

## **First-Semester Experience/"Big Chicago" Evaluation and Assessment Fall 2015**

### **Executive Summary**

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Dean's Office led a comprehensive assessment of the new First Semester Experience courses, an initiative offered in the Fall 2015 semester as a replacement for the First Year Seminar. Among the goals of these courses were to introduce students to among Columbia's best fulltime faculty members, provide an introduction to that faculty member's discipline, immerse the students in the City of Chicago, and provide students with opportunities to become engaged in that discipline and the context of the City.

Course proposals were submitted during the spring of 2015 and reviewed by both departmental and school Curriculum Committees. Faculty were supported during the summer of 2015 to further develop and refine their courses and we recruited graduate students to serve as Graduate Teaching Assistants for the courses.

In addition, the Office of Student Success led the development of the New Student Commons, an experience designed to further educate the students on attending college and to provide an orientation to Columbia College Chicago.

Overall, student perceptions of the class experience were positive: They reported high levels of interest in the course topics, and they experienced high levels of engagement with the City of Chicago and Columbia's campus. While they felt the class size was not necessarily conducive to meeting and working with other students, there was very little dissatisfaction reported by students with the relatively large class sizes.

The experience in New Student Commons, however, was not very positive, and students did not report positive experiences in their four Friday sessions during the semester.

We will use the information learned in this assessment to inform the development and enhancement of these courses for the Fall 2016 semester.

## **First-Semester Experience/"Big Chicago" Evaluation and Assessment Fall 2015**

We employed a wide variety of assessment approaches to gauge the student experience in the Big Chicago courses: multiple student surveys, student focus groups, surveys of Graduate Teaching Assistants, a panel assessment of student work, and separate end-of-semester convenings of both GTAs and faculty where we actively solicited feedback from participants.

The following Report is divided into four Sections: Sections I and II report on the results from student surveys. Section III reports on the results from the student Focus Groups held Week 10 of the semester. Section IV presents results from the panel assessment of student work from the courses. The Appendix presents all student comments from our End-of-Semester survey.

### **I. Week 2-4 Student Surveys**

To assess student perceptions early on in the semester (and to potentially provide intervention if necessary), we administered a brief survey during weeks 2, 3, and 4 of the semester. In addition to the Likert scale responses ("Strongly Agree, Agree, etc...") students were given the opportunity to add comments. These provided a great deal of richness to the responses.

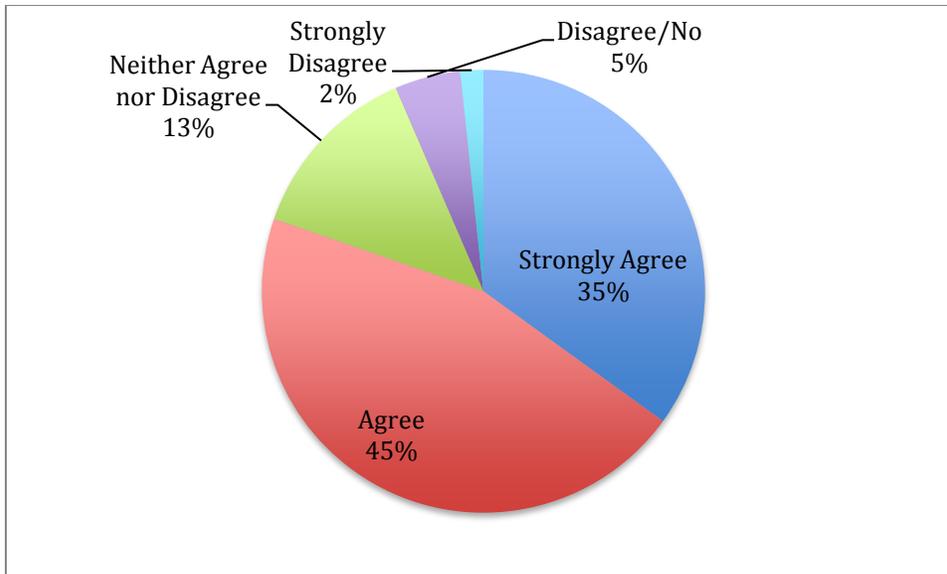
The survey items focused on:

1. The reasons students registered for the specific course
2. Perceptions of class size
3. The experience early on
4. The New Student Commons activities

Overall, the responses for the course were very positive.

Q1: I registered for this course because the topic interested me.

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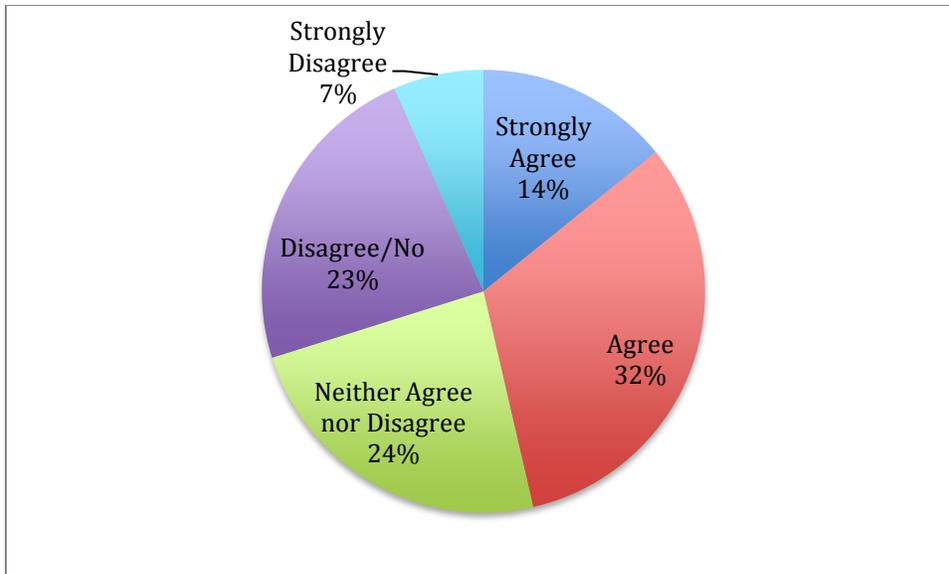


Eighty percent of the students reported that one of the reasons they registered for the course is because of their interest. While many students added that they registered for the course because “I was told to” or “It fit my schedule,” there were additional insights into their registration:

- *I am really interested in psychology as well as a class based on hands-on-get-out-into-the-world learning.*
- *I wanted to learn more about the city I love.*
- *The idea of "business" in Chicago is what interested me. I thought we'd be going out as a class together to see some behind the scenes work.*

Because the course was a departure from the small First Year Seminar program and large class sizes are a tremendous exception at Columbia, we wanted to examine student perceptions on class size.

Q2. I was not aware that there would be so many other students in the course.



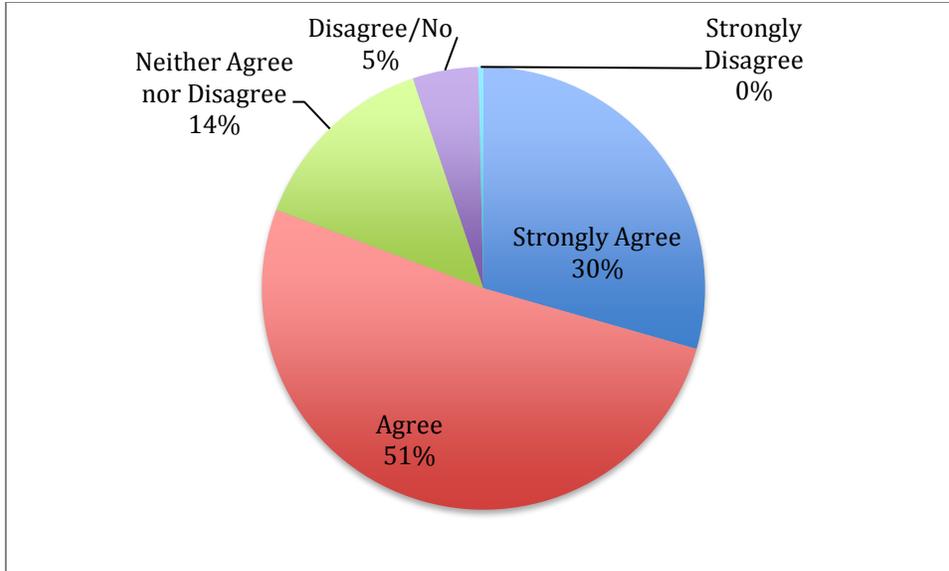
While this item was not phrased as clearly as it might have been, student comments were helpful in learning their perceptions of the large class sizes. Notable comments include:

- *I had no idea, but I have no problem with there being so many other students. I still feel like the teacher:student ratio is appropriate because of the multiple teacher's aids we are staffed with.*
- *I thought the class size would be a lot smaller. I was shocked when I came into the class on the first day and saw over 100 students. I was excited that so many students found interest in this course subject.*
- *Despite the larger size, I still find moments to connect with classmates which is very beneficial.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> question asked about the student experience:

Q3: Even though it is early in the semester, my experience in this class has been positive.

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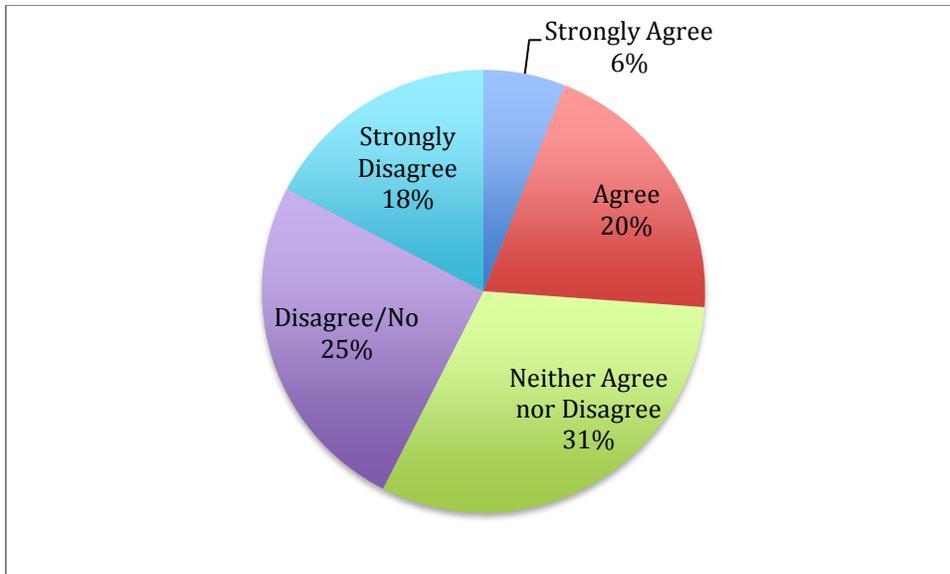
Almost one-third of the students agreed strongly, and more than half of the students agreed; only 5% of the students reported a negative experience to date. This was highly positive and speaks to the engaged environment faculty were able to create in their classes early in the semester.

Student comments included:

- *I find the material that we've been learning about very interesting and intriguing. I'm never bored in your class, and I think that everything we've been discussing has really opened my mind and made me think about things in a new perspective.*
- *Learning of the different industries is interesting, and I enjoyed traveling to different locations in the city.*
- *I love my class, I find it so interesting. I find myself coming home and telling my family and friends all about [it].*

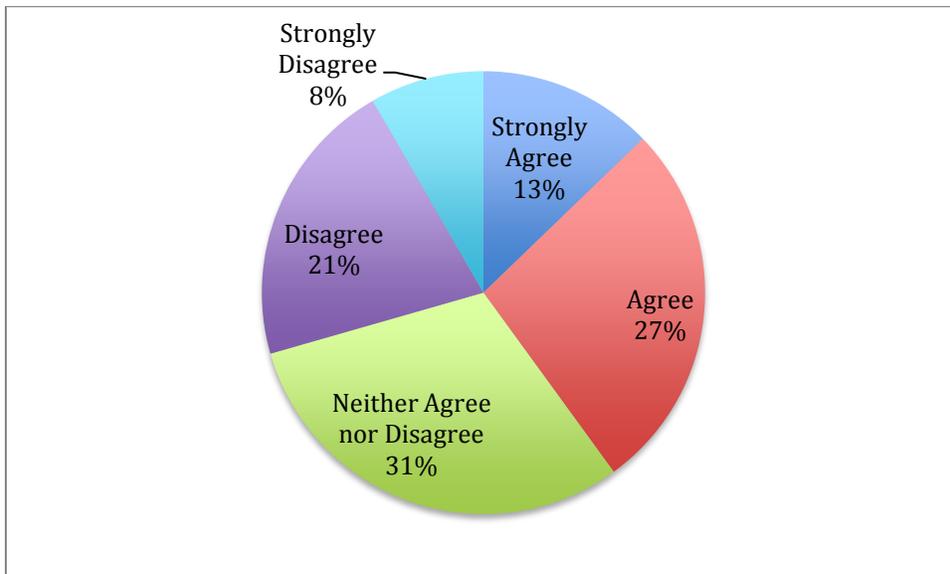
We also asked about the student experience in New Student Commons. Student responses were not as positive. In weeks 2 and 3, the students participated in a Scavenger Hunt Activity. In Week 4, students participated in a role-playing activity based on the film *Inside/Out*.

