

Chapter 1: FIRST-YEAR SURVEY

Who takes it?

All first-year students who start in the fall semester are offered to take the survey.

When is it administered?

It was administered during Truman Days, which is the first three days of school for the first-year students.

How long does it take the students to complete the instrument?

15 to 25 minutes.

What office administers it?

The Student Success Center in conjunction with the Provost's Office administers the survey.

Who originates this survey?

The survey is a local instrument prepared by Truman faculty and administrators.

When are results typically available?

Late fall.

What type of information is sought?

The survey provides information on the student's perception of the admission process, summer orientation, and expectations of college. It also provides some basic demographic information on first-generation status and family income.

From whom are the results available?

The Director of the Center for Academic Excellence.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

Results are available to the University community through this almanac and available by request from the Director of the Center for Academic Excellence.

Are the results available by department or discipline?

Neither.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

The first-year survey is a short survey given to all students during new student orientation. It allows a better understanding of student demographics and expectations. In 2018, 1005 students completed the survey. The following highlights some of the most relevant findings.

Choosing Truman

Prior to admission, approximately 80% of students had visited more than one college and 90% of respondents visited Truman State's campus at least once as part of the admission process. In ranking the reasons that they chose Truman, students overwhelmingly indicated academic reputation as the top reason for attending with cost and financial aid being the next most important reasons. When identifying influences, first-year students clearly indicate that their campus visit was the most influential reason for them choosing Truman with the Truman mission, website, and parental opinion being the next most important sources.

Demographics

The 2018 entering class is similar in makeup to the 2017 first-year cohort with approximately 12% identifying themselves as upper class, 26% as upper middle class, 22% as middle class, 28% as working class, and 11% as lower class. One noticeable shift in the demographics was the decrease in students indicating their family made less than \$40,000. Approximately 27% of the incoming students indicate they are first generation (with neither parent having a bachelor's degree) while 43% of the incoming class indicate that both of their parents have a bachelor's degree.

Experiences with Truman Days

This was the third year of the new abbreviated student orientation. Approximately 90% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in introducing them to faculty and staff while more than 93% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in connecting them with fellow students (with roughly 29% of students indicating Truman Days was very helpful at connecting to other students). The Majors Welcome activity was a clear favorite amongst first-year students but numerous activities within Truman Days rated positively showing both strong attendance and strong ratings (Evening Shade Tree, Big Truman Show, All-Hall Meeting, etc.).

Expectations

Over 98% of respondents expect to graduate Truman knowing at least one faculty member well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation and over half expect to know four or more faculty members that well upon graduation. The most common expectation for first semester grades was A-/B+ and fewer than 2.6% of students expect to average lower than a B during their first semester at Truman.

Attitude towards Truman

Approximately 90% of the first-year students reported having a positive or strongly positive attitude towards Truman at the time of the survey (with less than 1% indicating any type of negative attitude).

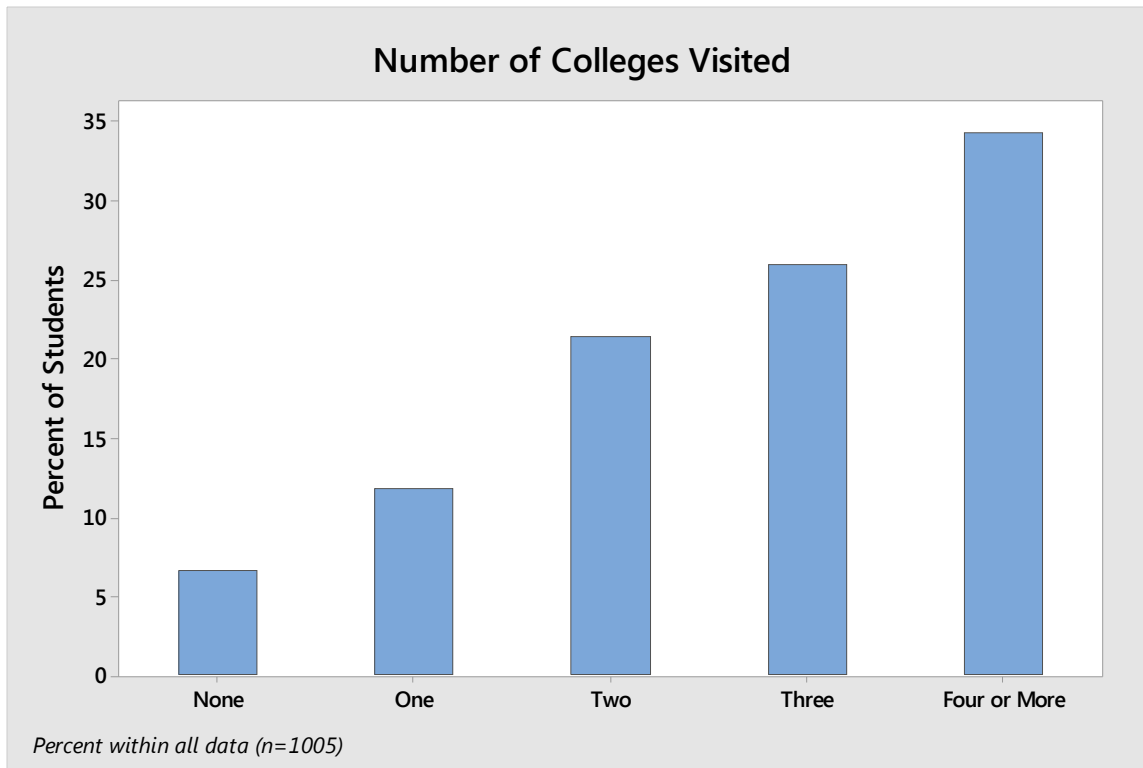


Figure 1 – “In selecting a college, how many colleges or university campuses did you visit?”

