

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 2019, 663 students completed the survey. The following highlights some of the most relevant findings.

Choosing Truman

Prior to admission, approximately 82% of students had visited more than one college and 94% 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 and parental opinion being the next most important sources.

Demographics

The 2019 entering class is similar in makeup to the 2018 first-year cohort with approximately 16% identifying themselves as upper class, 28% as upper middle class, 23% as middle class, 22% as working class, and 11% as lower class. One noticeable shift in the demographics was the decrease in students indicating their family made between \$40K to \$75K. Approximately 23% of the incoming students indicate they are first generation (with neither parent having a bachelor's degree) while 49% of the incoming class indicate that both of their parents have a bachelor's degree.

Connections within Truman Days

Approximately 90% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in introducing them to faculty and staff while more than 95% of students felt that Truman Days was helpful in meeting fellow students (with roughly 23% of students indicating Truman Days was very helpful at connecting to other students). Additionally, following Truman Days, 96% of the students could identify at least one connection for mutual support.

Expectations

Over 97% of respondents expect to graduate Truman knowing at least one faculty member well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation and 43% 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 1.6% of students expect to average lower than a B during their first semester at Truman.

Attitude towards Truman

Approximately 89% of the first-year students reported having a positive or strongly positive attitude towards Truman at the time of the survey (with only 2% indicating any type of negative attitude). Following Truman Days, 92% of students indicated some commitment to returning to Truman for their second year (with 67% being almost certain to return).

Experiences with Truman Days

The Majors Welcome activity was a clear favorite amongst first-year students being both well attended and strongly rated. The All Hall Meeting was a close second and many other activities were also well attend and favorably rated.

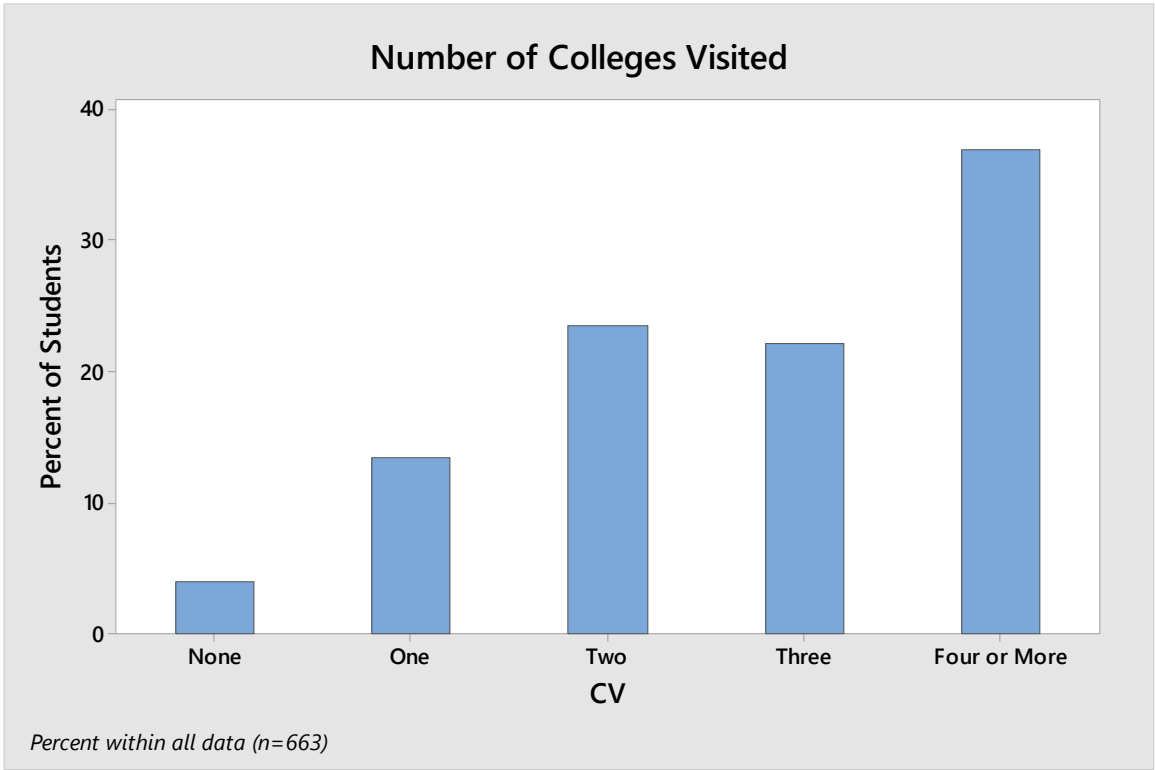


Figure 1 – “In selecting a college, how many colleges or university campuses did you visit?”

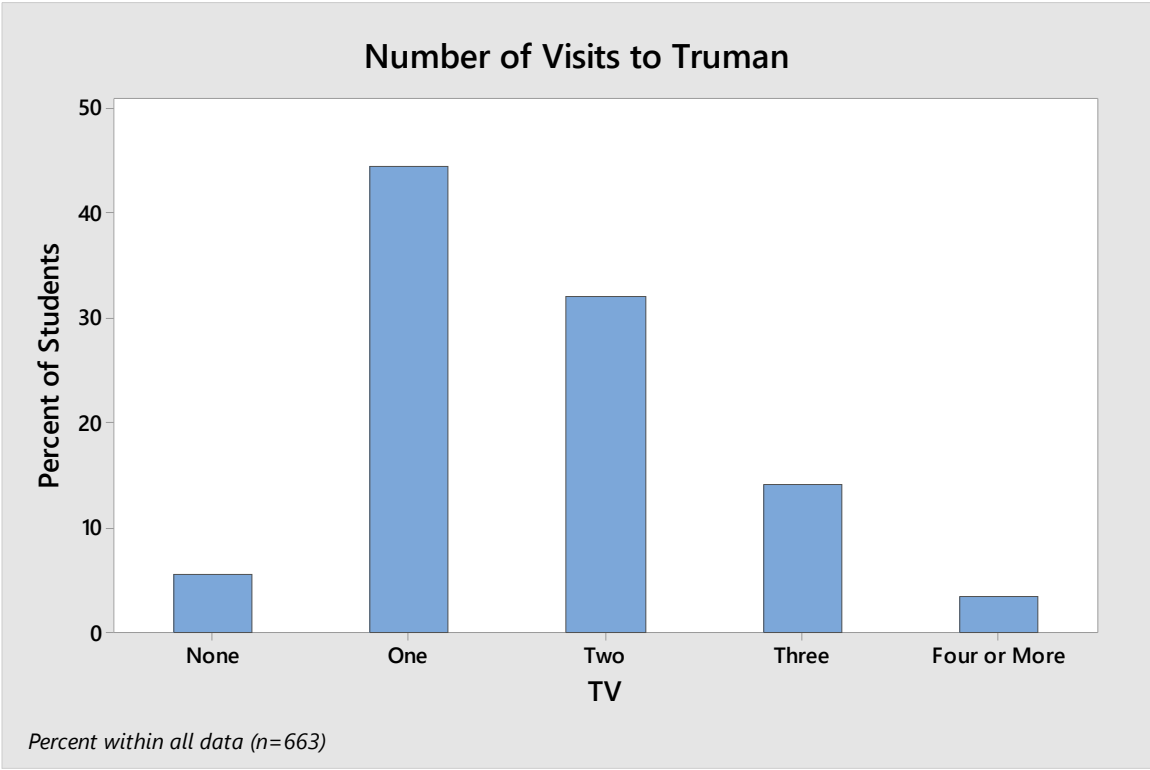


Figure 2 – “In making a college selection, how many times did you visit Truman State University?”