Q6 (Weeks 2 and 3): The Scavenger Hunt (Weeks 2-3) was a worthwhile activity.



Only 26% of respondents found the Scavenger Hunt a worthwhile activity.

Q6 (Week 4): The Student Health and Support role-playing (Inside/Out) was a worthwhile activity.



The activity designed around the film “Inside/Out” was more positively received, as 40% of the respondents found it a positive experience.

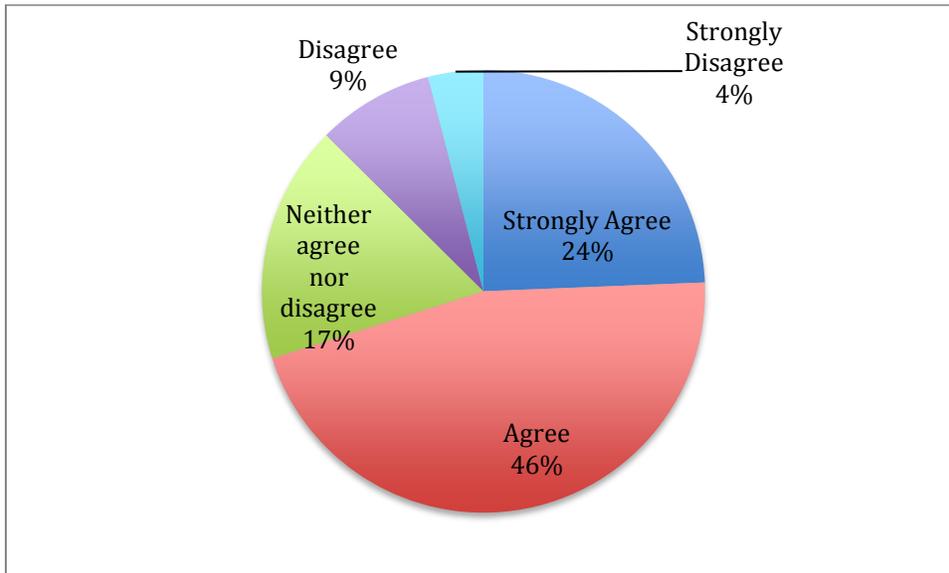
With the exception of the New Student Commons, the overall early perception of students was highly very positive. Both summary results and respective section-level results were shared with the faculty.

## II. End of Semester Student Survey: The Course

We designed our own survey (covering specific programmatic aspects of the course that the college-wide instrument does not include). Overall, the student perceptions of their experience in the class were quite positive, as was their perspective on the course achieving its goals relative to the City of Chicago and Columbia College. A total of 670 students completed the survey.

The first eight items were directed at the Big Chicago class.

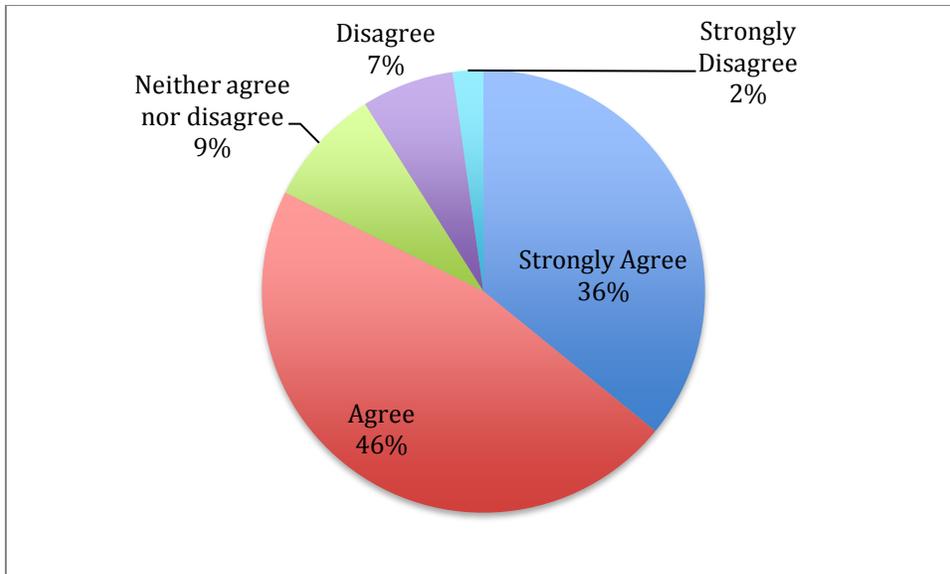
Q1: The course topic and content were interesting.



70% of students responded positively; only 13% responded negatively.

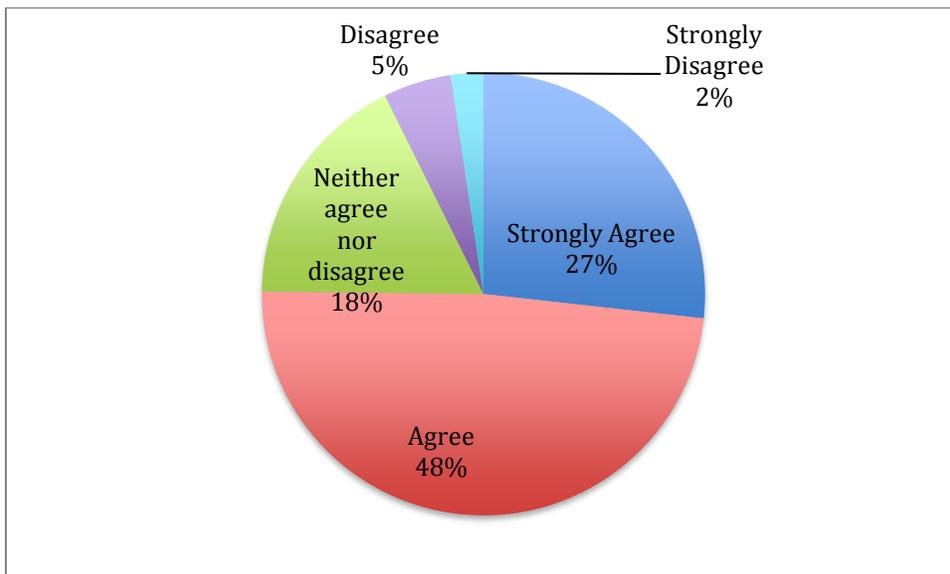
Q2: I learned about the city of Chicago (e.g. culture, communities, context, history) that I did not know before I took this class.

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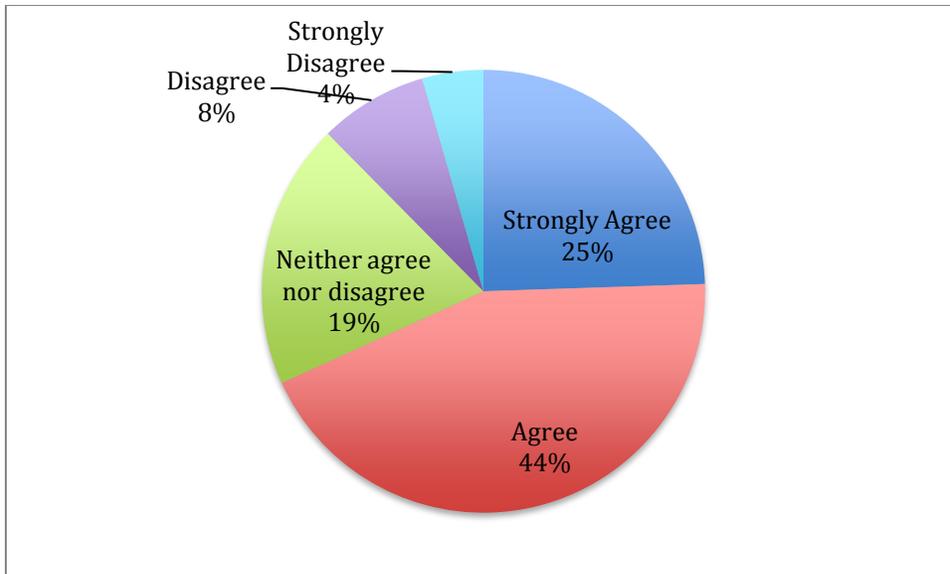
Again, a high percentage, 82% reported that they learned about the City of Chicago as a result of this experience.

Q3: I understand the urban context of Columbia College Chicago as a rich resource for questioning, exploring, and inquiry.

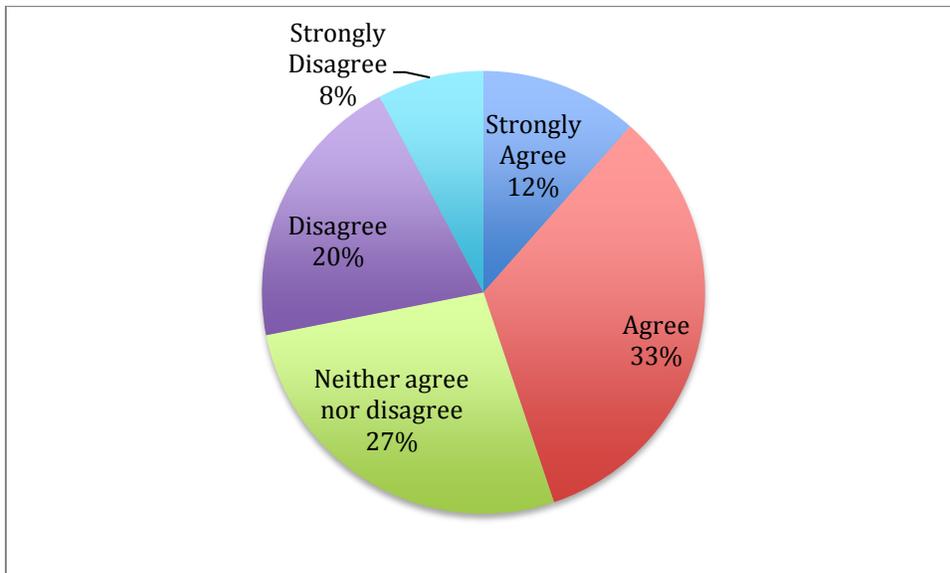


75% of the students responded positively; only 7% responded negatively.

Q4: The course allowed me to become engaged in the City of Chicago and/or outside of the Columbia campus.

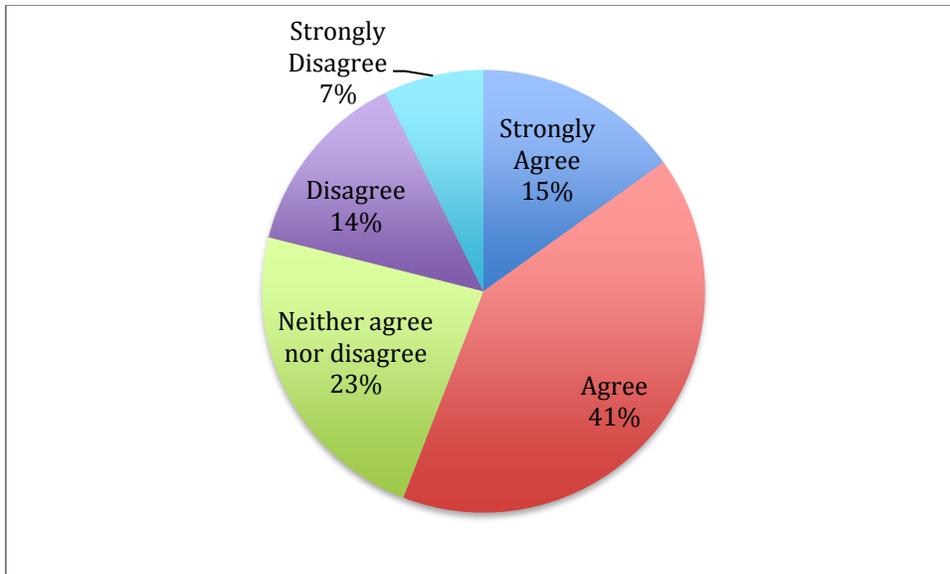


Q5. The course encouraged me to meet and work with other students at Columbia College Chicago.