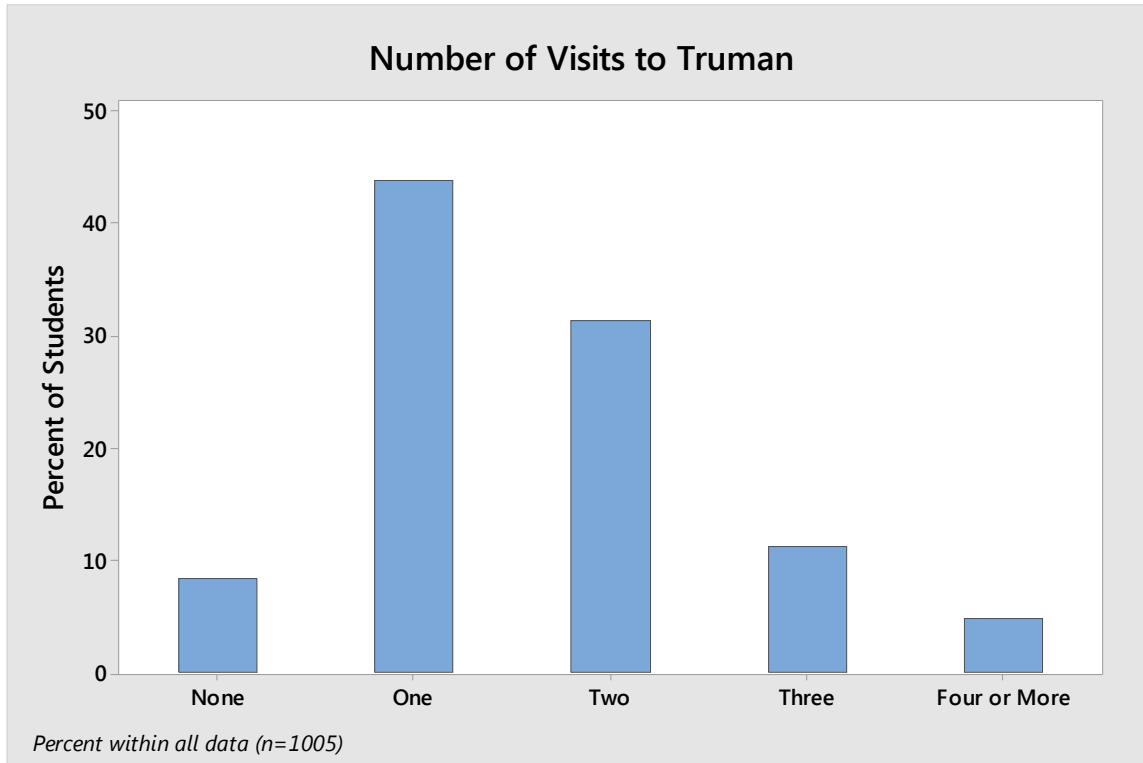


Figure 2 – “In making a college selection, how many times did you visit Truman State University?”

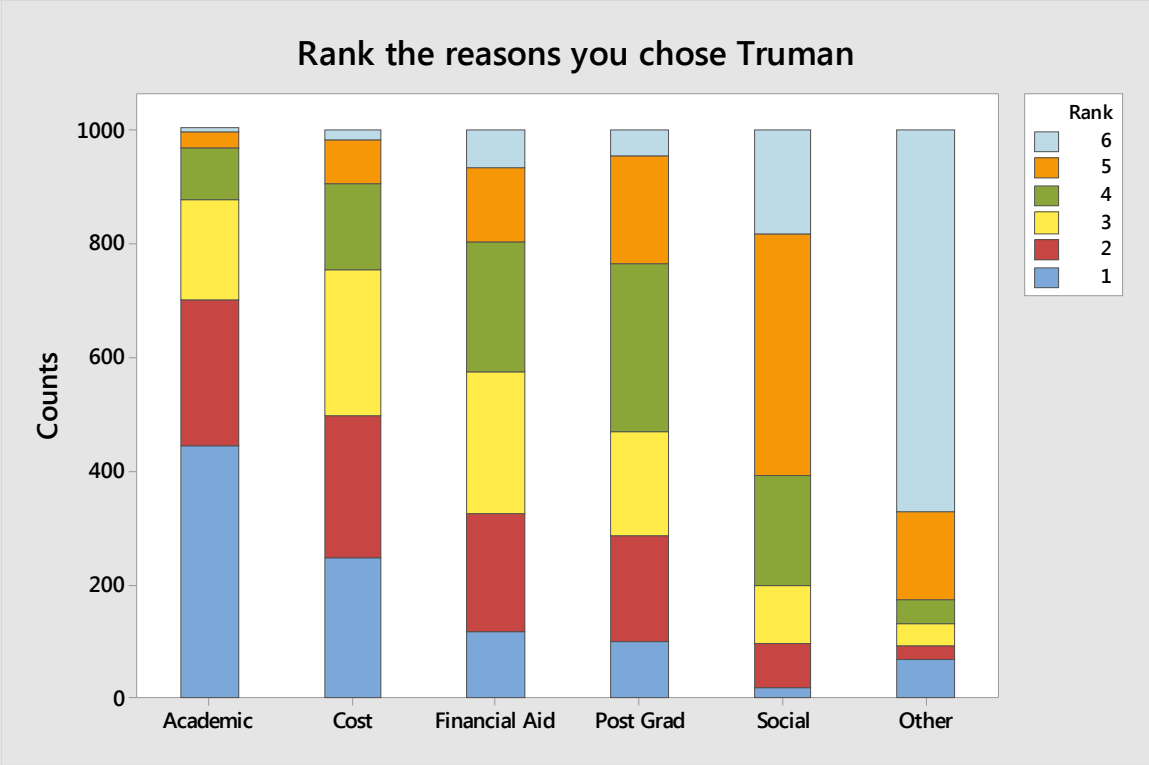


Figure 3 – “Please rank these reasons for choosing Truman. Assign the most important reason number 1, the second most important number 2, etc. until you have used all six ranks.