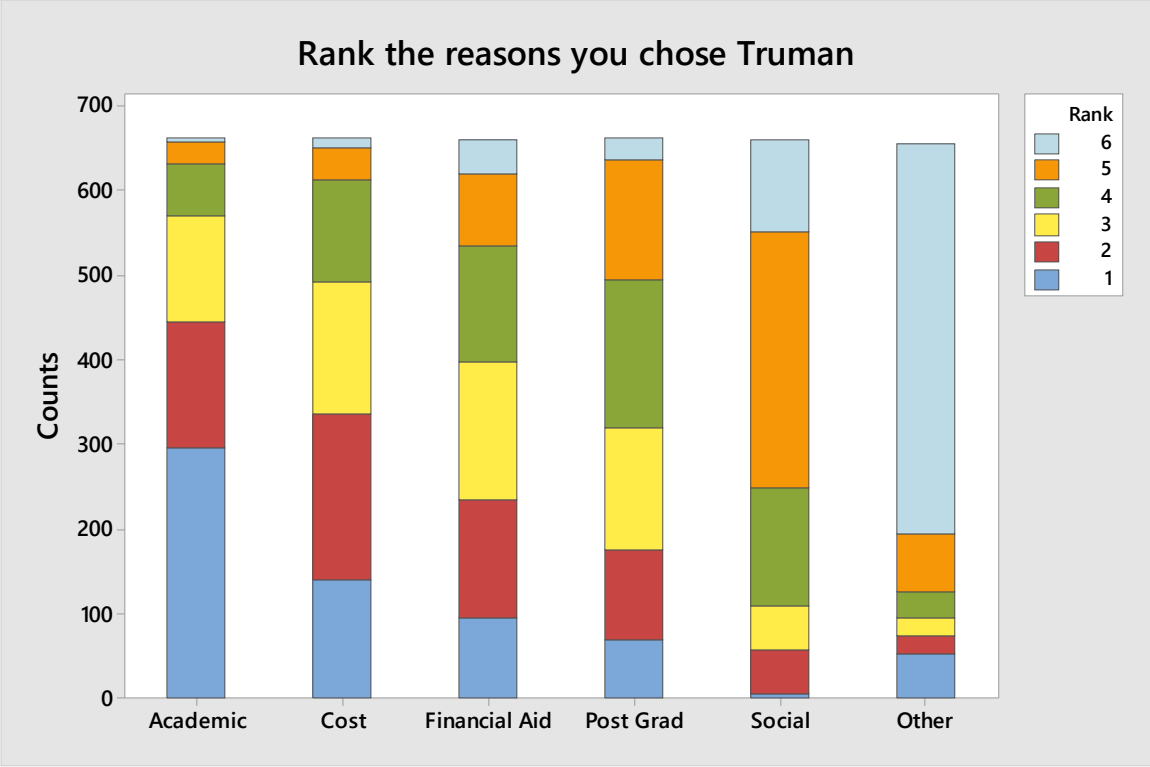


Figure 3 – “Please rank these reasons for choosing Truman. Assign the most important reason number 1, the second most important number 2, etc. until you have used all six ranks.

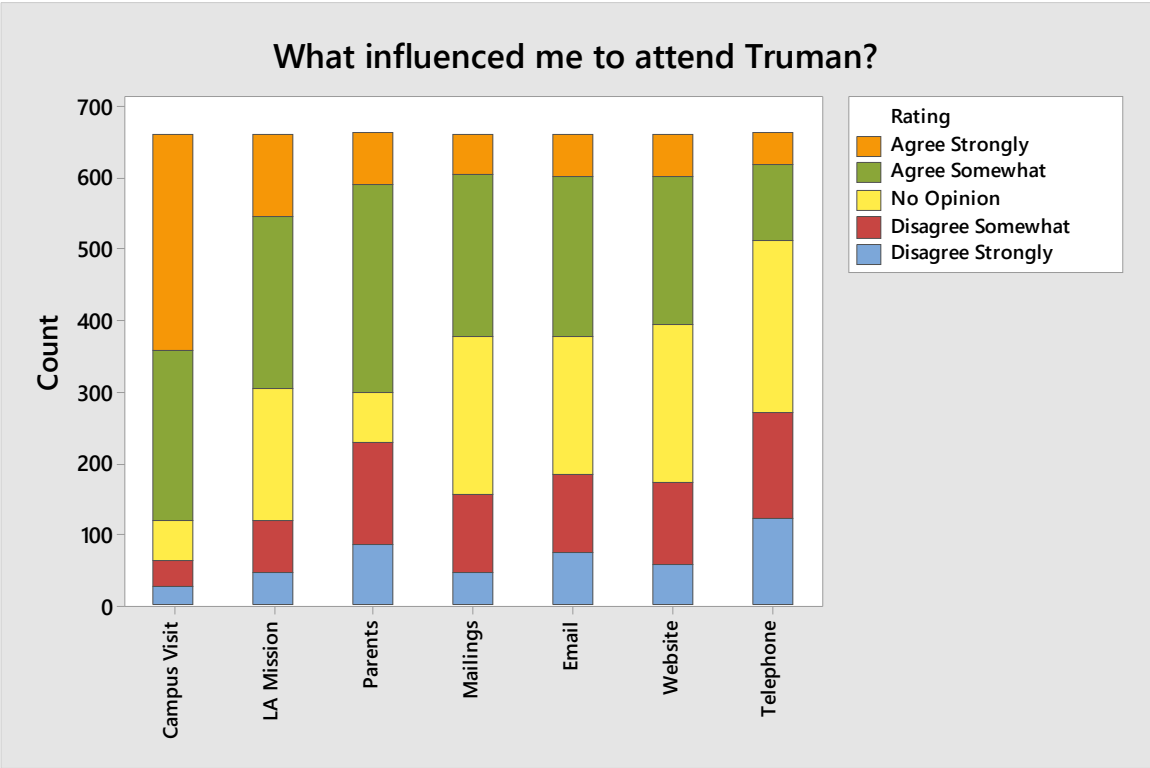


Figure 4a – “Please indicate your opinion (on the level of influence in attending Truman) by marking one response on each question”