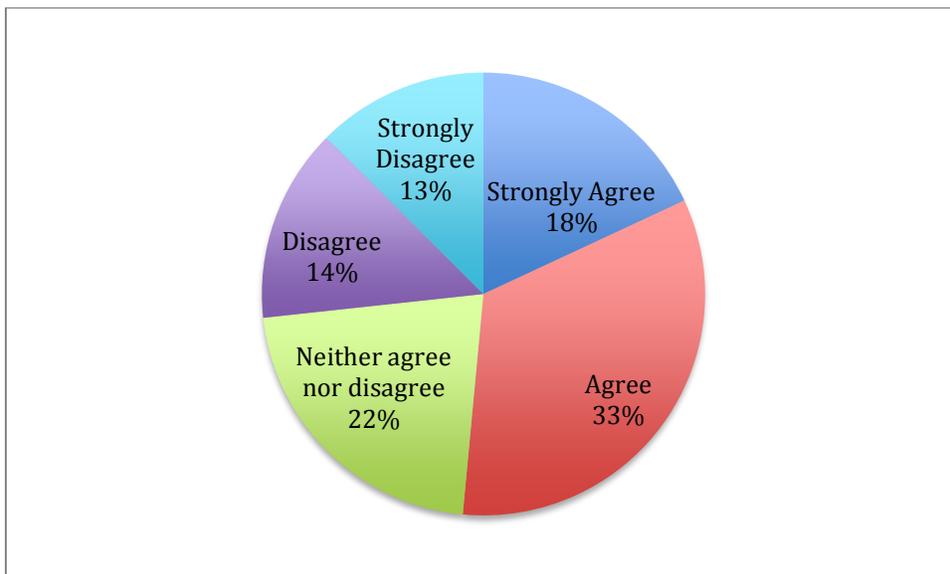
This was one of the more negatively responded item. Some faculty incorporated group activities in the coursework; others did not. This result will be shared with Fall 2016 faculty as they refine their classes and, perhaps, increase the levels of student-to-student interactivity.

Q6. The number of students in the class was appropriate for the learning activities.



A majority (55%) responded positively; 21% responded negatively. Again, this will be shared with Fall 2016 faculty.

Q7: I would recommend this course to a friend.



More than one-quarter (27%) of students responded negatively to this item. While not as positive as the other items, we are hopeful that we will learn from the more successful classes as the Fall 2016 courses take shape.

As we looked at the results by section, the following themes emerged:

- Students reported high levels of engagement and satisfaction in courses that deployed them in thoughtful and meaningful ways throughout the City of Chicago.
- Students also appreciated learning new ideas and being introduced to a discipline. Steve Asma's Museum course and Rocky Monroe's Dance class are two good examples. In Asma's course, students explored concepts such as curiosity within the context of Chicago's museums. Monroe's class had few Dance majors, so students were introduced to the discipline of dance (history, development, performance). In short, both classes presented students with new concepts and ideas.
- In addition, effective courses intentionally built to a final, cumulating project (individual or group) that incorporated content from the discipline combined with the student experience out in the City (museums, neighborhoods).
- What worked less well were the courses that relied extensively on external speakers. While students reported that they did appreciate learning from different perspectives and experiences, these were perceived as less cohesive semester-long experiences and also failed to provide an in-depth exploration of a topic or discipline.

After this first set of questions, we offered students the opportunity to "share any additional comments on your experience in the course." The following represent themes and other notable responses. Overall, the comments were positive, but there were also negative comments.

Positive:

- *This course gives me lots of chances to visit different places of Chicago, and I learnt a lot during this whole semester. I know Chicago better now.*
- *He's an amazing professor. So passionate about what he teaches, and talks about. Highly recommend. Although I dislike the NSC I think it's not needed.*
- *I liked learning about the links journalism and music have to each other and to Chicago; it is something that many of us didn't think about until we took the class.*
- *Although we didn't always agree I loved the teacher and learned more than I thought about Chicago as a southerner.*
- *Very cool way to get out and explore areas other than the south loop of Chicago.*
- *I really enjoyed this course, it was really a great way to learn about Chicago and it really got me engaged with the city. I love Chicago even more and I'm glad that I got to meet some cool, new people.*
- *I wasn't sure what to expect really from this class, I was just told last minute I needed to have a first semester class to be honest. I just chose this one because the name seemed cool. I wasn't prepared to be this excited and interested for the class. There are so many interesting conversations and small debates we have in our classes and a lot of different view points I've never explored before.*

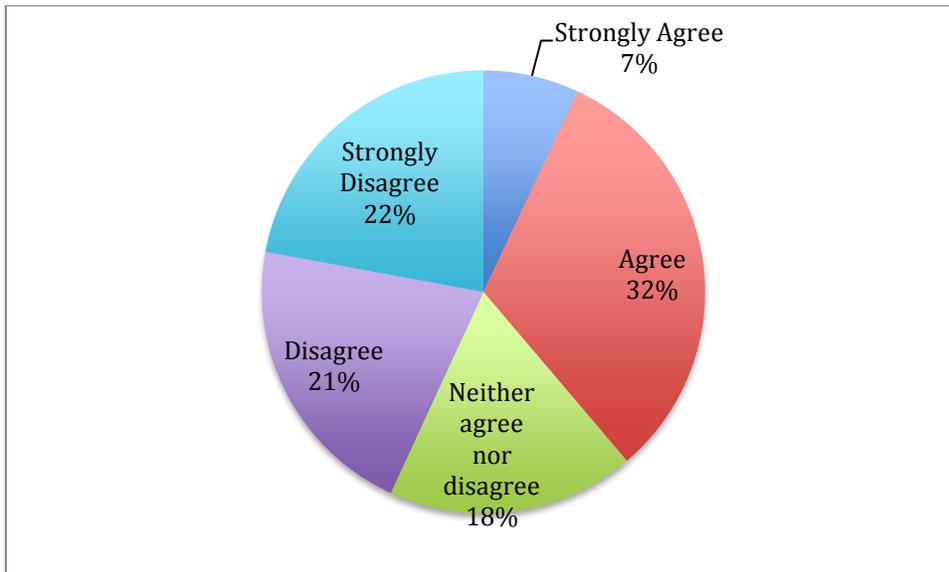
*It really helped me a lot when I'm working on my animations and coming up with story ideas because I have more materials to grab from.*

Negative:

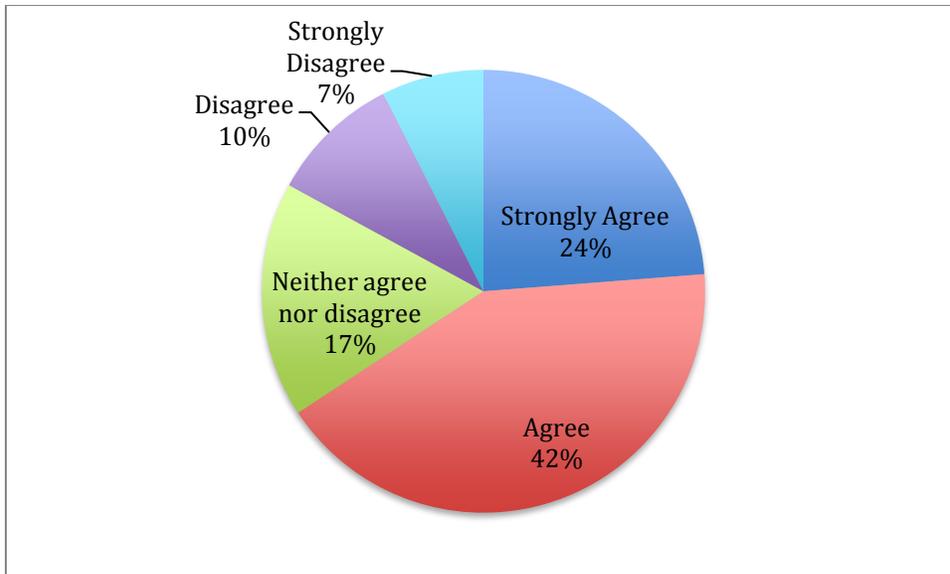
- *This class has felt like the typical college lecture and I'm glad I took it because I doubt I will have many more classes of this size and style in the future.*
- *When selecting this course, we were advised on Oasis to take a class unrelated to our major. I thought (major topic) would be cool, but the class is SOOOO (major) oriented that I was completely disinterested.*
- *Working with others was extremely difficult and infuriating.*
- *Would be better if smaller.*

The final three questions were focused on the New Student Commons activities.

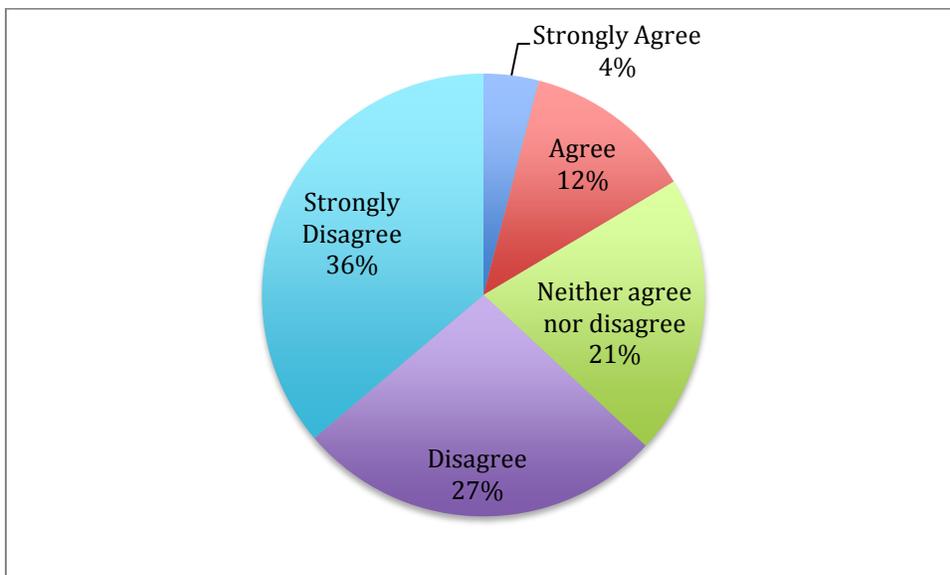
Q8. I understand the purpose of the New Student Commons activities.



Q9: My Orientation Leader communicated clearly with me about the New Student Commons activities.



Q10: The four assigned New Student Commons Fridays were valuable to me.



While the students found the Orientation Leaders to be a positive aspect to the program, they did not find much value in the Friday activities.

A representative sample (both positive and negative) of student comments follows.