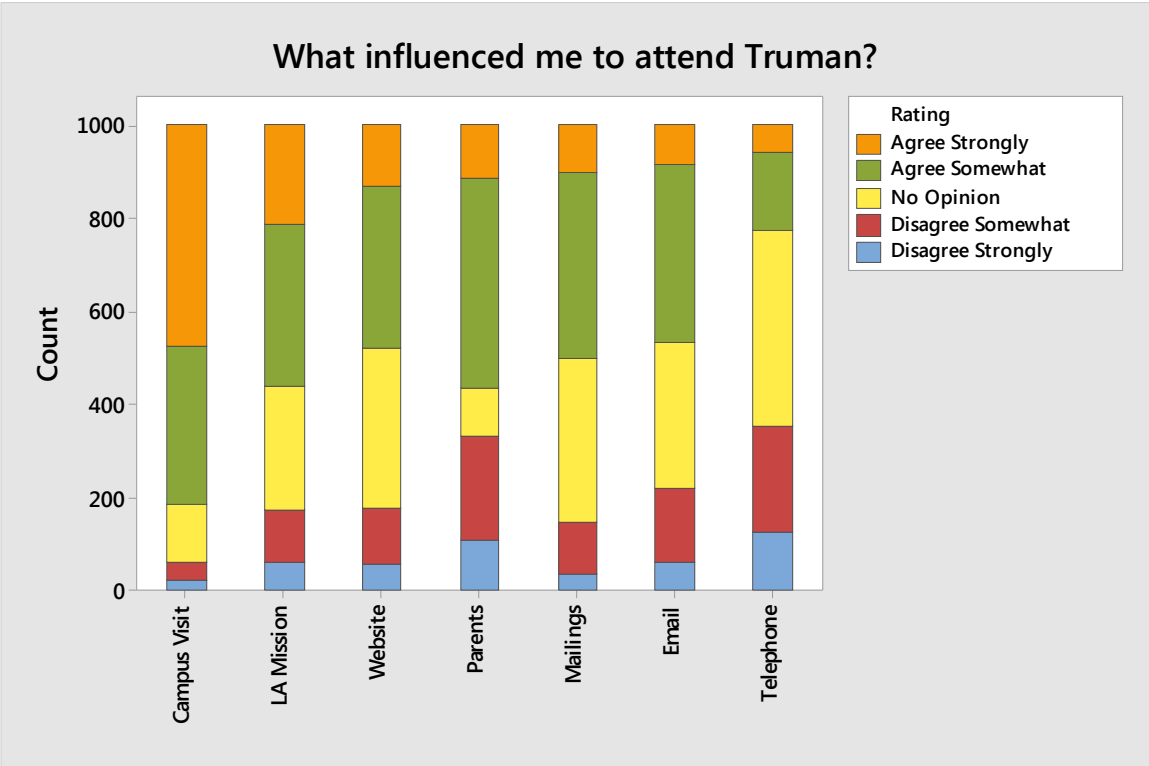


Figure 4a – “Please indicate your opinion (on the level of influence in attending Truman) by marking one response on each question”

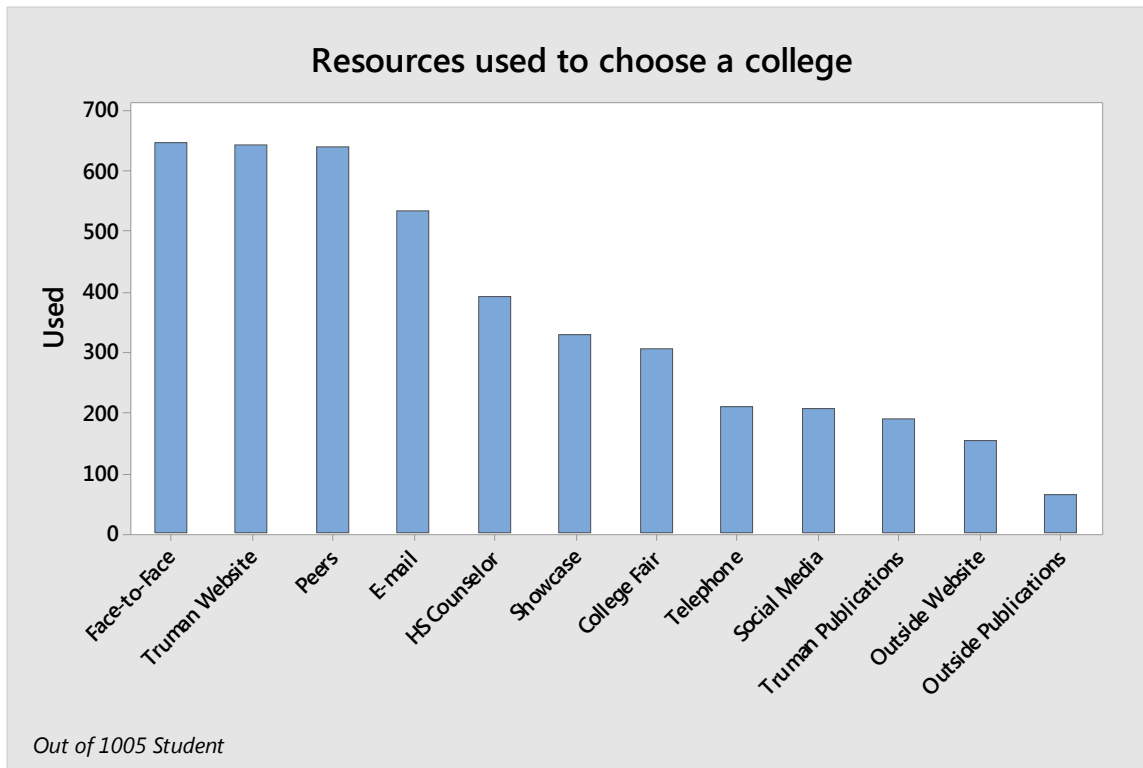


Figure 4b – “Which of these resources did you use to choose a college? (Check as many as apply)”