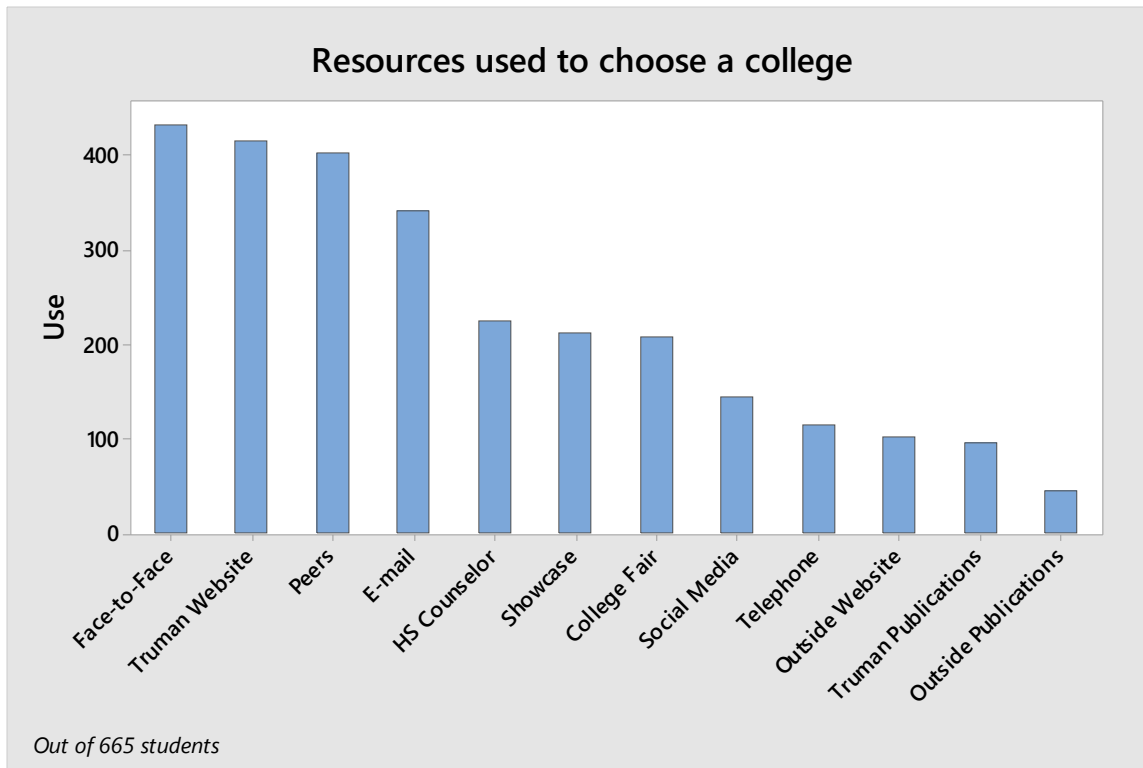


Figure 4b – “Which of these resources did you use to choose a college? (Check as many as apply)”

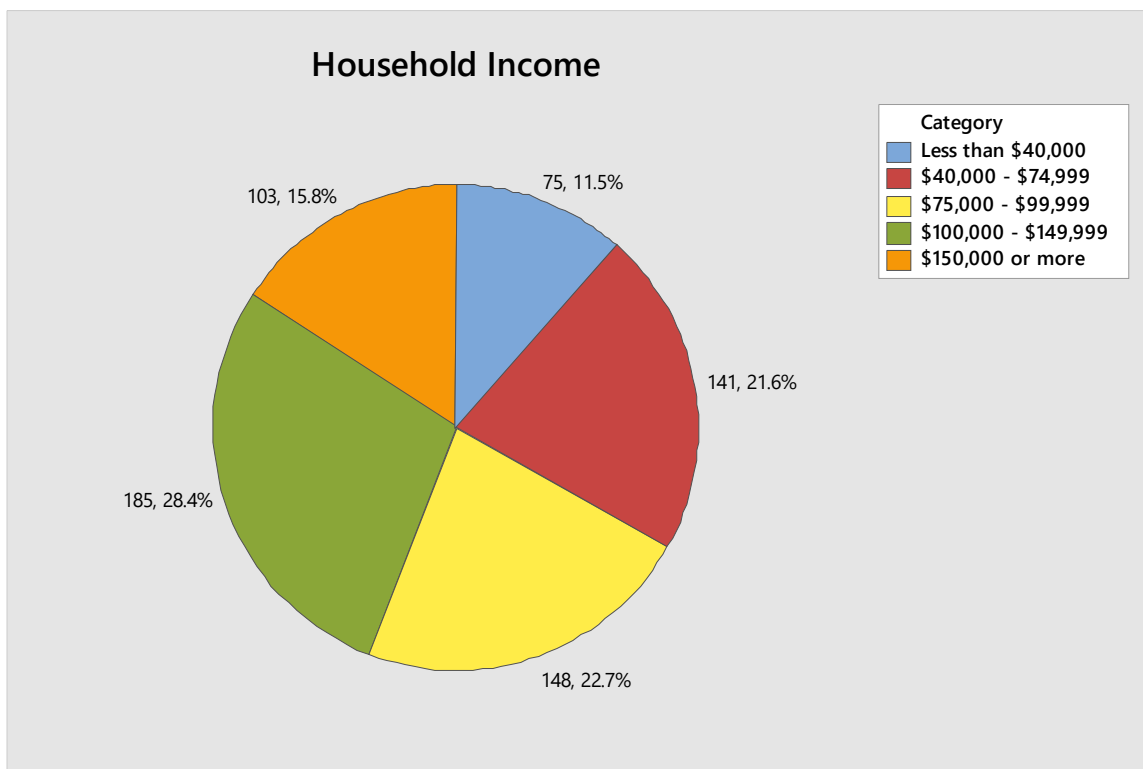


Figure 5 – “What is your best estimate of your parent's total income last year? Consider income from all sources before taxes.”