Positive:

- *I think my team members are all welcoming and interesting, and the activities made me feel like there really are someone who is caring about me.*
- *It's a great activity that help new students here be familiar with the surrounding environment. It's helpful. Sometimes the activities are a little boring.*

- *I was welcomed and I got a chance to experience different buildings of the college and more.*
- *It was very informative, but a little dull.*
- *It was interesting.*
- *My orientation leader was awesome!*

Negative:

- *I don't like the new student commons experience. I think it's meaningless.*
- *It was pointless.*
- *They treated us like children and honestly did not help me with anything or teach me new. I felt like they were treating me like a baby. Also it was a waste of three hours that i could of used to be doing homework.*
- *New Student Commons should be optional. A LOT didn't apply to commuters.*
- *It was not useful and should not be conducted again because it did not reach its goal.*
- *I attended all but one, I understand the theory behind them but they were irrelevant. I felt them quite patronizing and condescending. We are in college right?*

### **III. Student Focus Groups**

Two staff members from the Office of Marketing Communications led two focus groups of students, and these were held on November 12 and 13, 2015 (Week 10 of the semester). The conversations lasted approximately 90 minutes and the following questions were the focus of the conversations:

1. How did you find out about the different classes available for you?
2. What was most important to you when you registered? (Topic? Schedule?)
3. What were your expectations for this class before classes began?
4. What were your initial impressions of the course? How have your impressions changed over the semester?
5. What are you learning in this class?
6. What part about the course do you like the most?
7. What part about the course do you like the least?
8. What kind of interaction do you have with the instructor?
9. What kind of interaction do you have with the Teaching Assistants?
10. This is the first year of Big Chicago. What suggestions do you have for next year to make it better?
11. How is your experience in New Student Commons?
12. What are you learning in New Student Commons?
13. What part about New Student Commons do you like the most?
14. What part about New Student Commons do you like the least?

15. This is the first year of New Student Commons. What suggestions do you have for next year to make it better?

The conversations produced the following themes and trends:

1. **Course Expectations and Initial Impressions**  
While students were able to see class sizes in the schedule, some expressed surprise at how large the courses were. There was also confusion about the scheduled time on Friday. Approximately half of the participants enjoyed their Big Chicago class; half were disappointed, mostly due to perceptions of repetition in the way the class was being run.
2. **Learning, Likes, and Dislikes**  
Students reported that they truly enjoyed learning about a new discipline and the City of Chicago and also feeling connections to the City via the course content and their explorations as part of the course activities. More than one also noted the value brought by certain guest speakers. Finally, there was general agreement that the individual faculty member brought much to the class in terms of expertise. In terms of dislikes, students reported that the class size is a negative; however, this was not necessarily in terms of content, but that they often got distracted by students who were not paying attention.
3. **Interactions with Instructor and TAs.**  
The students noted that the very nature of the class size makes it very difficult to establish a relationship with the faculty member, however the presence of the TAs is very helpful.
4. **Ways to Improve Big Chicago Classes**  
The students felt that more information about the courses should be available when they register for classes. In addition, students wished the class sessions themselves were more interactive. They also felt like the outside demands (travel, events) were too demanding at times.
5. **New Student Commons**  
There was strong consensus that New Student Commons was not a good use of the students' time. One of the primary reasons is that it was scheduled for Fridays, and most students do not have any other classes on Friday. Commuting students, especially, disliked traveling to campus solely for that activity. They also felt like many of the activities treated the students like "children" and were not valuable activities.

#### **IV. Panel Review of Student Work**

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In order to directly assess student achievement of course and program outcomes, we asked faculty to identify the student work that best represented both their course's specific outcomes and also the more general program outcomes for the Big Chicago classes. Faculty provided us with copies of the student work (via Moodle or other platforms).

To this end, the following rubric was developed and utilized:

To what extent does/is the work demonstrate:	Poor	Fair	Well	Excellent	N/A
1. The student has experienced aspects of the City of Chicago firsthand?					
2. The student has reflected on those experiences?					
3. An understanding of the disciplinary content of the course?					
4. Analytical thinking?					
5. College level work (i.e., well-written, executed)?					

We recruited a panel of three Graduate Teaching Assistants who were provided orientation and normed on using the rubric. The Cronbach Alpha calculated for a sample of results returned a value of .911, indicating a very high level of inter-rater reliability.

The results for the individual sections<sup>1</sup>:

Individual Assignments	N	Experience the City of Chicago	Reflected on the Experience	Demonstrate Disciplinary Content	Analytical Thinking	Work at College Level
Instructor 1	72	3.39	2.76	3.03	2.01	2.49
Instructor 2	62	3.00	2.65	2.74	2.00	2.52
Instructor 3	55	N/A	N/A	3.18	2.62	2.91
Instructor 4	130	N/A	N/A	2.91	2.52	2.69

<sup>1</sup> The following needs to be noted:

1. Not every instructor made student work available to the panel.
2. Seven of the instructors (for a total of nine sections) had students do individual assignments; four had the students do group assignments.

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Instructor 5	137	N/A	N/A	2.93	2.56	2.57
Instructor 6	62	2.95	2.44	3.05	2.02	2.68
Instructor 7	48	N/A	N/A	2.85	2.13	2.02
Instructor 8	48	N/A	N/A	3.00	2.50	2.23
Instructor 9	101	N/A	N/A	3.00	2.50	2.28
Averages		<b>3.21</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>2.49</b>

Group Assignments		Experience the City of Chicago	Reflected on the Experience	Demonstrate Disciplinary Content	Analytical Thinking	Work at College Level
Instructor 10	N	3.04	1.92	2.32	1.40	1.88
Instructor 11	7	N/A	N/A	3.38	2.62	2.76
Instructor 12	12	N/A	N/A	3.00	2.75	2.58
Instructor 13	4	4.00	2.58	3.50	2.17	3.08
Averages		<b>3.17</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>2.28</b>

In every category, the individual assignments performed better than the group assignments. The gap is widest in the “Analytical Thinking” category. Other possible trends are more difficult to discern. However, using this scale, a score of 2.50 is the mid-point between “Good” and “Fair,” so students’ relatively low displays of “Analytical Thinking” suggests either poor assignment design or low performance. These results will be shared with past faculty but also with future faculty as they design their courses.

We asked the panel to share their observations on the student work. Excerpts from their comments follow.

- *One or two of these projects were outstanding and the rest were not so great. I think the assignment had potential but certain groups took it more seriously than others.*
- *I was most impressed with the assignments from this class. It seemed like the majority of students took the assignment extremely seriously, as the projects were well thought-out, deeply engaging, tremendously insightful, and strangely poetic.*
- *Overall I was impressed with the way students had to really learn about what went into the behind-the-scenes aspects of these retail stores. I thought the project was across the board effective in terms of the amount of work students put into the project. The assignment was hands-on while requiring the students to incorporate some analytical thinking into their assessment of the stores.*

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- *Deficiencies in basic-level writing skills (grammar, capitalization of proper nouns, it's vs its, not putting their own names on their work, etc.) evident in every course.*
- *By giving the students a segmented list, their papers would address each requirement, but they greatly tend to wander and lack much logical flow or connection. Despite the instructions of the segments, many students also did not really take too much opportunity to analyze or think critically about the city or its inhabitants. Instead, they primarily turned in reports summarizing what they saw, but a significant portion of them did not take the next step to think about what those observations mean.*

**Appendix: Student Comments from End-of-Semester Survey**

Q8: Please share any additional comments on your experience in the course.

- I didn't like the New Student Commons since I live in Chicago I know my way around the city.
- Great lectures
- Coming from another state, the class helped me gain an understanding of the city both historically, and geographically.
- This course gives me lots of chances to visit different places of Chicago, and I learnt a lot during this whole semester. I know Chicago better now.
- Be prepared to make outside plans to do lot of walking for your tours of each assignment.
- I found the material of the class to be particularly interesting. However, It was rather challenging when online there was nothing posted in regards to the location of NCS, and what may have been missing from me personally in regards to classwork. I also was not fond of having to do the tours outside of class without having a planned or scheduled tour that could have worked better by assembling parts of the class into groups instead of doing it by ourselves. I would have much rather done the tours with somebody that knew what they were talking about and been with students to engage in the tours with.
- Museum campus
- Good
- He knows what he's talking about, but the number of papers and the length of those papers was much greater effort than other new student classes
- Do we have to?
- A lot of the content was otherwise confusing.
- I lived in Chicago for about 10 years. Some of these were basic facts to me.
- I like our instructor. He is very humorous.
- I've lived in Chicago for years so not much was new to me. I may be biased in my answers.
- The course was informative but kind of slow at times.
- I really enjoyed exploring the city. The content was very interesting. XXXX is very funny and he keeps the class engaged.
- Good class, did not like the papers.
- XXXX is a great professor and has much to say about the city of Chicago and the treasures the city keeps.
- Not too in depth
- New student commons was bogus
- Fun
- I liked engaging in the tours we had to do.
- Loved this class. Learned a lot.
- I like the teacher

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- A lot of the time the lessons learned in class didn't relate to our assignments which were the main focus of the course. NSC also was a huge waste of time. I enjoyed XXXX lectures but never even met my TA.
- He's an amazing professor. So passionate about what he teaches, and talks about. Highly recommend. Although I dislike the NSC I think it's not needed.
- I liked getting sent out to differ was parts of Chicago in order to understand the assignments.
- No
- XXXX always had extra notes and stories that helped the material really stay with me.
- Fun class and teacher. Also was very knowledgable.
- Felt like I just sat there and then wrote a paper every other week
- Nothing to add
- The teacher should interact with the students, because this was a pretty boring class.
- I feel like it should have more of consistent topic
- The professor was excellent & informative
- Outstanding professor and Teacher Assistants
- Funny
- White sox suck
- It was a little boring
- There was a lot of walking around Chicago involved (a bit too much).
- I enjoyed this class. I felt the lectures were interesting, and the assignments were engaging without asking too much of us.
- It was a great experience. I wish we had more time to learn all of this and really get to know more about Chicago.
- the tours were more pressure than learning
- This class has felt like the typical college lecture and I'm glad I took it because I doubt I will have many more classes of this size and style in the future.
- This course enables me to explore more and experience more about Chicago city.
- The loop walking tour was incredibly hard to follow and too long. Try and clean up or make a new guild.
- The global metropolis class wrote 750-1,000 word paper, where as my friends in the other Chicago classes only had to write a Twitter post or a 250 word response. Also the TA I have gave me an 80% on almost every paper, and other students with the same TA had the same complaint about 80% on almost every paper.
- Put the more interactive projects at the beginning of the semester because it is hard to visit a lot of places when finals are taking place.
- There were just too many tours/papers. It took up so much of my time.
- Too much essays. They were repetitave, not interesting or insightful, and a waste of my life.

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- The course was interesting. Sometimes we would have essays, but the essays had nothing to do about the lectures in class. However, most of the time the essays are appropriate for what the class discussion is during the time it is due.
- There were too many walking tours
- It made me get out and explore the city which helped me get to know my new city and home
- class was amazing and Dr. XXXX is my favorite professor I've ever had.
- NO MORE TOURS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- The freshman Chicago class was great but the new student commons was ridiculous, pointless, and a waste of everyone's time.
- Yay
- This class does not benefit someone who grew up in the city of Chicago and went to school in Chicago (it would benefit someone from the suburbs, even though they think they know everything about the city)
- the class was fun but the new student commons were a waste of time
- I learned a lot and was inspired by this city. The class is set up well despite we don't talk much
- very informative and an overall nice experience as a lecture course
- The coursework didn't match what we learned in class at all. The assignments didn't tie together with what the curriculum taught us.
- It felt like a waste of time
- Very interesting, but could be more specified to the arts.
- I really enjoyed the class and would definitely take again.
- n/a
- it was interesting
- Felt like a waste of time
- When selecting this course, we were advised on Oasis to take a class unrelated to our major. I thought fashion would be cool, but the class is SOOOO fashion oriented that I was completely disinterested. I would never recommend this class to anyone but a fashion major. I really really wish I would have taken the music course instead. Other than seeing cool parts of the city and meeting students, this class was a waste of time.
- This class was gigantic and not at all what the description described
- The professor that I had XXXX did not teach we only live had guest speakers and XXXX was just there to introduce the guests and the guests were just there to support their businesses not tell us about Chicago. The group I was forced to be in was horrid and the teacher did nothing to remove the two problematic group members even though the four rest of us complained multiple times on how they were negatively altering our grades. I wasted my time and my credit in this class it was not as advertised.
- It just felt like a seminar. I wish we could've had more engaging activities.
- Working with others was extremely difficult and infuriating.
- I enjoyed the guest speakers