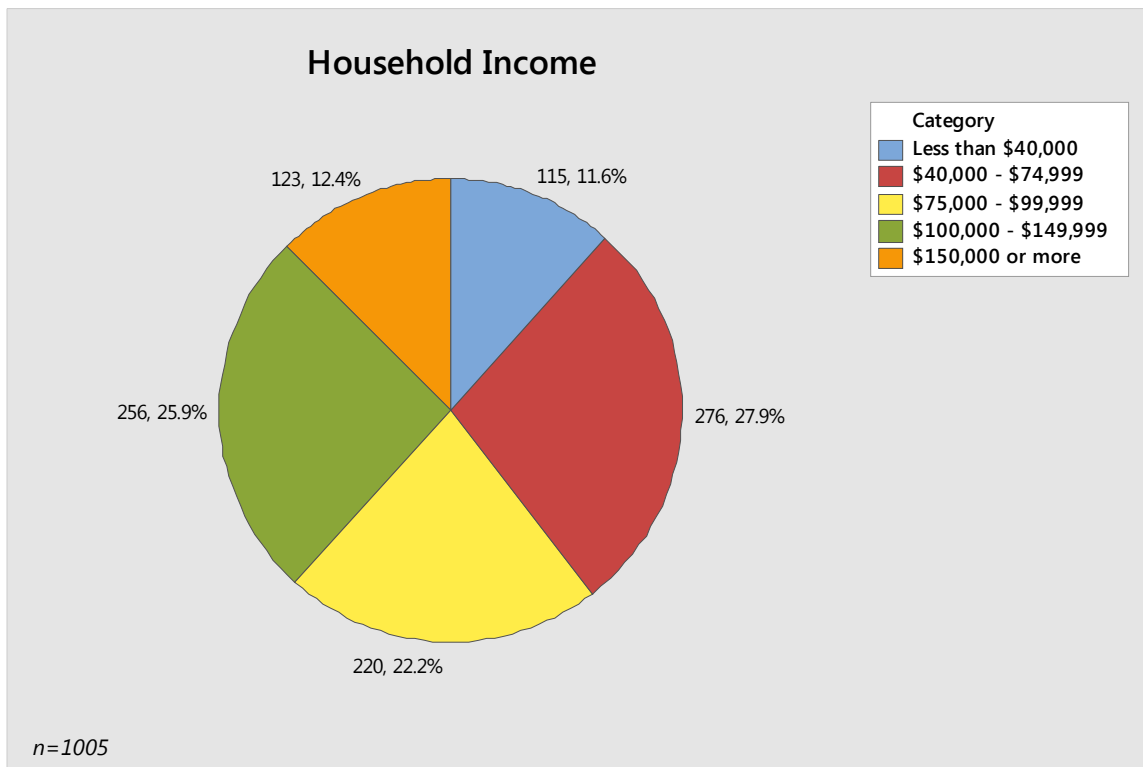


Figure 5 – “What is your best estimate of your parent's total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes.”

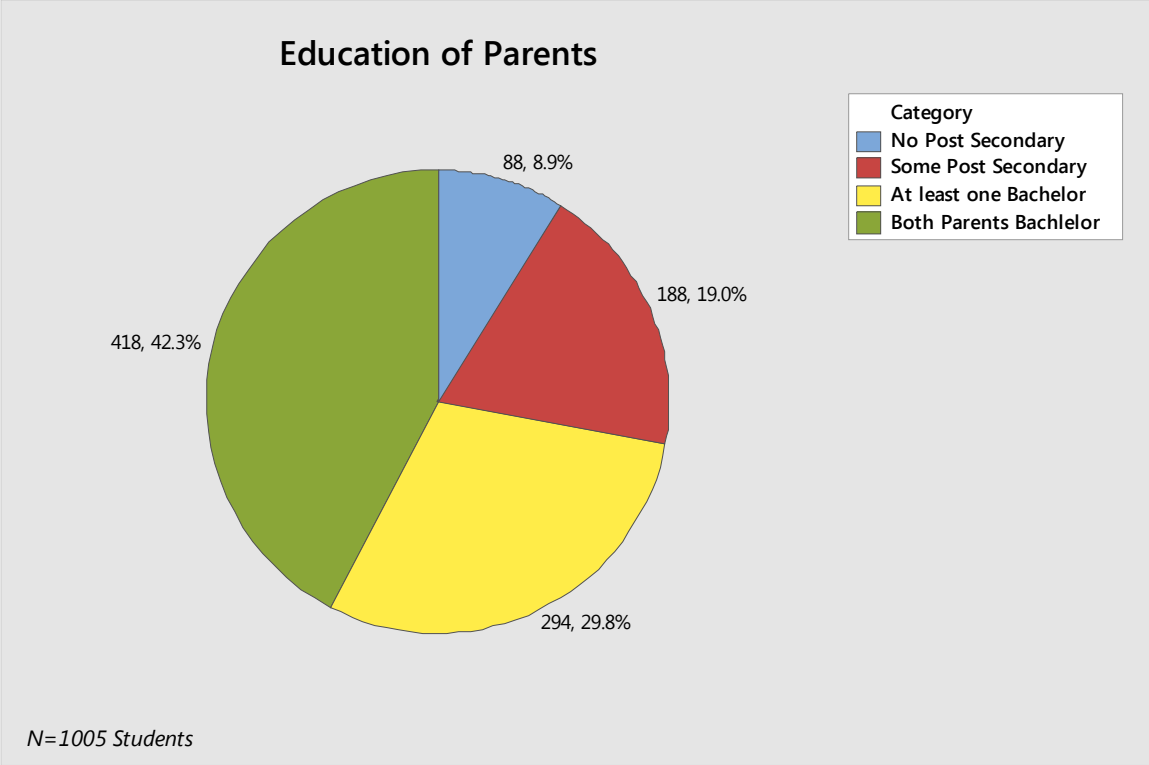


Figure 6 – “What is the highest level of formal education obtained by your parents?”