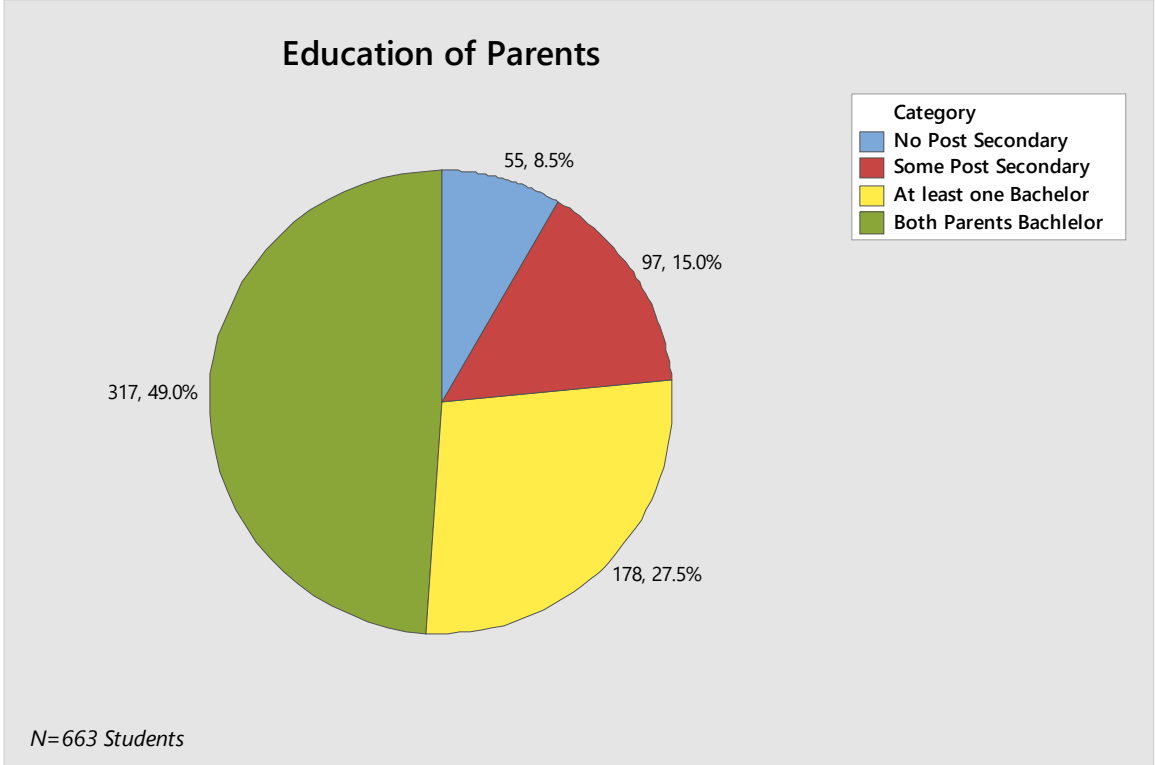


Figure 6 – “What is the highest level of formal education obtained by your parents?”

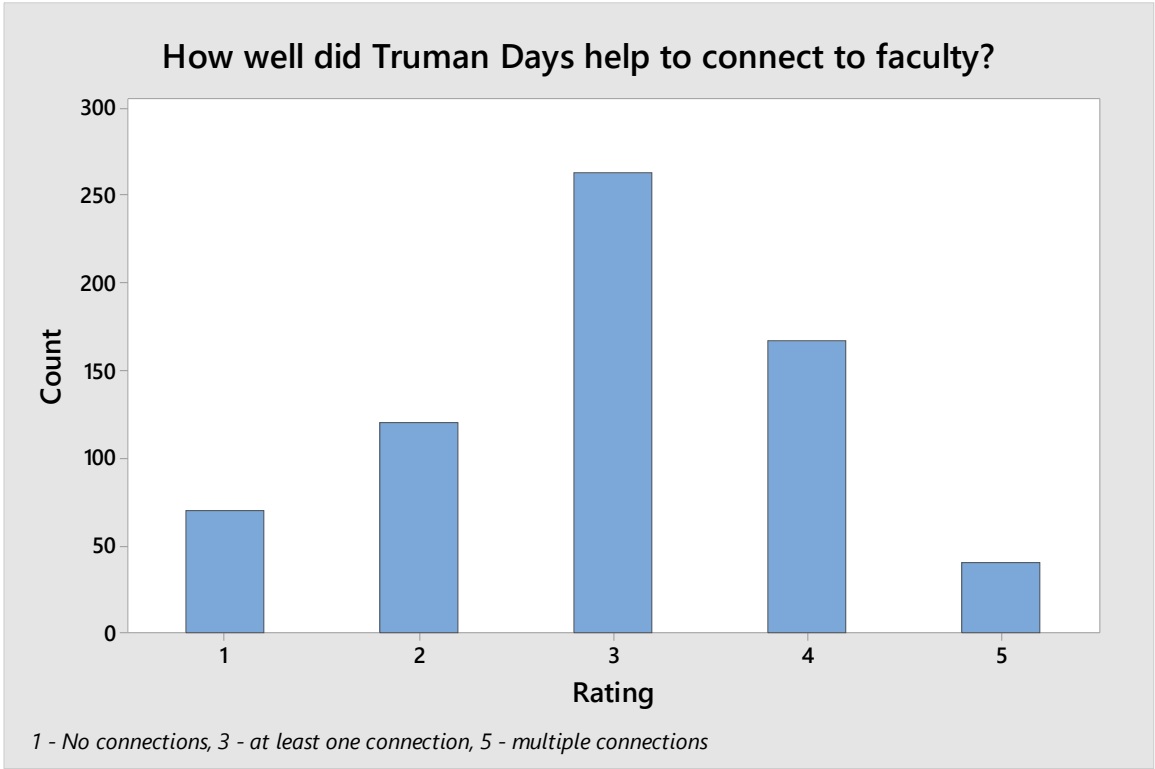


Figure 7 – “How well did Truman Days do at introducing you to faculty and staff?”