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- DON'T encourage people to choose big Chicago classes outside of their majors anymore. People came to college to learn about things they actually want to learn about and things they will use in their future.
- I felt like the class was very unorganized and not put together well. A lot of the lectures in class, didn't have a lot to do with our projects.
- the class took up valuable exploring time and have me nothing to show for it. I connected more with people I met outside of class than the ones I was forced into a group with.
- This class was a good learning experience and a great way to learn about the city
- The course is interesting at times but overall, it feels like we do a lot of busy work that lacks substance. I don't feel like I've learned anything useful other than how people dress in different Chicago neighborhoods. There were bits of history incorporated in the course but they lacked context and weren't made relevant to fashion today. We had a few good speakers but some (i.e. the drag queens) didn't seem to relate to fashion as a whole or fashion in Chicago
- I felt like we wasted class time, homework assignments were not clear, given too many assignments by end of semester
- I was not a fan of some of the locations the projects made us go to.
- I liked hearing from important people in fashion
- Can definitely be improved but has the potential to be a really great class. Needs to balance between guest speakers and actually exploring the culture of Chicago fashion.
- Professor was very passive aggressive and expected way too much work for the course. In the last two weeks of class especially we had two projects dropped on top of our final with short notice.
- Didn't like the big groups. Content was useless.
- My group specifically did not work well together, we had a lot of trouble planning etc. Also, I was uncomfortable with some of the places my teacher sent us, it was not in a good neighborhood and she claimed it was an individual project rather than group.
- I wish the instructor would have told us more in advance about the last two assignments. We were required to go all the way to Pilsen the week of finals with no time in advanced to do it. The instructor also never allowed the class to engage in conversations with the speakers it was mostly 1 on 1 with her. Additionally, the instructor made offensive comments.
- More lecture and less guest speakers that aren't relevant to the class
- I feel like they should be harsher on students who don't show up and don't do the work
- I did enjoy creating the final.
- Very disorganized, would like to see a lot more organization.
- This course was terrible and a great waste of time. I'm very upset I had to spend money on this course.
- the projects were sometimes over top and unnecessary

- i hated this
- Our group project had too many people in it.
- Interesting topics
- no.
- it was lit
- It helped me a lot to improve my writing.
- I really enjoyed learning about the history of music and media in Chicago.
- I learned a lot about the history of music and journalism
- Teacher knew his shit ☹☹
- none
- I loved talking about Etta James
- The professor was very bias and swayed individuals who were not deeply rooted in Chicago culture to feel certain ways about some of the ideals we were "learning".
- I don't enjoy their being what seems like 100 people in the class and always having a lecture.
- A very interesting subject to learn
- I liked learning about the links journalism and music have to each other and to Chicago; it is something that many of us didn't think about until we took the class.
- Great topics and criticism.
- Great class
- cool
- I suggest less writing assignments, but more content required in each one. The responses began to feel like a chore.
- The scavenger hunt for the first week of New Student Commons really helped me get familiar with the campus.
- I think the fact that this class was lecture hall style slightly took something out of the class
- Classes were interesting but never took us out into the city.
- The weekly work was somewhat a hassle but not too bad. Some classes were super boring and slow paced but overall was generally interesting
- XXXX is wicked intersting and provides insight to the topics he speaks about.
- it was ok
- The class taught me a lot but the course-load was manageable.
- XXXX is a funny man
- It was the beez kneez
- Love music. Love talking about it.
- XXXX is great
- I know a lot of people thought XXXX is an asshole but he is obviously very passionate about what he does.
- Great enthusiastic teacher
- XXXX made a wonderful professor for this class.

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- This gave me some good advice for the future about critique. In society there comes a time where a work must be reviewed and every day we write about something. It's very important to write and I've learned that perfectly.
- I like how I got to learn more about Chicago
- Although we didn't always agree I loved the teacher and learned more than I thought about Chicago as a southerner.
- XXXX is a bomb ass teacher
- Excellent class!
- If you're interested in music and media this is the class for you. It's super rich in history and first hand information you won't be able to find anywhere else
- The breakout sessions were better than the lecture
- I love Chicago!
- It was cool.
- I thought it was a fun class.
- It was a very entertaining course filled with tons of information.
- Learned a lot .
- I'm from Chicago, so I didn't need this as much as some of the other people would.
- I loved it!
- I like this class to be honest.
- It was a blast being in his class! I had a lot of fun!
- It was a fascinating learning experience on the different genres of music that have made an impact on the cultural history of Chicago.
- -
- Would be better if smaller
- The class just seemed a bit too big to fully engage in discussion about Civil Rights.
- I feel XXXX was not a good professor for this course. He spoke very monotone and often went off on tangents. I felt I learned very little things because we were never tested on content. As long as we showed up we could pass.
- NA
- XXXX was a great teacher she taught us a lot and was really engaging while doing that. Most of this the students are not journalism majors and this class was kinda stressful for something I don't really need toward my major.
- I thought the course was very interesting but also kind of inconvenient. I understand why we were encouraged to take a Big Chicago class outside of our majors but part of me wishes I would have taken one more related to my major because I feel like I would have gotten more out of it.
- I did not like the New Student Commons. I don't feel that I had to go around Chicago and explore FOR A GRADE. Like I was obviously going to go out and explore Chicago on my own, by myself.
- Pointless get rid of it
- The course was interesting because of XXXX, I feel I could have put my 3 credits and money to better use by not doing a first year seminar I don't

- understand how it is relevant. Saying that what XXXX covered in class was interesting.
- Loved remaining updated with news in media and events I would not have heard of otherwise.
  - This course had admittedly way to heavy of a workload for being a required credit. I am not a journalist and was very intimidated to do some of the assignments.
  - Although I enjoyed this course, it wasn't exactly what I was expecting. I didn't realize I would have to basically clear every Friday in order to participate in the class, and sometimes assignments had to be completed in very inconvenient times. I think a lot of my assignments could have been better if I had more time.
  - Sometimes things were hard to get done because of lack of events going on in certain towns
  - I understand that this class was to help us engage with the city of Chicago and work with other students, but I found it to be a nuisance and actually got in the way of other experiences where I could have really engaged with other students and explored around the city.
  - The class was well-rounded and I learnt a lot about Chicago neighbourhoods. However, it took a lot of time that to things I rather to things and topics I rather focus on: My major. Although the class though me new experiences of Chicago, it can be shorter because there are more important things I rather focus on.
  - I really disliked New Student Commons, it felt like a waste of my money. I also disliked the fact that after about 3 weeks I felt that I didn't need this course. I can explore Chicago on my own, and I could have spent my time and money on something that would have put me closer to my major.
  - The first 2 weeks were exciting but now I sorta never wanna come
  - I thought the course would focus more on the class exploring the city together rather than as separate small groups.
  - none
  - This class was amaaaaaaazing. I think a smaller class size might be appropriate for this intimate content being gun explored in all different neighborhoods. I never want this class to end.
  - I didn't enjoy the subject matter
  - I thought it was interesting, but I really don't feel comfortable going up to strangers
  - Loved Heard in the Hood and Professor XXXX. My favorite class for the semester. Did not enjoy or appreciate New Student Commons.
  - Very cool way to get out and explore areas other than the south loop of Chicago
  - I made friends
  - This was pointless
  - I made some friends
  - N/A

- It was....nice.
- Boo
- It was hard just trying to balance it with other classes
- I enjoyed learning about Chicago in greater detail
- It made me know my neighborhood really well but I don't know anything at all from other neighborhoods.
- na
- It's a great way to get to know the city better.
- It was a very good course but description was a little misleading focus more on that the course is based around journalism
- I thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use different social media apps through this course.
- It was helpful.
- I think this class shouldn't be required
- I loved what XXXX taught. She is very enthusiastic in what she teaches. That is one of the things that I look for and enjoy in my professors. She is great.
- I liked the course, it was fun and interesting.
- It was fun when we went to the neighborhoods, but the days in class were too long.
- new stew sucks
- I liked learning about all the different neighborhoods in Chicago. It was very interesting.
- If it wasn't for this class I wouldn't have learned the train and bus system.
- It was cool and I had fun learning about Chicago.
- Should not be required. I understand the idea of trying to create a class to encourage branching and exploration, but most freshman do that anyway. What could be more beneficial is an optional program that teaches students how to collaborate and feel more comfortable in social situations.
- It was sorta boring and I bought a book I didn't really need
- Good effort
- Wasn't what I expected but it wasn't terrible
- I learned all about a certain neighborhood I was assigned in.
- Fun course, too many kids though
- XXXX was amazing so that helped a lot. New student commons sucked.
- The concept was great but the execution was terrible.
- Use of social media seemed pointless
- There was no personal accountability, really. It was way too easy to show up to class, sit back, do absolutely nothing, and pass with flying colors. Personal effort did not have an effect on your grade.
- I experience a great way to learn about a neighborhood base on there sound
- N/A
- Learned more in this class than my eighteen years living here.

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Assessment Summary

- This class only allowed us to go in-depth with one Chicago neighborhood, and it was one I didn't find particularly interesting, so I found the class a waste of time and money.
- Less people per group
- This class was really fun and as a bonus I actually made friends.
- Teacher would have been great if she had spoken to us at any point
- Great teacher and a great class
- I enjoyed eating in back of the room.
- I am from Chicago so I didn't really learn anything "new" but it was still interesting.
- I really enjoyed seeing all of the films and seeing Chicago through different stages in time and how film represented the city
- I think the course would benefit from smaller class sizes and more time for class.
- An awesome class! I highly recommend going to every screening the class offers. You never know when something sparks your creative energy.
- Excellent movie selection
- I thought it was interesting. I learned a lot about film, but could've had a bit more with Chicago. I feel like we could of had more field trips or guest speakers, and maybe one or two less films. It's just because I learned more about the development of film that happened to be in Chicago, than about Chicago's influence. I feel like we could also have a bit more on Chicago's film life today.
- For the group field trips not everyone wanted to go far making it difficult to actually explore the city.
- It was a knowledgable course
- Some variation in lecturers needed.
- The instructor helps make the class interesting.
- The speakers talked mostly about themselves, not so much about their relationship w Chicago
- it should not be mandatory
- The presenters were SUPER knowledgable and great to listen to!
- Maybe make the classes more focused per major. For example, a music major would learn mostly about the music industry in Chicago.
- great class
- While this class helped me explore the city, but I felt I got no new knowledge after taking this class.
- This was the only class I've taken so far that was isolating. I did the projects alone, the experiences were only for a picture and not used to connect with the city.
- It was very fun and engaging.
- It was great
- It was boring at times with the lectures
- Less social media "homework"

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- The course was always fun and interesting.
- The course seemed very unnecessary to be required for my education. While the teacher was awesome and great, the class size made things hectic and disrespectful. It really all seemed unnecessary and annoying.
- The class was a lot of fun but I think the lecture/speaker part of the class needs to be less time. Like 40 minutes would be great!
- I think 2 hours for this class is way too long ! And it is hard to stay focus and listen to someone for a 2 hours presentation, when it can shorten and be done in 30 minutes, and be way more interesting. I really felt that I lost my time for this class.
- This course is so unnecessary. XXXX is a great teacher, but this course is not for him to teach.
- n/a
- I thought the course was very interesting but it was extremely frustrating how many people were in the class. Oftentimes I would sit through an entire lesson trying to listen but people behind me would talk the entire duration of the class. It was hard for the professor to control (understandably) and although he tried many different strategies it was never fully solved simply due to the sheer size of the class.
- there was a lot of info that I cannot use at all. But there were some worth while occasions in class
- XXXX is awesome.
- It might be helpful to expand a bit more on the culture and history of Chicago in the context of the week's focus.
- Some guest speakers were more valuable than other to me.
- The Friday class didn't benefit me
- Learning about the opportunities to network was very interesting and useful.
- XXXX was a swell guy and a stand-up fella.
- Really enjoyed the class as a whole. XXXX is a great teacher. Lots of energy and makes for a pleasant class environment.
- This was a great course I really enjoyed it! Some of my favorite speakers were Joe Shannihan, Ben Tanzer, The man who managed the art expo, and the alumni panel.
- It was a very interesting class that I loved, because I got to explore Chicago every week for homework!
- Although the class did allow me to visit new parts of Chicago, I was slightly uncomfortable with taking selfies alone in public places then randomly walking away.
- I feel that the school should explore other options for accustoming the new students to Chicago and Columbia.
- XXXX is the man! He constantly provided industry leaders that further informed me on what to do & what not to do as an entrepreneur in the creative industry.
- Great class!
- this class sucks

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Assessment Summary

- It was very informational
- This class was very interesting but at times but sometimes I didn't find the point of this class.
- I didn't learn much, and I feel that only 1 week's notice to go somewhere outside the Loop is a little unfair.
- I thought the idea of this class was awesome; sometimes the lectures were a little long, but that's it
- XXXX is great
- Maybe people FROM Chicago shouldn't have to take this course????
- too many students. waste of time.
- This course has really opened my eyes to new and better understandings of the amazing Deaf world here in Chicago.
- a lot of the information felt repetitive
- I believe this class was nice for ASL students or people who want to learn about ASL but not necessarily for learning about Chicago
- the friday new student commons were not helpful
- N/A
- I had a lot of fun
- The topics were very interesting at first because it was all new information to me, and I feel like learning about the Deaf community is a very valuable opportunity, but the point of the course was made, I think, within the first few weeks. I don't know if each Thursday lesson needed to be two hours long because it seemed that we slowly ran out of engaging, novel topics
- depended on the week. some weeks were good. i liked ponytail XXXX and the blond woman XXXX. if it was supposed to be about Chicago other teachers didn't do that
- Lectures got dry
- It was fun to learn about different things in the American Sign Language and Deaf community.
- I though it was organized/coordinated extremely well, especially for it being the first time the course ever ran.
- Although I really enjoyed the course, I found that the Friday assignments were sometimes not worth it because we didn't really get to choose a group we were comfortable with.
- N/A
- This course was so much fun and I enjoyed every class. The things we talked about were relevant and interesting.
- The class had a lot of potential when I signed up, however, it turns out that we just had to sit in an auditorium and listen to the professor talk for the entire class, being able to interact only at the last five minutes of class, and that was a little discouraging to attend class.
- This class was impractical for people who don't actually have time to participate in these activities that weren't valuable to my education at all
- I think 6 to a group was too big, 4 would be better I think.