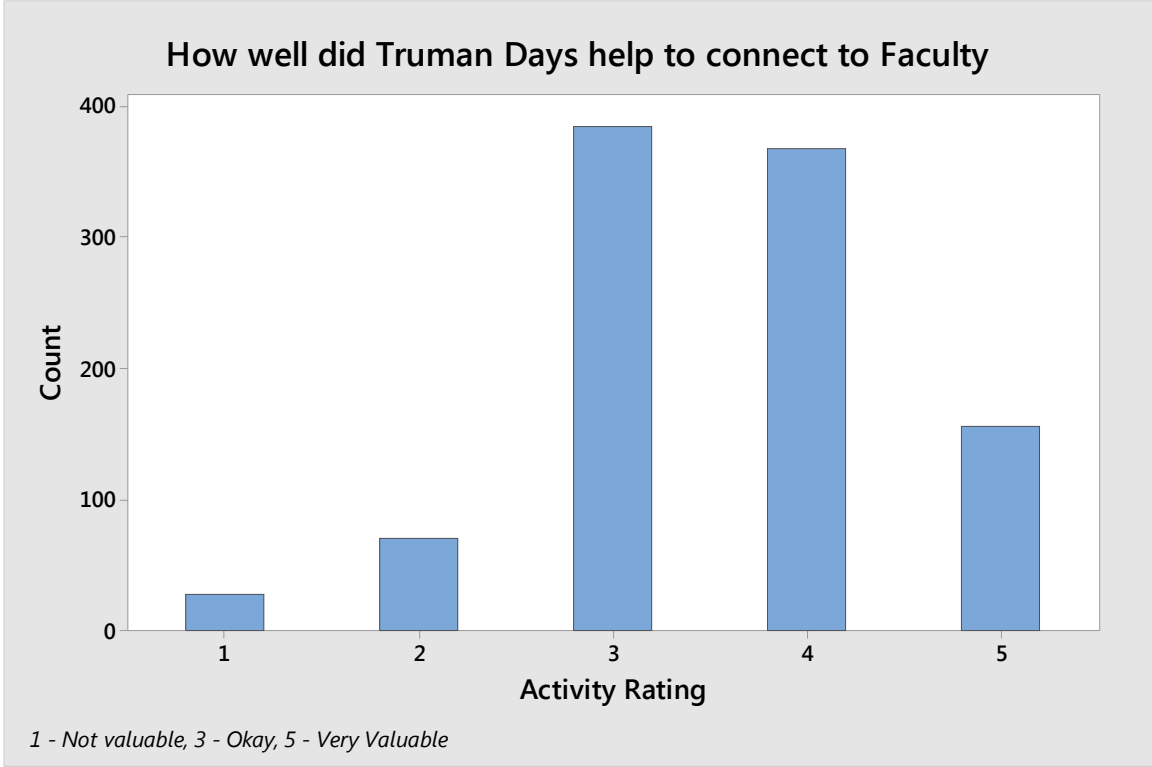


Figure 7 – “How well did Truman Days do at introducing you to faculty and staff?”

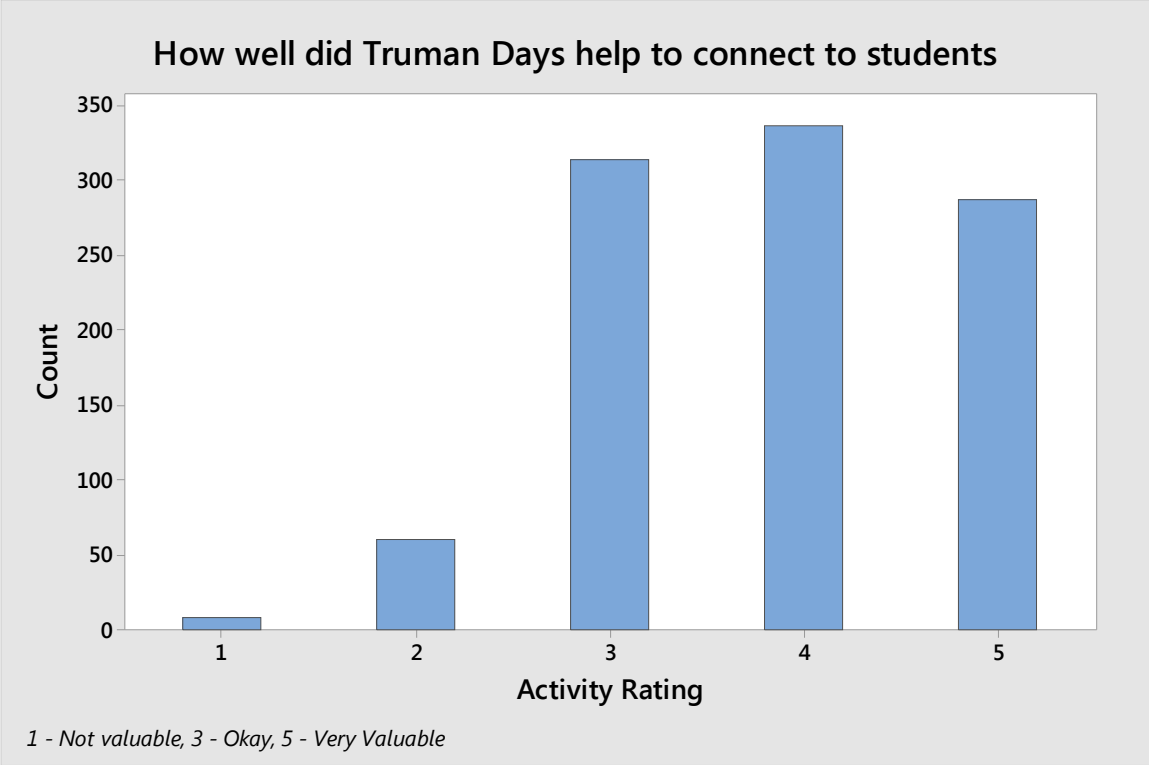


Figure 8 – “How well did Truman Days help you get connected to your fellow students?”