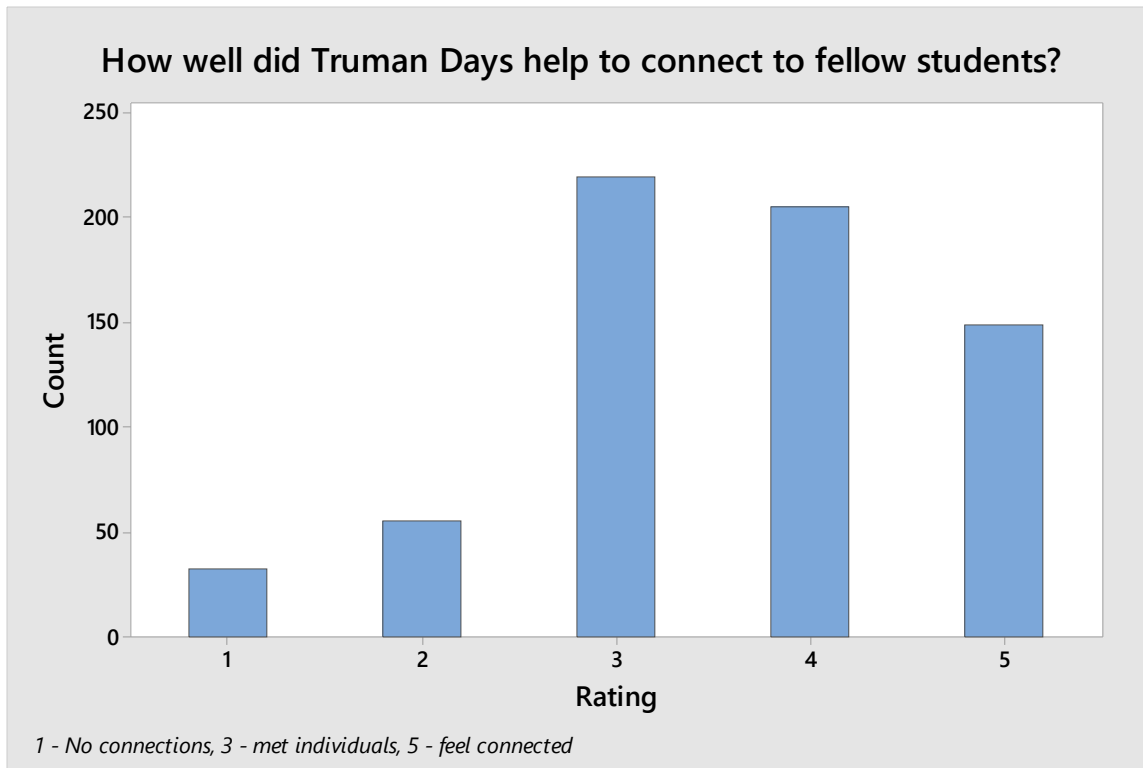


Figure 8 – “How well did Truman Days help you get connected to your fellow students?”

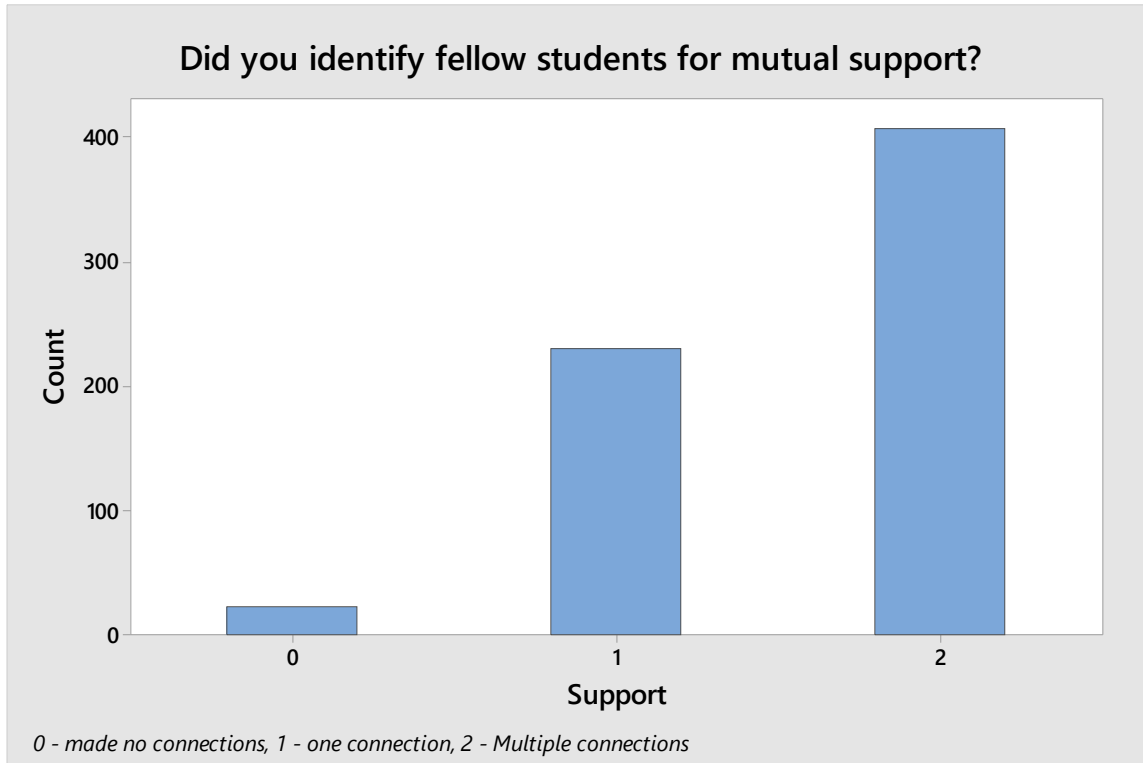


Figure 9 – “Can you identify fellow students that can help support you and that you can help support?”

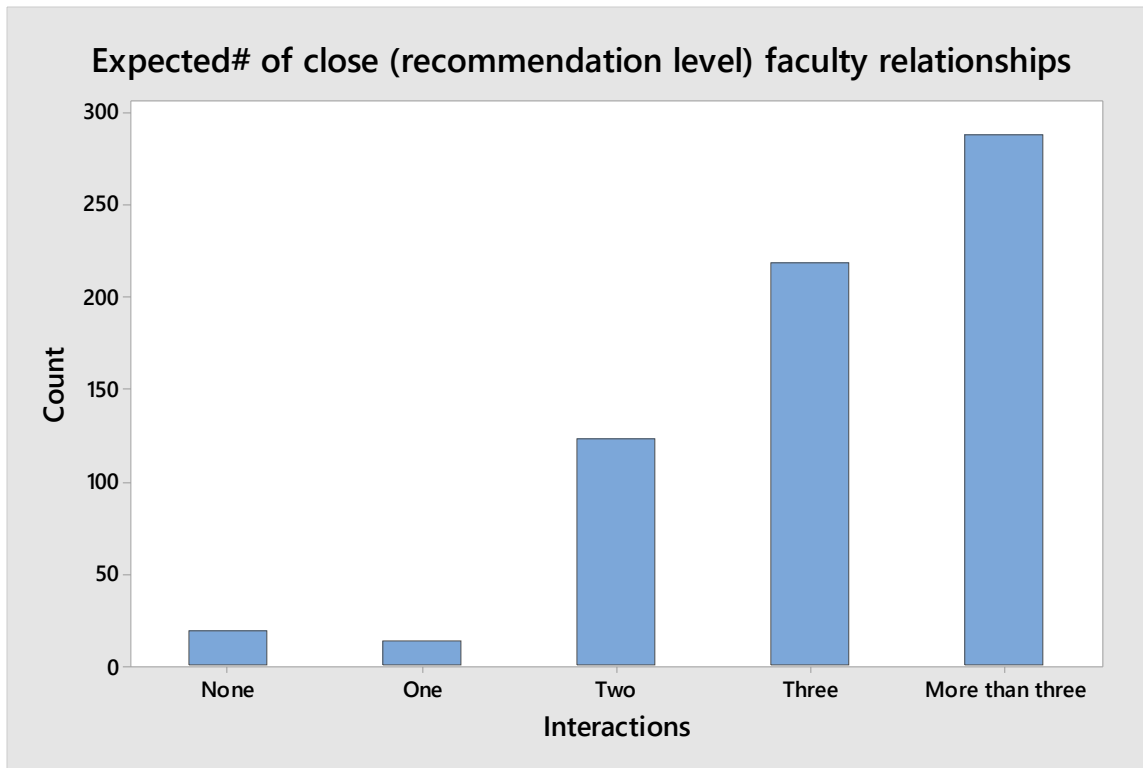


Figure 10 – “Upon graduation from Truman, how many faculty members do you expect to know well enough that you would ask them for a letter of recommendation?” (Figure 13 in F18)