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Assessment Summary

- This was terrible. The professor is immature, unprofessional, and just no.
- It was insane
- XXXX was a very enriching educator
- NO MORE CONTEMPORARY ART!
- I really enjoyed this course, it was really a great way to learn about Chicago and it really got me engaged with the city. I love Chicago even more and I'm glad that I got to meet some cool, new people.
- This class didn't do too much for me besides recommend different places to see in Chicago.
- Other than the cost of attending things that weren't covered by tuition, the class is great.
- The artists that came in were not always interesting
- Yep
- Maybe
- No more contemporary art
- Honestly the teacher was great but the class sucked.
- N/A
- Pointless class
- A lot of money
- Pocket Square!
- This course was great because I was able to discover new places, scenes, activities and events I didn't even know existed or were available to us (especially the free ones). The only downside I'd have to say is the schedule and personal time conflict with finding time to go to the required places to visit during certain times. Sometimes it conflicts with our schedules.
- Totally deceptive.
- The online resources on moodle are not very didactic or 'ergonomic'.
- A lot of creative freedom

Q12: Please share any additional comments on your New Student Commons experience.

- Dont understand the point
- I think my team members are all welcoming and interesting, and the activities made me feel like there really are someone who is caring about me.
- NSC was a waste of time! You were not sure what the purpose of it was or why you're there.
- I went to the first few NCS and didn't write down the new location that was assigned the third week in. Not knowing anybody in the group i completely forgot where to go and couldn't do anything about missing NCS for the rest of the class.
- Bad
- This is pointless

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Every time went to it they did not have my name down
- It was kind of a waste of my time. The class Global Metropolis should count as a history class.
- I don't like the new student commons experience. I think it's meaningless.
- It was pointless.
- The course introduced me to new people that I wouldn't have met if it wasn't for the class.
- I thought it was interesting and helpful in many ways.
- Did not really understand any of them at all.
- The only NSC that gave me help with learning was the first meeting, which took far too long with the "Scavenger Hunt"; however, I did discover where all the important buildings are for my career and well-being etc. through the first meeting.
- after the first three i realized it was not of any practical use to attend
- seemingly pointless
- Okay
- I did not learn much about it. Was useless
- I did not like nor see the point in this extra class. It did not help me in anyway and took up time of when I could have been doing other school related activities.
- Boring
- This was a huge waste of a Friday afternoon. I think the building resource scavenger hunt should be done at orientation and this be cut.
- It was pointless. It was walking around and learning where things were or doing worthless social activities.
- It wasn't needed waste of time
- Get rid of them
- Fun
- No
- This was a tedious moment in my fridays, it was a complete waste of time. NSC rarely had more than 4 kids show up to a single meeting. I had all the skills that were taught to us.
- Thought it was pointless but enjoyed the class with Professor XXXX
- I don't feel there was a point to them, & I work so it wasn't easy to find time for them.
- not all topics were relevant to all students- extremely unnecessary for me to go to at least 2 of them
- I felt like NSC was not beneficial
- Not needed
- The NSC didn't feel like it was well planned and my orientation leader was very quiet and awkward
- Lame and unnecessary
- Waste of time
- it felt more like a punishment then fun of any kind

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- I never really understood the reason for going, I enjoyed my big Chicago class a lot but the new student commons I felt was something I didn't enjoy truly
- I was unable to attend any of the meetings on Friday because I had work Friday's 2-8.
- I understand the purpose but felt the sessions were not extremely useful.
- They did not feel fun or interesting to me.
- New student commons were pointless I honestly forgot about them, and half my classmates never showed up for the class so we didnt do any group activities.
- I felt that it could have been included in our class once a month instead of being a separate meeting time. That might have helped to make sure more students attended, although I have to say I personally don't understand why it was so hard for some other students to show up, it seemed to be difficult for most.
- It should be substituted with more class time. Maybe many students don't like the big Chicago Courses but i really enjoy this and wish we had more time.
- it wasnt very helpful. too generic of content
- I feel NSCs were important for some students but I definitely felt belittled by many of the activities. I felt much of what we learned could've been completed in one session. There should be an online aptitude test to figure out which students would benefit the most for which sessions and then require the students to attend the ones that would help them the most.
- It's a great activity that help new students here be familiar with the surrounding environment. It's helpful. Sometimes the activities are a little boring.
- It was a total waste of time, I honestly feel like I didn't learn anything of value.
- If the activities don't relate to people who commute don't make them come down .
- The New Student Commons should not exist. I have more important things to do and learn.
- It is a childish experience with activities that no one really cares about, from OL to students to professors.
- They treated you like you were a little kid. The activities like time management and how to live and get a job, it kind of made you feel like they underestimated what you already know or what you're already capable of.
- It wasn't that bad but it was kind of boring.
- It was very unorganized and it was not very valueable to me.
- complete waste of time and effort please get rid of these
- The speaker brought in to talk about money and budgeting was a terrible presenter.
- Pointless and I think everyone feels this way.
- Met new people

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Groups were too large to accomplish tasks. I'm sure the intentions were good, but the NSC felt forced and awkward, and I did not learn a lot of new information from it.
- New Student Commons was a waste of time.
- Not worth my time. Did not learn anything
- there was one commons activity where our speaking and our group discussed and questioned the purpose of commons
- It felt like a waste of my time. The scavenger hunt was nice to see where the buildings were, but that's about it. It felt very underdeveloped.
- Waste of time
- Very helpful. Meeting with people with more experience greatly helped me handle the workload.
- I didn't go to any of them because I did not care for them.
- They treated us like children and honestly did not help me with anything or teach me new. I felt like they were treating me like a baby. Also it was a waste of three hours that I could have used to be doing homework.
- I did not enjoy it at all
- It honestly was a waste of time
- Felt like a waste of time but I went to all of them anyway
- I really liked my student orientation leader, Tom (who is a sophomore). However, the faculty member that joined some of our sessions to teach us things was not very nice. She took the course way too seriously and treated us like we were still in middle school. Every time I had to go to a student commons meeting I died a little inside. They were so boring and a waste of time. I can see how this class would be valuable to people who feel completely lost and alone coming into college, but it should NOT be required for everyone to take.
- I was always confused on when we were meeting or what we were doing. It was super confusing to have the new student commons separate from the big Chicago course.
- I loved my orientation leader Marcus he was wonderful and truly helpful in communicating with us I got the most knowledge from him. The first residence advisor I had was not helpful and was rude. The second one we had for the final two meetings I don't remember her name but she works in the Dwight has red hair and is pregnant was also very helpful
- It felt like orientation all over again.
- It was information that was not necessary for everyone, especially me.
- It made me feel like it was a constant get to know you game. The Friday time was inconvenient to people's schedules.
- New Student Commons should be optional. A LOT didn't apply to commuters.
- I understand why the experience was tested out but it was very ineffective and a waste of everyone's time.
- They were somewhat useful and interesting
- New Student commons didn't help me meet anyone. We all bonded over complaining about how pointless it was so I guess that's good. The first day

was spent doing a scavenger hunt and finding buildings on campus. The other weeks also seemed as unnecessary as the first.

- Some things were helpful, like seeing where certain buildings were located. For example, I had no idea where the portfolio center was before we went during New Student Commons. However, the scavenger hunt was chaotic and not exactly fun. The new student commons were kind of an inconvenience overall.
- I didn't feel that it was necessary to meet, especially for commuters... It was kind of a hassle sometimes to get to some things.
- They were not helpful and did not provide me with any new information.
- I did not like it I felt like it was a waste
- Trying to teach us things that we already know
- Learning about the school is great, doing it through weird games isn't. I liked listening to speakers much more
- Less feeling oriented more get to know you
- It was unnecessary
- They were too long and too boring
- It was a waste of time and I have no clue why we had to do it
- I already knew how to do things and it wasn't as valuable to me because it was kind of redundant.
- Complete waste of time.
- New student commons was a waste of time. I learned nothing new. It was boring and uneventful.
- \*didn't like how this was connected as a grade for my fishermen experience class.. I have to work to pay for school, this was taking away from that.
- this was stupid
- it felt unnecessary
- It was really fun meeting new people.
- I enjoyed being in the first weeks, but friends in the other weeks didn't get the same experience because they had already gotten familiarized with city.
- New student commons "teach" us what most of us already knew. There shouldn't be that much amount of money from our tuition invested in an activity that will do nothing but waste our time.
- It was very informative, but a little dull.
- It was interesting
- I really liked my leader his name was Greyson and he was great
- I thought it was nice getting to meet new students in my class, but the topics covered in these New Student Commons I don't think were valuable.
- none
- It was not useful and should not be conducted again because it did not reach its goal.
- it was pointless and I hated it with the burning passion of a thousand suns.
- N/A

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Assessment Summary

- I felt that I was treated like a child with some of the activities, like doing a campus scavenger hunt or doing the Inside Out activities. It was interesting to hear about time management and planning our futures, but I have heard it all before.
- Nooe
- Terrible
- Dreaded going to
- It would get a little bit boring sometimes but it was important
- Less thinly-veiled games; just take us through processes. We are college students; we expect to be treated as such!
- My orientation leader was awesome!
- Liked the class and content. Could've done with out the rest.
- Waste of time. Did not provide any service valuable to me. This was absurd. Please get rid of this.
- While I understand the purpose of New Student Commons, it seemed like it was not worth the time.
- Waste. of. time.
- The activities were stretched out too far. By the time the last session came around I had already been exposed to/taken advantage of the resources that we were talking about. I think that students generally catch on to the campus rather quickly so the New Student Commons sessions usually just told us what we already knew.
- No
- stupid
- I really believe they are unneeded.
- The scavenger hunt was horrible.
- Worthless
- It seemed like a complete waste of time.
- I was welcomed and I got a chance to experience different buildings of the college and more.
- No one went and no one understood what it was. Communication was horrible and no one had a desire to go.
- Waste of time
- Either have a complete overhaul, or eliminate the class completely.
- Not a fan of three.
- It had no purposes and everyone hated it.
- Met some friends.
- It was nice to talk to everyone about life at Columbia.
- There was free food, thanks.
- I felt it was kind of useless.
- I guess I understood why we had these, but they didn't seem to be THAT helpful.
- waste of time and activities seemed extremely low-level for college
- I felt like it was a waste of time honestly

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- My leader gave me the wrong dates/times multiple times, very frustrating
- I liked when there was food.
- New student commons was the biggest waste of my time.
- A complete waste of my time. I did not benefit from anything in these sessions.
- -
- It was a waist of time.
- I think it could have been organized a bit better and perhaps the lessons taught during the NCS could have been more relevant. The scavenger hunt was fun though.
- I only showed up to one event so I cannot fully evaluate it.
- NA
- I didn't go... So I can't really help with that.
- A leader in our major or field might be more helpful
- I understand the idea of New Student Commons but I did not find it useful to me. It would be cool to have a leader in your major who you could go to for guidance, but the New Student Commons seemed like a waste of time and resources.
- It was one of the top five most pointless things in my schooling career.
- Please get rid of this course
- I did not go to any of the new student commons. I feel that these days took away from the time I could have been learning more about journalism related things. I feel that being pulled from my class four or five times this semester was not useful at all. I just ended up doing other things not school related.
- I attended all but one, I understand the theory behind them but the were irrelevant. I felt them quite patronizing and condescending. We are in college right?
- I think it's kinda boring, but I have a really good leader so it's not as bad as it is. I think we should get rid of the new student commons because we already learn everything from the orientation. I don't need to go to the new student commons to meet other people because we already know eachother from class. I think it's point less.
- Waste of my time and money. I understood the idea of letting everyone know the resources available and showing them different buildings but honestly you can include that in pamphlets and orientation. It turned into a group therapy session at one point and non of the meetings actually benefitted me at all which is unfortunate. I honestly just stopped attending after the first 2 weeks and do not regret it in the slightest.
- I never went to new student commons. It seemed useless and a waste of time. I don't regret this decision.
- I didn't go to a single New Students Commons and I don't feel like I missed out on anything useful or important. Sorry.
- it was pointless and when i talked to my friends, everyone else thought the same thing.