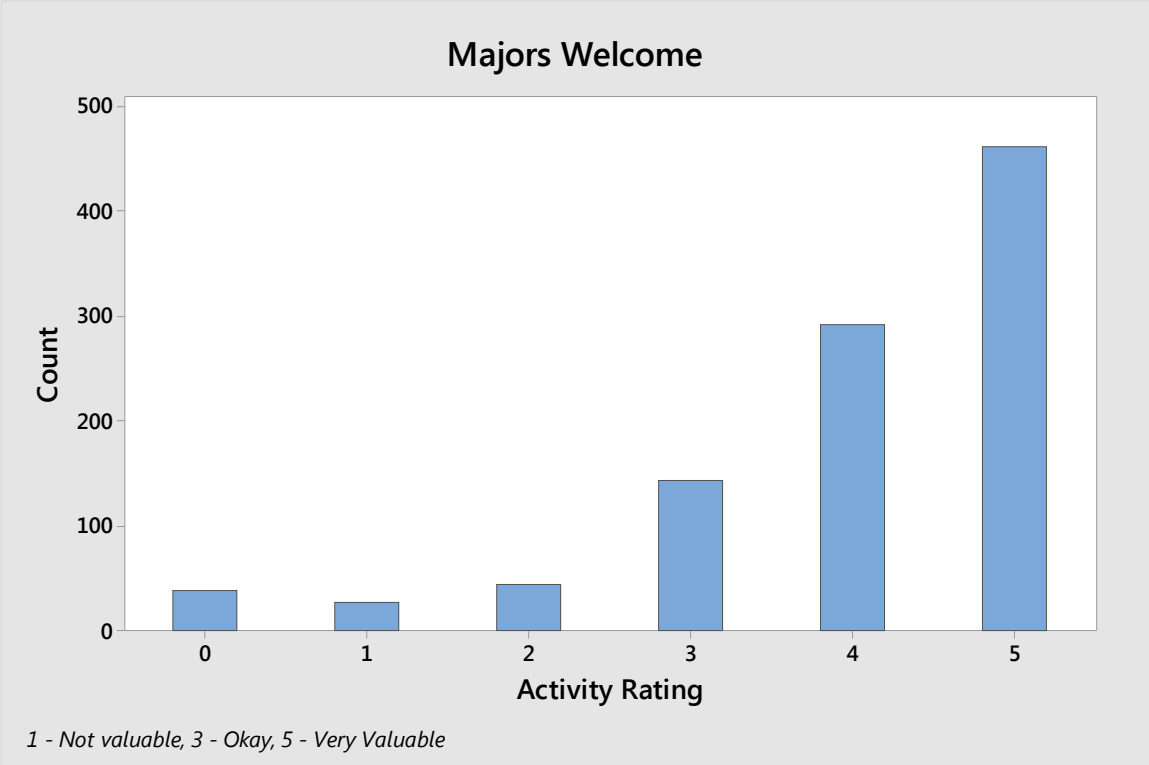


Figure 9 – “Please rate these Truman Days activities and events.” (0 = did not participate)

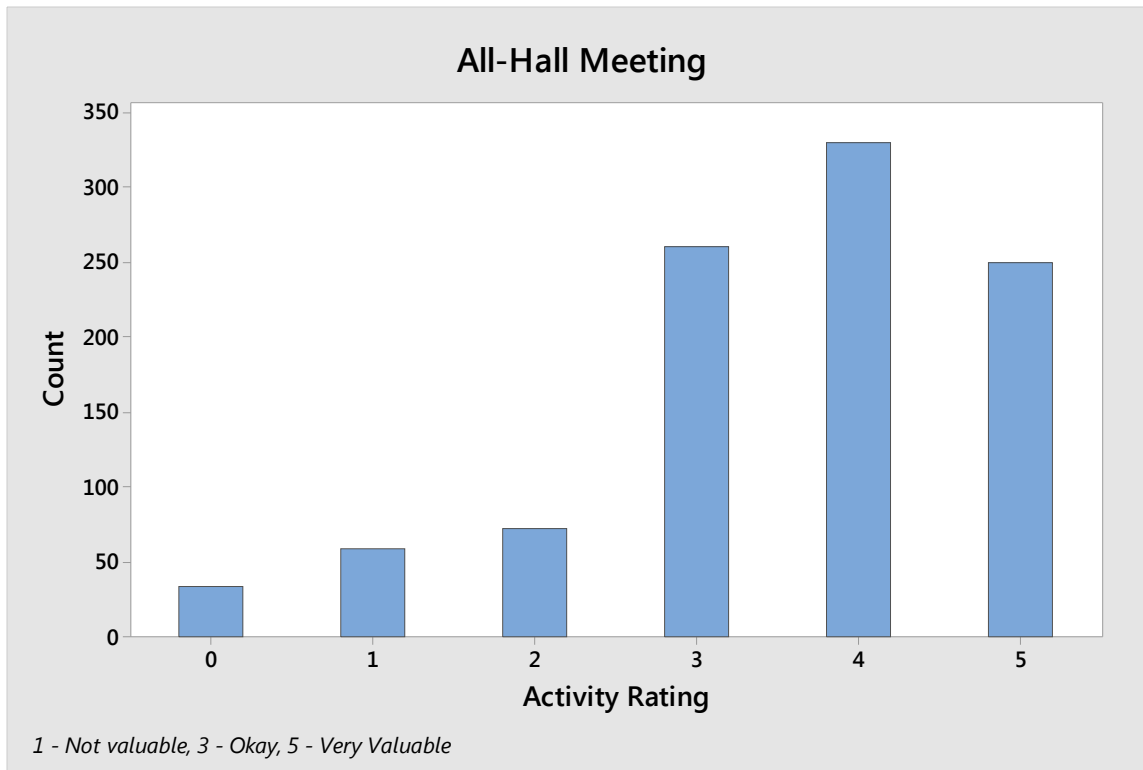


Figure 10 – “Please rate these Truman Days activities and events.” (0 = did not participate)

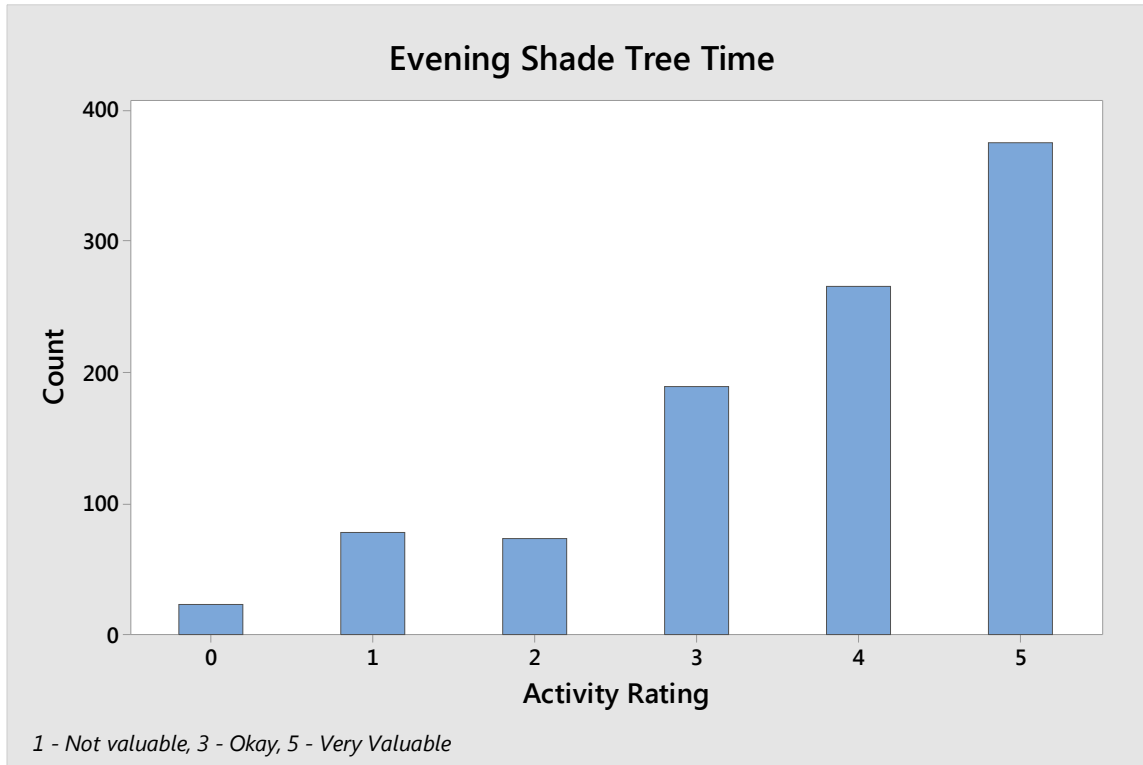


Figure 11 – “Please rate these Truman Days activities and events.” (0 = did not participate)