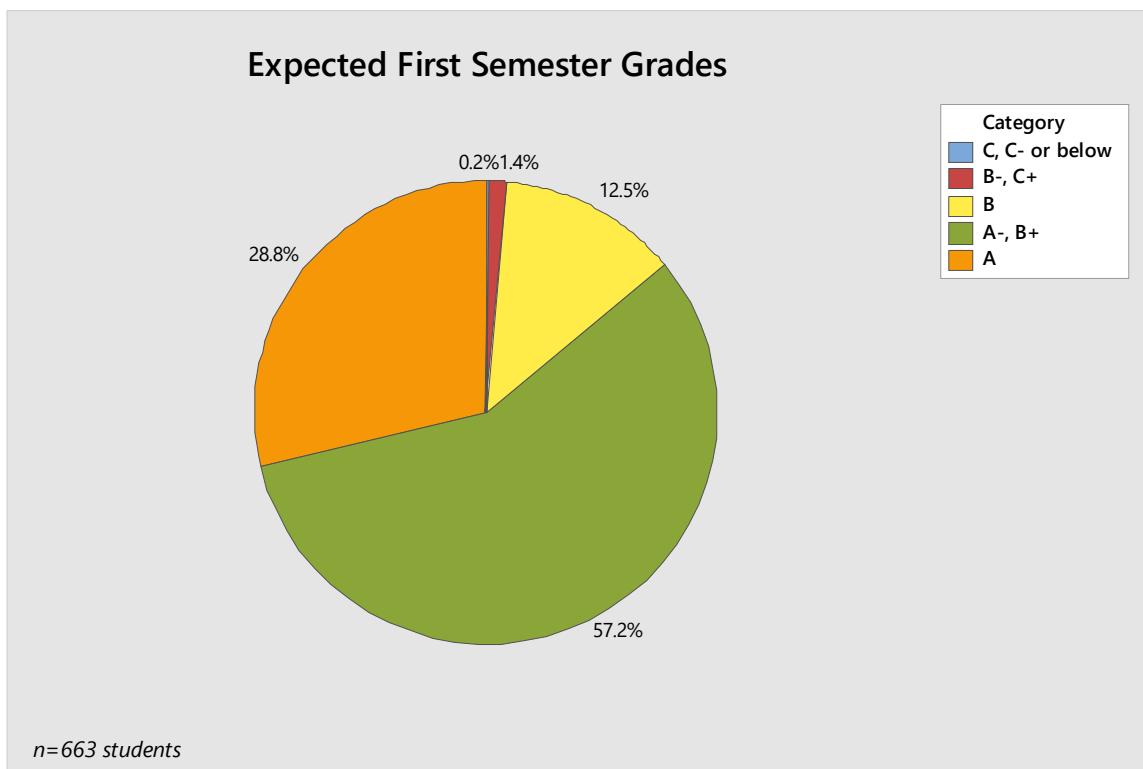


Figure 11 – “What do you expect most of your first semester grades at Truman to be?” (Figure 14 in F18)

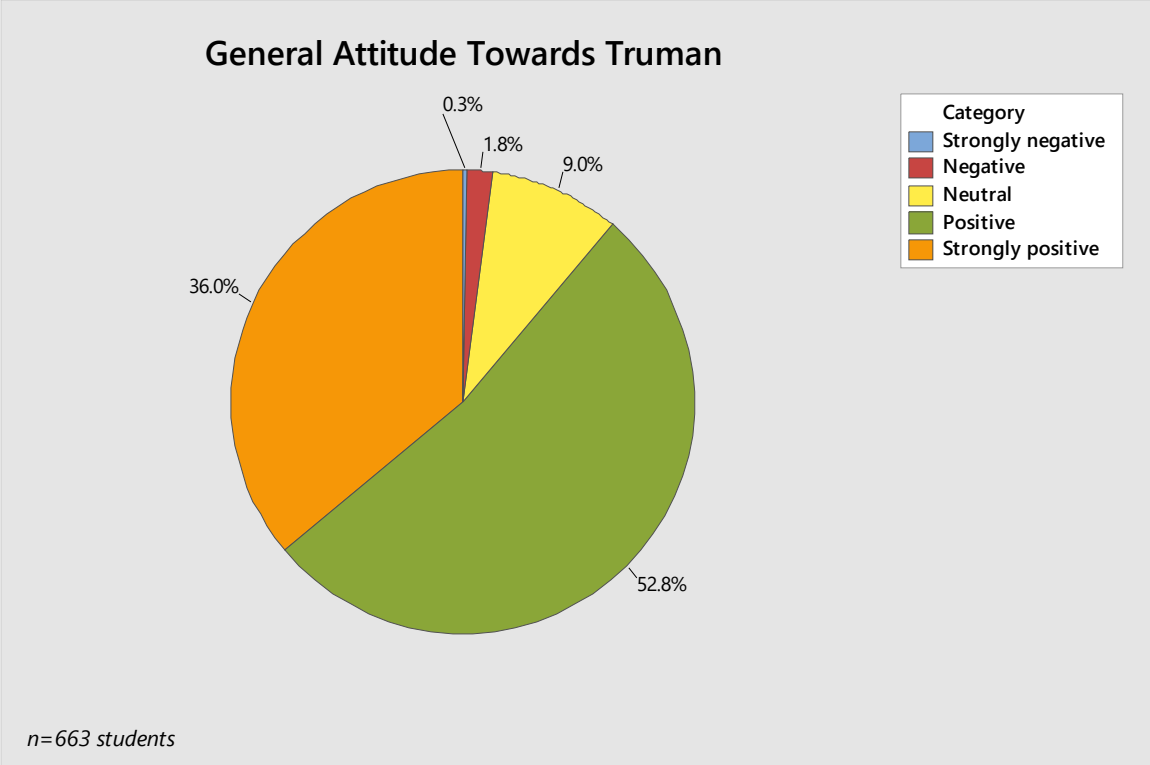


Figure 12 – “At the present time, your general attitude toward Truman is?” (Figure 15 in F18)