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- The New Student Commons experience did not provide me with any information or experience I could have gotten outside the class. It was a waste of time.
- New student commons were fun however, it went on for too long. I feel that NSC should just be applied for the first week or two sessions, just so new students could meet others. Other than that, I don't find it necessary.
- I could have spent my time doing something so much more important. NSC turned into a therapy session, and if I wanted that I would've gone to a therapist.
- The leader of Uki villagers was informativ, helpful, fun, and overall the most useful and understanding person I've met so far!
- Waste of my time and money !!
- I didn't go, and I don't regret it.
- pointless
- I live off campus and didn't feel the need to come a half hour just for some kumbaya event sitting in a circle or prancing around the city for an elementary scavenger hunt.
- I think it was repetitive and not super helpful
- Hated it. Waste of time. Not enjoyable or helpful. I honestly would have rather taken another class.
- It was honestly not a good use of my time, and made me feel like I was a middle schooler.
- My OL, Cedric was awesome!
- It was pointless.
- Very informative and fun
- N/A
- It was ok.
- New Student Commons is POINTLESS
- Just no
- The only things that was valuable about new student commons was the lunches until they took them away.
- I enjoy it just wish it wasn't on fridays
- I enjoyed my leader but feel that it should be an option and not required to attend New Student Commons
- It sucked
- It was such a waste of time.
- I didn't care for the activities, it felt like high school
- i felt treated as a kid
- Honestly felt like they were a waste of time.
- Kind of a waste of time
- The timing was weird- every three Fridays is really infrequent and confusing to keep track of.
- Pointless
- I don't see the point of it .

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- I only went to one New Student Commons. I didn't like it.
- I don't think we should've met so many times for New Student Commons. I think just meeting once would've been enough.
- new student commons was a waste of my time.
- It felt like it was very unnecessary
- it sucks
- There seemed to be no point in going to them, so I didn't.
- I didn't like new student commons.
- I was told by a student advisor it wasn't required and I didn't know about it until the end of the semester.
- It was cool.
- I only attended half of them. The counseling session was well timed and significantly helpful.
- Student Commons Sucked
- bbshjBjhsBcjhDSBjh
- The new student commons was fun
- The content of the last two classes should be the first two and incorporate more useful information
- It is a waste of time
- I thought it was helpful in some ways but I didn't appreciate it as much.
- It seemed more like something i would do in freshman year of high school instead of college.
- Saying they were mandatory but then our teachers telling us that it wasn't was really unprofessional. This counted for 0.00 credit hours and it felt like that. It was a waste of time.
- Nobody went to them and we had little reason to.
- Progressively less attending students
- I commute 90 minutes each way to come to school. This is a huge waste of time
- SO POINTLESS COME ON >:( WHY U DO THIS TO US?
- It was great to learn how to make a good resume but did not know the purpose.
- N/A
- Any questions you have they will answer.
- They were pointless, boring, and a waste of time.
- A lot of the meetings seemed to be a waste of time. A lot of it was stuff we already knew or came too late in the year.
- it felt like being in high school again, too much hand holding, already knew everything that was told
- The most recent Commons activity was helpful, but I could have done without the rest of them.
- Jamie (my OL) is the bomb.com
- Going to the Commons on Fridays should be encouraged but not apart of our grade. It was a slight waste of time.

- Waste of time.
- It was a waste of time.
- i was so confused about the course the entire time and really got no answers
- I found the resume activity interesting but I honestly didn't like the New Student Commons experience as a whole.
- The idea is good but the activities were really redundant
- I felt that the activities that were planned for the first two New Student Commons sessions were childish and not worthwhile. The The basecamp homework of "time management" and "money management" felt like a middle school activity. After the first two, I felt that my time would be better spent doing homework for my worthwhile courses than going to sessions that didn't benefit me or get me any more engaged with Columbia than I already was. I think New Student Commons should be done away with.
- I understand that they want us to be more aware of keeping a balanced budget and good choices, but only thing that I got from the course was building a portfolio and
- Scavenger Hunt was a little counter productive- I couldn't remember the offices after the game ended.
- I think this would have been better to do over the span of a week, like during orientation, or the first month because by the time it's over, we know where most things are, and about the resources due to other classes, or advisors. It might be nice to know how to do all the things earlier in the semester, than later. I mean, I already knew about it, but I would feel bad for the people who are just learning about Talentpool at the end of the semester. So, overall I think this is a good concept, but it should just be completed sooner, and not over a whole semester.
- I felt like new student commons was a waste of time, and I would have rather spent my Friday doing something for my big Chicago class
- Tedious
- N/a
- First student commons was useful. Others, I'm on the fence about them.
- Not everyone shows up to friday sessions, so there's little point in making them mandatory.
- Uhm I really didn't like going.
- should definitely not be mandatory
- I didn't really learn very much, and most people seemed like the New Student Commons fridays were somewhat of a chore. They're a good idea, but they could be made much more engaging.
- I understand the purpose of New Student Common; however, I didn't really like it due to the simple reason I didn't take much from this experience.
- Didn't learn anything
- N/A
- The last session was informational but overall the classes we not helpful to be a new student.
- Did not go to alot

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- New student commons was a waste of a day
- Personally I feel as if they were not helpful in any way, shape, or form. The first session was helpful for telling us where buildings were, but the later activities did nothing for me. I thought that they were not aiding my learning in any way and should not be a reflection of attendance for our first semester experience class.
- I feel as if they are unnecessary. It wasn't something you would be looking forward to attending.
- The meetings were large and confusing and were about topics that were taught to students in 7th grade
- They were a bit long. If they were shorter or more concise I think they would be much more interesting.
- The topics for New Student Commons were incredibly dull. We "learned" things that I have known for quite some time. The topics were not valuable or interesting.
- I hoped that the classes would be more informative about real-world aspects such as paying taxes and tips on getting scholarships. I found the last two commons much more valuable than the first two.
- Way too long either ! It should definitely be more adapted for freshmen. The two first Student Commons were fun, but at the end it was just boring.
- Stop New Student Commons. It is very unnecessary.
- N/A
- I thought the first New Student Commons experience was very valuable because they showed us where our resources are but the other ones really felt unnecessary. I understand that it is important to educate students about financials and their health but at the same time, I don't appreciate the length of the sessions and the fact that I could have been doing assignments or studying during them. There are good resources for students to use that can help them educate themselves on these topics, those who use them deserve them and the ones who don't have only themselves to hold accountable. I understand why the New Student Commons happened, but in all honesty they made me feel like I was back in high school and I am an adult who should be able to educate myself on nutrition, exercise, and finance.
- Waste of time
- please arrange for more food and better activity organisation.
- We can all agree NSC is a joke... if I wanted to learn more about Columbia, I would just explore
- There were a few times that the organization of the New Student Commons seemed a little disorganized.
- I think this program isn't as useful as the school is making it out to be. I don't have to go to it for most of the semester, but when I do, I either forget or have absolutely no interest in going.
- Wasn't a huge fan of them

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Felt like a waste of time. What I was suppose to learn, my mom already tells me. What I didn't know I learned figured out through experience and other friends.
- They had nothing to do with the class
- I found meeting every fourth week slightly confusing and it made my work schedule pretty difficult to get in line. I just didn't see the point of the classes and felt they underestimated my abilities.
- I think they were a tad too personal. I also think the motive for the commons should be a little clearer.
- Felt like it was overdoing the "meet and greet" idea a little bit.
- I did not feel like the New student commons helped in my first semester experience.
- I didn't get very much out new student commons after the first week.
- Really did not enjoy the new student commons i thought they were pointless and did not appricate if they couted for a grade or not
- It wasn't as engaging or as interesting as the Big Chicago class. I didn't see where they connected. For me, going to New Student Commons was the worst part of my first semester. I always felt like everything was forced upon me, and no one really enjoyed it. Next year, maybe you guys should brainstorm more exciting activities that freshman can relate to.
- I felt that every New Student Commons event I went to was unnecessary and waist of important study/homework time.
- I liked that we got to talk to the man from the portfolio center. His advice was the most helpful information I will take away from the student commons.
- I would have liked to be more clear on the overall point of the NSC and how it applied to me at Columbia. A lot of it was lost on me and I wasn't very much of a big fan.
- New student commons was great, it was great because it connected me with many new people.
- It was a waste of time.
- waste of time
- meeting new people was fun
- I didn't feel like they helped me with anything.
- This New Student Commons experience was not worth my time. I didn't find the point of it, all I did there was sit down.
- Everything covered we had already learned at Orientation (like where the offices are) or in high school (like how to stay organized).
- The first few were helpful, but after that I did not feel it was necessary for me to be there.
- more waste of time. didn't want to go ever. stupid.
- It was a very interesting environment.
- i felt a lot of the stuff we learned we already know. I did not feel as if it was valuable but more of a waste of time
- It was pointless. I rather not do it

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- N/A
- Met a lot of new people
- Was a waste of time for the most part. Wasn't very fun.
- basically useless
- I feel like this could have been far more helpful if it was only people in my major. Many times I was "learning" about things that didn't pertain to me and at times seemed like a waste of time, to be entirely honest.
- didn't like having to come all the way to columbia just for a 2 hr friday activity taht could be done any other day of the week
- NA
- Lots of running around...but not a bad course. It was useful, but I wish it would have been a bit more social. It focused on practical college skills and resources, which was great; but, I think a fun, social aspect would have been a great asset to this class.
- N/A
- I think they are useful and enjoyable depending on your group. For example, in my case I was lucky to be in a good group. But maybe, if you start off with the more relevant sessions (like the portfolio and resume one) the students might be more motivated to go back for the following sessions.
- The stuff about time management and budgeting was redundant, but I found the professional networking and linked in information to be helpful.
- I didn't get a thing out of this experience. Serious improvements need to be made.
- It's like you guys made a checklist of cheesy things to cover in New Student Commons just to say you did and to take up our time, but you didn't actually develop your plans and ideas so it came out trash.
- NEW STUDENT COMMONS WAS WORTHLESS
- It was a great way to meet new students.
- I found it unnecessary, but I learned SOME valuable information
- I could have used most of this info much earlier. Some of it I learned on my own and the rest I wish I'd known at the beginning of the semester rather than the last week
- It was unclear most of the time where/when/who we were supposed to meet.
- It was irrelevant.
- Going to different places on campus and the work related NSC sessions had a lot of good information but were placed way too late in the year.
- NSC seems really pointless and was wasted time imo
- !
- Maybe
- Linda Martin was the best!
- N/A
- very long
- why

- New Student Commons was awful
- I'm very glad about having the New Student Commons Friday meetings about life and career tips and advice. The meetings about college life, time and money management and building our professional presence and portfolio were very helpful. I will try my best to incorporate the things I've learned in my daily life.
- My leader was super amazing. What we had to do however was not.
- As a commuter, I don't think that the New Student Commons helped me as much as students living on campus. I would never be able to find information about what was going on on campus until the day that it was happening. I would always check online for events but I could never seem to find anything regarding events on campus.
- Not helpful, disorganized
- NSC was really a pain to attend. I appreciate the time and effort that the leaders and the NSC team put into the program, but in all honesty it did not benefit me at all.