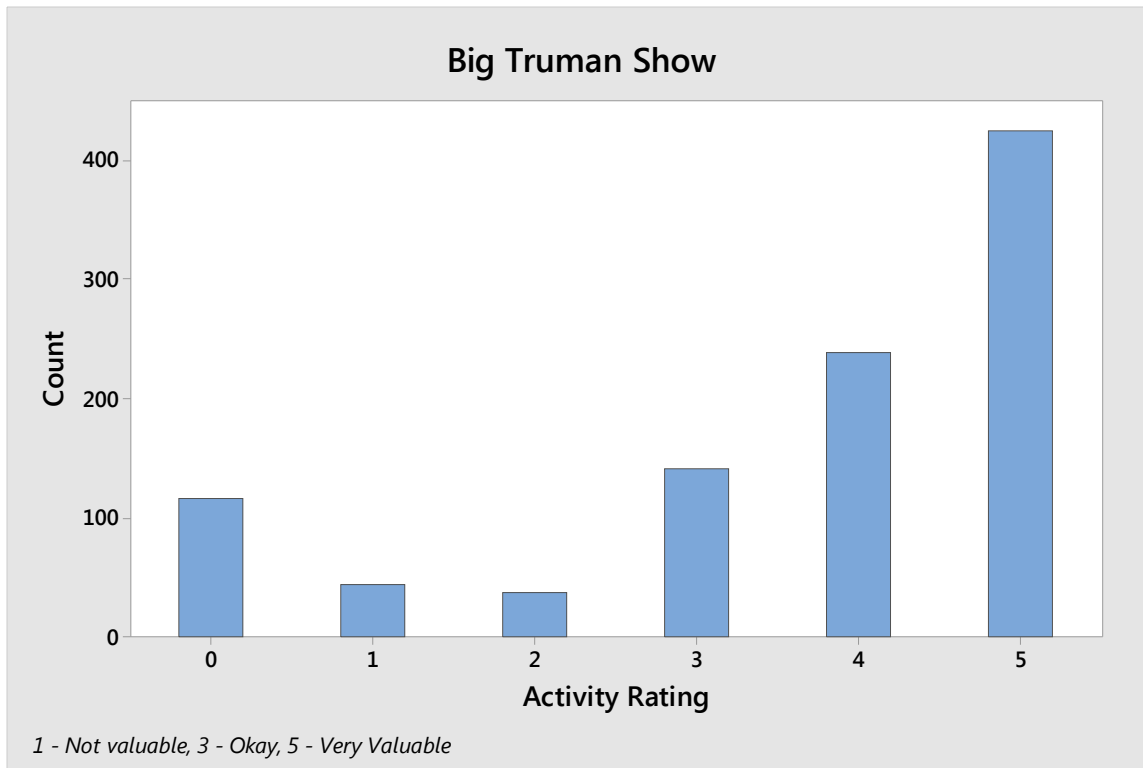


Figure 12 – “Please rate these Truman Days activities and events.” (0 = did not participate)

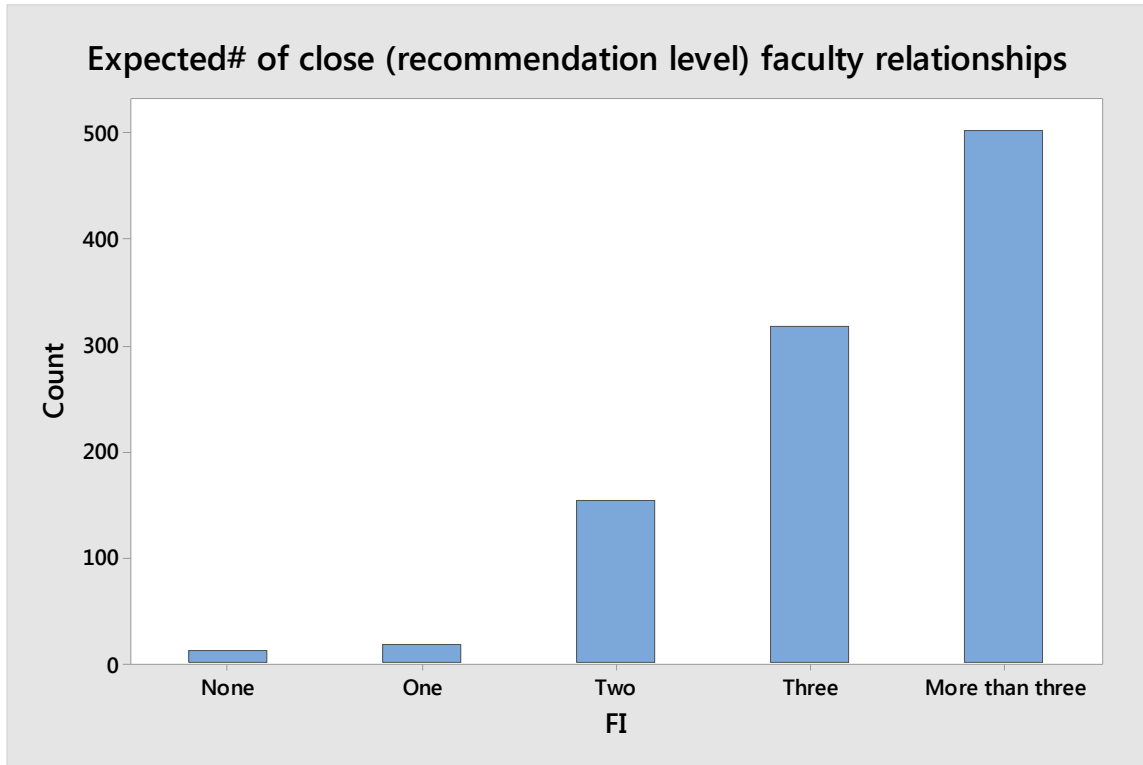


Figure 13 – “Upon graduation from Truman, how many faculty members do you expect to know well enough that you would ask them for a letter of recommendation?”