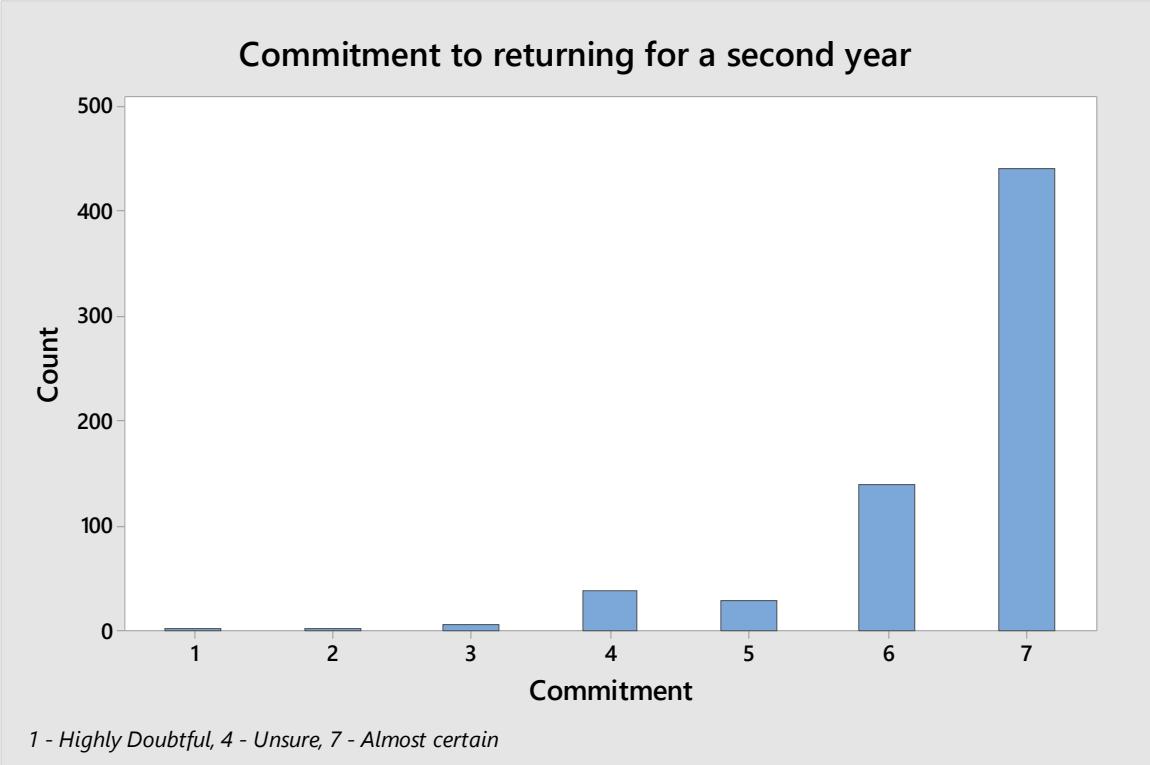


Figure 13 – “Now that Truman Week is over, how committed are you to staying to Truman for a second year and beyond?”

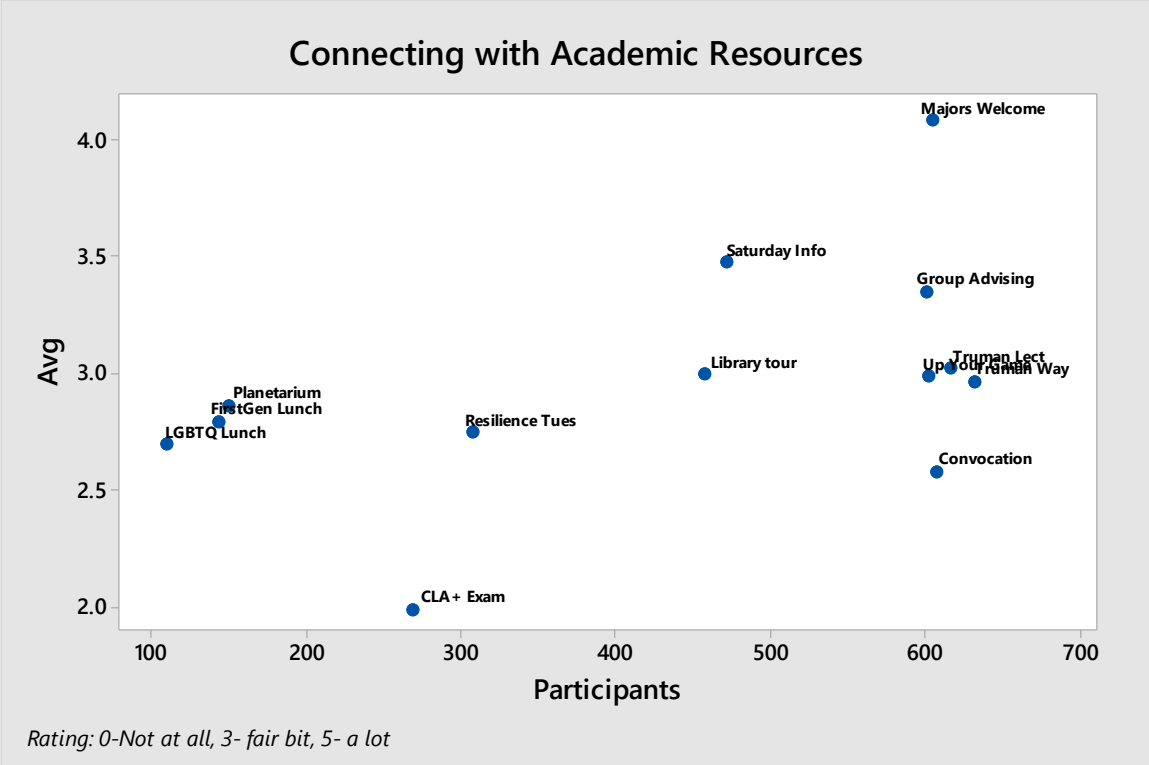


Figure 14 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Academic Resources?”

