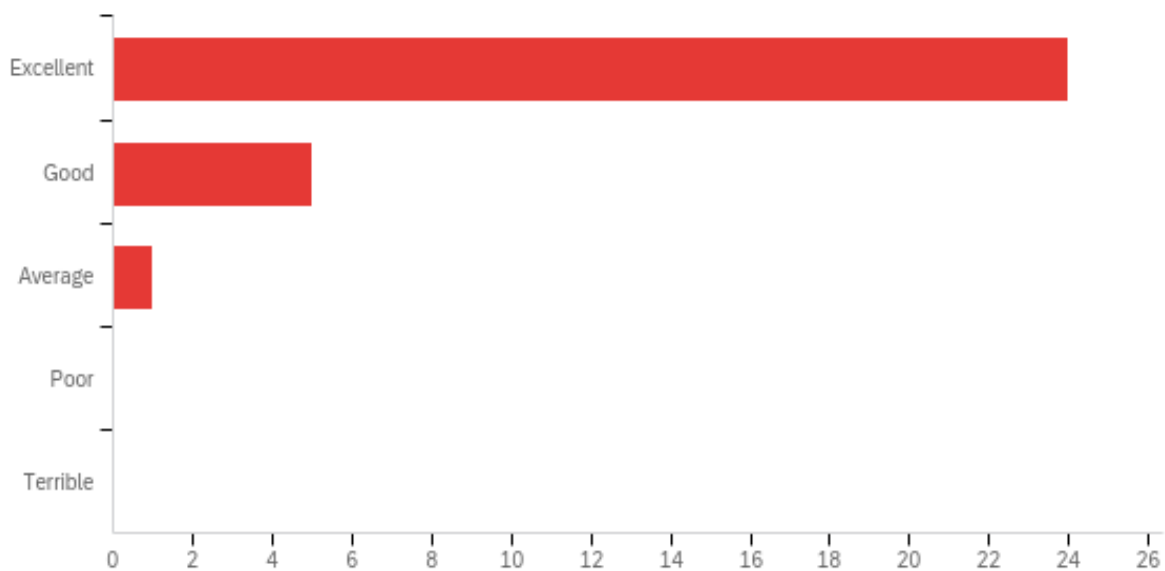
Q5 - Please rate the organization & planning of the program.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please rate the organization & planning of the program.	1.00	2.00	1.20	0.40	0.16	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Excellent	80.00%	24
2	Good	20.00%	6
3	Average	0.00%	0
4	Poor	0.00%	0
5	Terrible	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	30

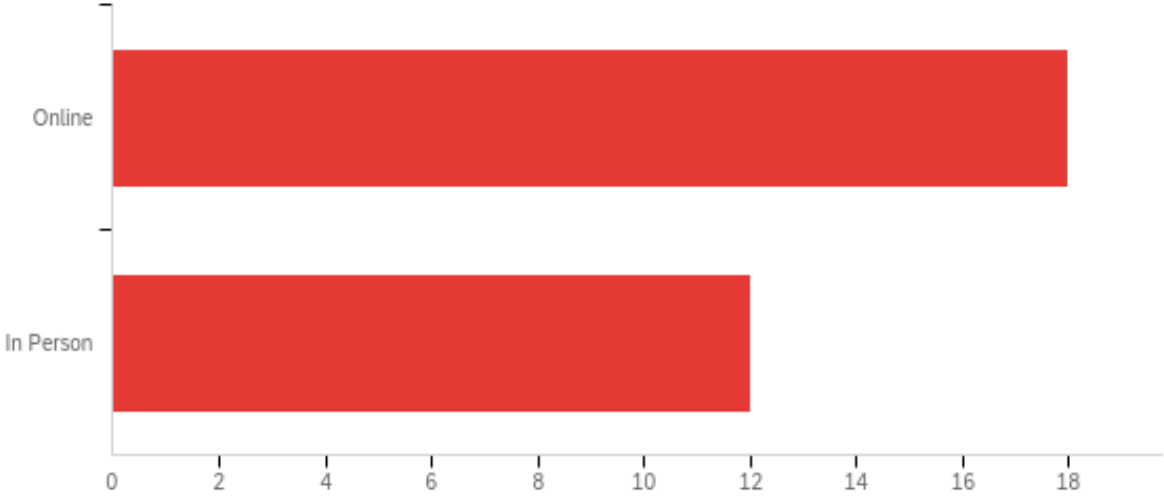
Q6 - Please rate the communication with faculty.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Please rate the communication with faculty.	1.00	3.00	1.23	0.50	0.25	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Excellent	80.00%	24
2	Good	16.67%	5
3	Average	3.33%	1
4	Poor	0.00%	0
5	Terrible	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	30

Q7 - Did you facilitate online or in-person



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Did you facilitate online or in-person	1.00	2.00	1.40	0.49	0.24	30

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Online	60.00%	18
2	In Person	40.00%	12
	Total	100%	30

Q8 - Are there any essays or books you would recommend that the committee considers for 2021?

Are there any essays or books you would recommend that the committee considers for 2021?

Sorry - not at this time.

Thick: And Other Essays Book by Tressie McMillan Cottom

Not at this time

I hope you'll continue to include O'Connor

Where Peachtree meets Sweet Auburn

None immediately come to mind

The Alice Walker piece, "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens" was a great starting place for our conversation about heritage and race. These students were so ready for the discussion.

No

Pretty much anything Jane Kramer writes for The New Yorker is outstanding.

I can't think of any right now.

Perhaps some more "classic" essays

No

No.

Q10 - Additional Feedback

Additional Feedback

Thank You!

Monday morning session was better in terms of students participation compared to Tuesday afternoon session. (May be students were tired)

Erin and Jamie are the BEST!

One hours and 15 minutes is enough time.

I had multiple students ask what the purpose of the event was. One even thought I was one of his instructors and was concerned I wasn't listed as one of his professors. I'm sure it is somewhere, but maybe more intentional communication to the students about why they're there would help them get the most out of the experience.

WebEx does not seem to like large groups.

This was a tough time to plan this. I think students still appreciated meeting each other and faculty.

This was a well-executed essential program! Erin Weston should be commended for her all her work!

Please encourage students to bring a copy of the article with them.

The WebEx personal rooms cannot do breakout rooms so I could not do much of what I wanted to. I also could not figure out how to share my computer audio because they could see the video I wanted them to watch but not hear it. I suck at managing class discussion. We finished in 45 minutes.

The only reason I marked "average" for faculty communication was because I didn't respond until close to the day of the session. I got an early message from Jamie with excellent suggestions, and I used several of them. It was my own fault for not responding sooner.

Great job--I enjoyed serving on the committee as well as being a facilitator.

I think the online meeting worked better than the in person ones in the past

My average rating was only because, I felt that I did horrible in the online environment, I'm still learning in that area. However, I'm happy that online was an option.

The 11 a.m. Group on Monday were great. The 2 p.m. on Tuesday were awful. They had three to four on one computer in the room. They were laughing and talking and on their telephones and social media. They had people in their rooms that did not belong.