Q13: Please feel free to share any other comments on your First-Semester Experience here.

- Why was this course added to the curriculum
- really love it! And I will always miss this period of time. I learnt a lot so far.
- It felt like a boring school trip
- I like the overall idea of this class, but I feel like there needs to be more structure for class in regards to tours and NCS.
- Class was really interesting to me
- It was hard, and I'm still adjusting.
- I had fun.
- pretty good. Teachers and classmates are friendly.
- The class (at least Big Chicago) should only be required for out-of-state students. Residents shouldn't have to do this.
- Overall, I got to explore Chicago more and I had fun doing it.
- I have no further comments.
- It was fun. The TA's are very nice and the professor is as well, I just would have wished for more time for papers (also less of them, I had no time to balance them out with other class work or to visit the sights we needed to.)
- The actual lectures were absolutely helpful, but the NSC meetings 4 times did little to help me.
- Eh
- I really enjoyed the Chicago class and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested about learning further more about Chicago
- It wasn't terrible
- Na

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Overall a good learning and growing experience but the NSC was a waste of time.
- -
- No
- XXXX is a particularly interesting lecturer, he helped me get out of bed every Monday morning. Thank you!
- New Student Commons should not be a necessity
- I love the school and the teachers here
- The meetings on Friday (NSC) are a waste of time and aggravating.
- joining clubs is difficult bc meeting dates are hard to find and making friends outside of my roommates is hard
- It helped me learn a lot about Chicago.
- I feel like I know a lot more about the city of Chicago than if I hadn't taken this class.
- It was fantastic if the student was paying attention.
- the class would be more effective if there were less students in the classes
- It's interesting and meaningful.
- They were not helpful or useful at all.
- The tours were extremely interesting. Extremely. The papers should be more like journals though (around 500 words max), while keeping the selfies system.
- This was a good class in general I feel. Considering I moved here from Georgia, I learned a lot about the city I'm living in now.
- I feel that we could have learned just as much with a small powerpoint
- everything was better than expected with the exception of the new student commons.
- I hate new students commons. It takes away all the sleep that I could get. --
- I enjoyed the class but not the new student commons
- The TAs did not grade my papers well
- TAs were not good.
- Shouldn't be on Friday
- Fairly good.
- Most stressful 4 months of my life.
- I loved this class and first semester but new students commons was a waste of time
- Really unforgettable! I learned so much from this!
- I think the idea for this class is good, but people should really be encouraged to take classes based on their major. I have a lot of friends who took classes in subjects other than their major and felt this way as well. Along with this, the class was too much work. As a first-semester freshman I was already overwhelmed with getting used to college. It really stressed me out having assignments where we were required to take the train places for long periods of time almost every week. I didn't know that I would be signing up for such a work load.

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Literally none of the activities were relevant or useful. I have work, a full course load, and personal priorities and honestly this fell below all of those. It was common sense. Just make it a required online course like the sexual harassment and substance abuse courses.
- I understand why we had to go to them but honestly it was not helpful and a waste of time I am one of the few people I know who actually went to all four and I did not enjoy my time it should be cut. It felt like orientation extended but a poor version
- I don't believe it should be required. There can be other ways to get the students involved in learning about the city.
- I do not believe that it should be required.
- I have loved my first semester experience, but the new students commons was a bit silly.
- I love the school, but I feel strongly about my comments above.
- this was a waste of time and resources.
- Maybe get rid of new student commons? People don't meet each other in weird, uncomfortable settings like that. Nobody wants to be there.
- Overall it was okay. I didn't think that this course would require as much going as it did.
- I do not think they are necessary to have. I wish I could have been in another class for my field of study or other interest.
- I thought it was a great way to learn about the city of Chicago in a different way. I wouldn't have known about things like, Wicker Park and Pilson without this class and all the shops in the town
- I hated the big Chicago and first semester experience. It was a waste of time.
- this was stupid
- I hated having to write opinion pieces
- Too many documentaries can be pretty boring
- I learned a lot about Chicago
- none
- it was ok
- N/A
- I have greatly enjoyed my first semester at Columbia, but I hope to dive much deeper into the school and the city next semester. I think this class helped me with that; New Student Commons did not.
- Awful
- Waste of time
- One session was very useful
- I believe the First-Semester Experience is a waist of a class for freshman, and take away from valuable classes we could be taking.
- This is a good idea that needs further refinement.
- I never realized how important music history was in Chicago besides the blues and jazz.
- Thank you to Ellie for such a great help during that first semester

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Thanks for making my first semester a good one, and welcoming me to Columbia College Chicago!
- Would recommend every freshman to participate.
- enjoyed my lecture class and felt that information given was insightful and interesting
- Love columbia so much, only issue was new student commons actually
- Definitely felt lame to sit through lectures while the other freshman classes were going out into the city and doing fun stuff.
- -
- NA
- It was ok but I need a break from the people who go here. I mean poor or off XXXX had to tell her class to stop talking so then she can hear her students. But the professor was cool as long as you respected her she respected you. Plain as that.
- I shouldnt have to take this class if im a transfer. I know how college works.
- I didn't like that class either. Get rid of FSE and replace it with a real class. I wasted 3 credits on this class and it doesn't even count as a general education course. I also don't like the class sizes, I came to Columbia for a small class not this huge group. If you want students to learn about Chicago open up more Chicago history courses and have students take that on their own free will.
- I thought that my class (heard in the hood social media) was a really good class and i learned a lot of things that I can take away and use in the future to make me a better journalist. But i do feel that i was not very respected by my teacher. She was very condescending to me, she would respond very rudely to my emails when I would ask her questions about the class. I am a journalism student and I will be making sure that tI never take one of her classes again.
- I didnt feel like I learned a lot or enough about coming to Columbia for someone who already lives in the city & commutes to the school.
- What XXXX taught in class about world issues and chicago issues were relevant and interesting and I felt that was the only important part of this class.
- The overall of class is good. Some topic that we were talking about is boring so I think we should change it. We should let the students pick different neighborhoods to go every week so we don't have to go to the same one every week.
- I understand why this was made, but it was a waste of time.
- I think this class is fun but it shouldn't be a required course. Maybe for specific majors as an elective (i.e. journalism major should take this class as an elective) but I should be allowed to decline so I can work on getting both my academic and theater classes in to graduate in 4 years without fear of not being able to complete a major and a minor due to useless courses like this in my field.

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- It shouldn't be a class. First-Semester Experience should not be required because we can all explore Chicago out on our own time. We don't need a class that forces us to.
- First semester experience was interesting but overall felt like a waste of credit hours. I would much rather be building skills and hours towards my major.
- I think I would have rather taken more of a seminar, or perhaps not even taken a first-semester experience course at all. I don't like the concept of grouping freshmen together and forcing them to meet each other and interact and make friends like we did when we were freshmen in high school. The whole idea feels very childish to me and I didn't find it helpful.
- it was more fun than expected
- FSE is alright. I did learn a lot for HITH, but other than that, I don't feel like this course is necessary or should be brought carried out too long. There are more subjects in my course of study that I am way more interested to learn.
- I think that they need to just end FSE all together. It is a waste of my time and money. I came here to learn, not to listen to people cry on Fridays. I also did not enjoy that I am wasting my money on a ridiculous class that has nothing to do with what I plan to study. I could have spent my time taking a class that put me more into my major.
- This experiment did not work!
- Why did I need this class
- Interesting
- It was unfortunate that NSC took away from the exciting events happening in XXXX's class because she had so many exciting things to offer and I couldn't imagine what it would be like had we had four more Friday classes.
- Loved Heard in the Hood. Professor XXXX rocks! So helpful and actually inspired me to change my major to journalism!
- Big Chicago class is stupid and our teacher takes it wayyy too seriously and is a horrible person
- I had the best OL Cedric Bagwell
- N/A
- I think that the class isn't something we should be required to take.
- I wish the teacher would of been more willing to help and answer questions when asked.
- Plz no
- I enjoy the commons felt it helped me
- I enjoyed this class a lot but felt that New Student Commons took away from time in our neighborhood
- It was not communicated to me at all that one of the credits I transferred with covered this requirement. I ended up taking this class as an elective, which I did not want to do.
- na
- It was alright.

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- Pretty good for the most part
- My OL (Cedric Bagwell) was awesome.
- It was not what I expected
- I liked everything about the class but the class size should be smaller. Also the professor was very nice and good at teaching.
- its useless
- Great in concept, extremely poor execution.
- First semester experience class was fun and I liked it!
- It was fun to be able to go outside of the campus area and explore
- College is a big transition, and it definitely had its toll on me. However, i never felt alone or felt like i had nowhere to go. Teachers, faculty, and students alike are very inviting and fun to be around
- bfdbfjh
- Just get rid of it
- Teach us more about constructing podcasts next time please
- It really sucked that I was taken away from the class I wanted to be in most for useless things with orientation leaders who didn't want to be there either.
- I actually don't see much point in this class. I get that it's trying to encourage learning about the city we're in but it wasn't even remotely interesting.
- Could have been better
- Could have gotten an LAS credit out of the way. This class really isn't necessary.
- Liked the class, did not care for New Student Commons
- It was a great experience because learn new ways of listening to a place.
- N/A
- It was really helpful.
- I love Columbia! It turned out to be the perfect fit and I am already finishing this first semester with a strong "creative crew" and a job on campus that I love. I've learned a lot and could not be happier with this school
- I am loving this. It is now becoming clear of what I want to do with my life.
- I really enjoyed my big Chicago class
- N/a
- This is a great class, providing a lot of insight to the business world, and exposing great opportunities in Chicago .
- it was a good class overall
- I want to come back
- I loved the big chicago class and what I learned but New Student Commons was inconvenient and pointless. I did not learn or gain anything from it.
- It was a wise choice of class to take
- I love this teacher! He does a great job and tries different ways to make class interesting.
- Stop it all.
- N/A

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- The class size was really a deal breaker for me. I think the class itself would have been much more effective if it was smaller.
- personally since i live in Chicago I would have liked to take different class.
- The class was a gem! CMB was my favorite class and made me explore the area. New Student Commons is terrible... it serves no point other than a free meal.
- The class was great for seeing some of the important sites of Chicago.
- No.
- I just felt there were more valuable classes I could be taking.
- I loved the class. I just wish it was more up close and personal with the presenters. I missed a lot of opportunities to meet some really awesome people, because people were in the way. Otherwise, this is a great class I'd recommend to future freshman.
- I enjoyed my First Semster here as far as the two classes I could've done without.
- I'm glad to be back in school. Columbia has been fantastic!
- N/a
- boring.
- involves a lot of extra time
- XXXX is a good teacher. He's funny.
- n/a
- Business aspect of the class was cool. Loved the people who spoke. hated the assignments.
- waste of time
- Best class I have ever taken.
- N/A
- I learned a lot more about different cultures and became more open miinded
- Liked this class.
- parts were really interesting about deaf people and language. just not sure what the whole point is
- NA
- I really enjoyed this class. It was honestly my favorite class of the semester.
- It was terrible. I understand why it needs to be a thing, but do better. Also, it would probably be better as a 5-week 1-credit hour class.
- Terrible. Seriously
- I really enjoyed it!
- I feel like I would've been okay without it.
- Great class to introduce Chicago to those that aren't familiar with it.
- !
- Maybe
- no more contemporary art
- N/A
- nah

Fall 2015 First-Semester Experience  
Assessment Summary

- My First-Semester Experience was great. I was able to explore different places, scenes and activities around Chicago that I didn't even know existed or were available for us (especially the free ones). I also appreciate the Friday meetings of informing and helping us with advice for our academic careers and daily life.
- Just don't do it again. It's not engaging enough for first years. If you really want to know what a first year would want for first year experience then ask a previous first year!!!!!!
- Online classes need a new format or an upgrade.
- n/a