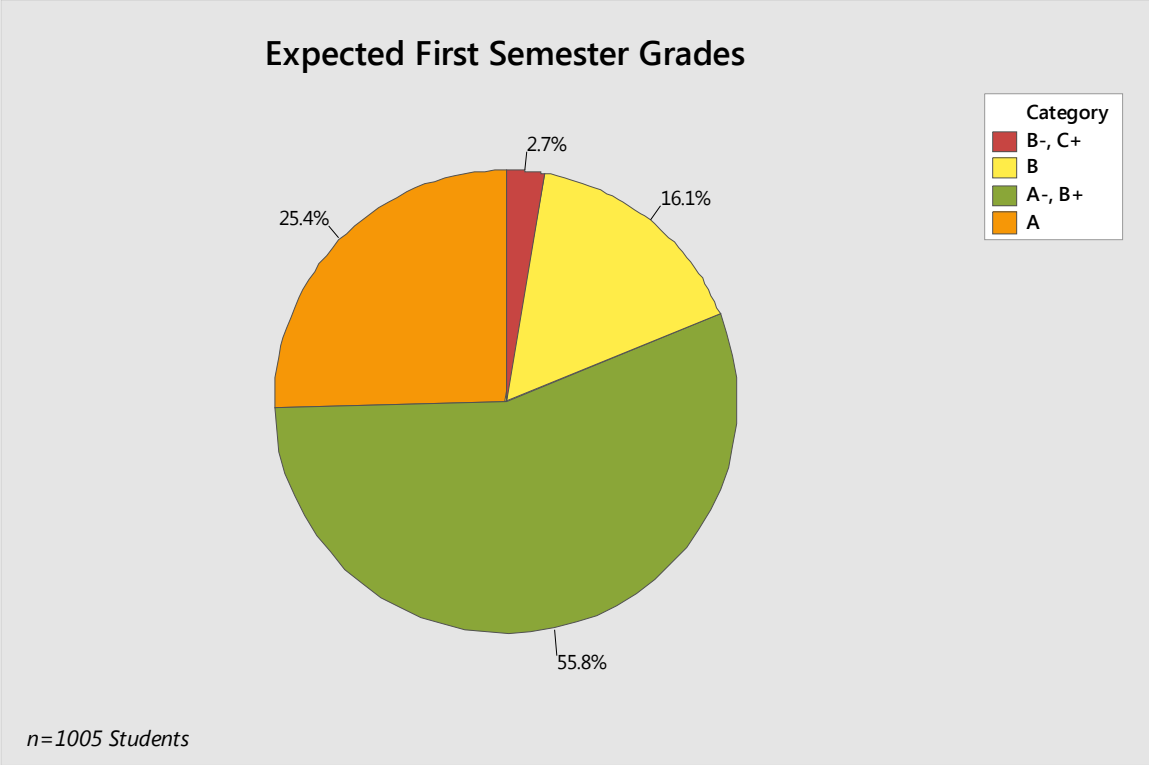


Figure 14 – “What do you expect most of your first semester grades at Truman to be?”

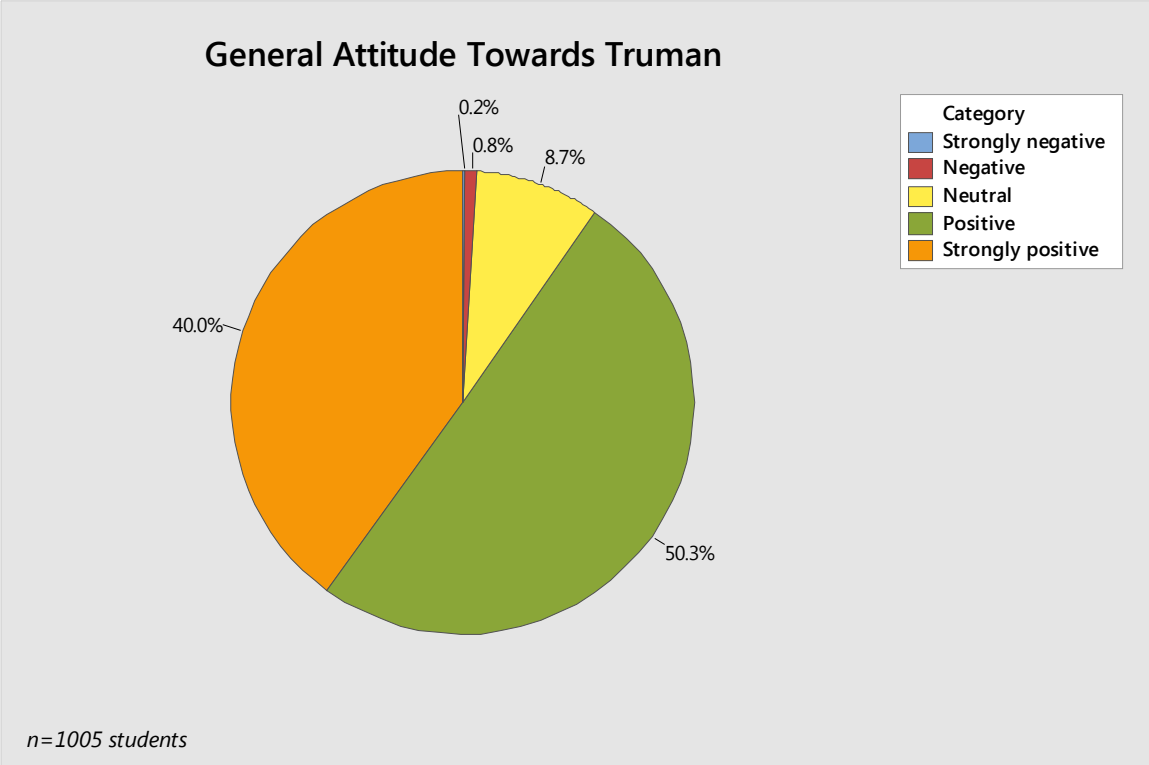


Figure 15 – “At the present time, your general attitude toward Truman is?”