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
CLA+ Exam	388	113	69	71	9	7	2.0	269
Convocation	44	133	152	196	90	36	2.6	607
FirstGen Lunch	512	40	17	40	25	21	2.8	143
Group Advising	42	52	67	195	194	93	3.3	601
Saturday Info	178	38	51	128	160	95	3.5	472
LGBTQ Lunch	546	40	9	28	11	22	2.7	110
Library tour	197	65	76	162	106	48	3.0	457
Majors Welcome	52	20	27	102	193	263	4.1	605
Planetarium	505	37	17	50	22	24	2.9	150
Resilience Tues	343	57	57	119	55	19	2.7	307
Truman Lect	38	73	118	207	160	58	3.0	616
Truman Way	25	96	104	216	158	57	3.0	631
Up Your Game	57	97	101	191	140	73	3.0	602

Table 1 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Academic Resources? (0 = did not participate)

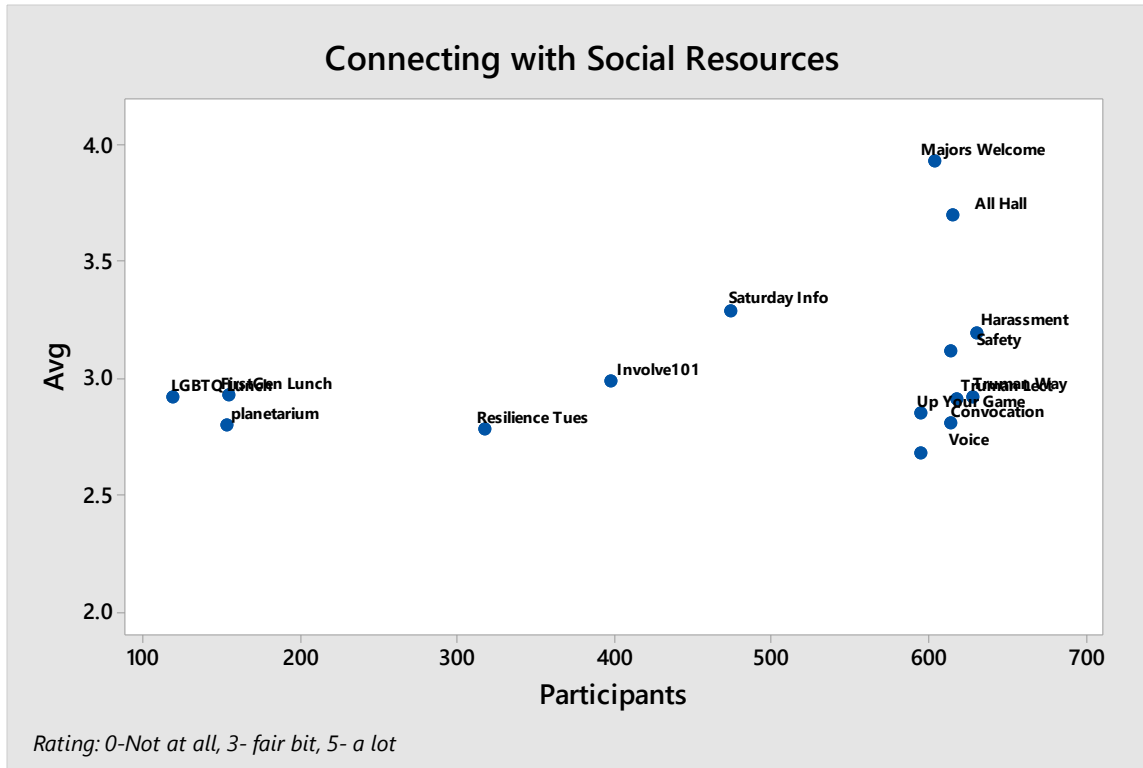


Figure 15 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Social Resources?”

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
All Hall	41	20	64	173	186	172	3.7	615
Safety	43	54	108	242	134	75	3.1	613
Harassment	25	66	96	218	151	99	3.2	630
Convocation	41	105	131	209	116	52	2.8	613
FirstGen Lunch	497	34	21	48	25	26	2.9	154
Voice	58	134	119	190	104	47	2.7	594
Saturday Info	178	44	59	162	134	75	3.3	474
Involve101	257	52	65	153	91	36	3.0	397
LGBTQ Lunch	534	40	8	22	20	29	2.9	119
Majors Welcome	51	22	35	130	196	220	3.9	603
planetarium	497	36	17	58	26	16	2.8	153
Resilience Tues	332	54	59	128	55	21	2.8	317
Truman Lect	34	85	125	225	125	58	2.9	618
Truman Way	27	91	119	224	136	57	2.9	627
Up Your Game	57	101	119	201	119	55	2.8	595

Table 2 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help connecting you with relevant Social Resources?” (0 = did not participate)

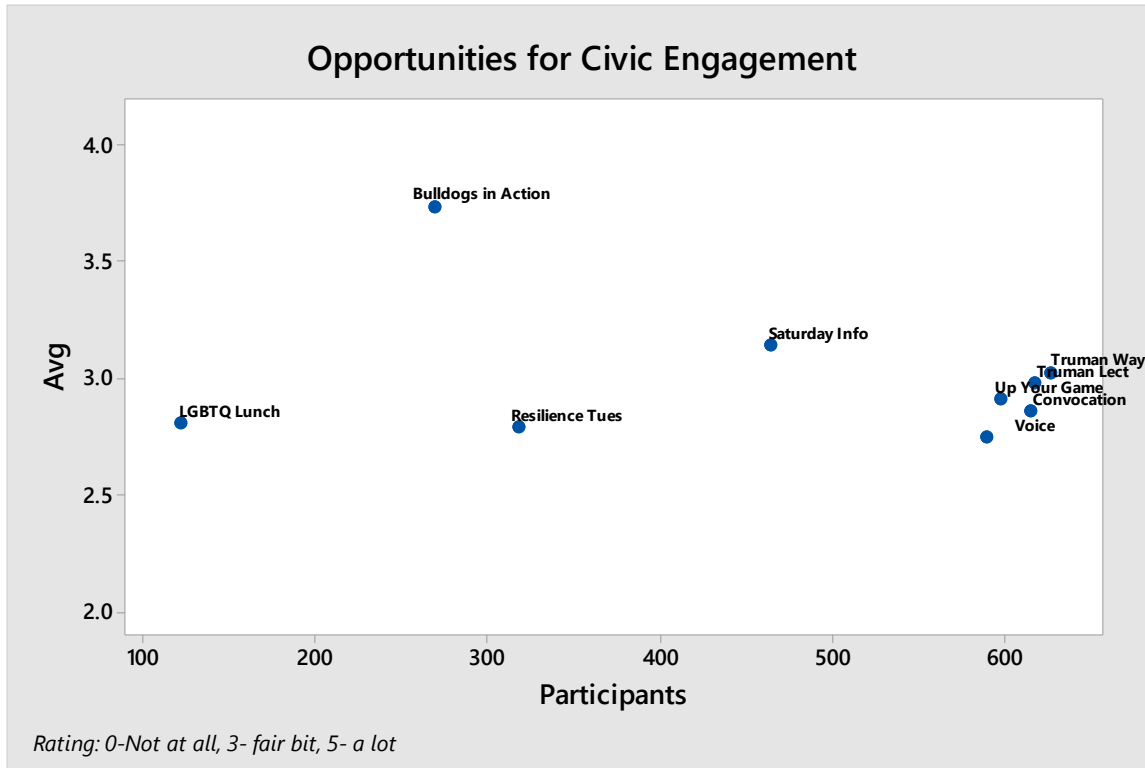


Figure 16 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help identify opportunities for Civic Engagement and its role in the Truman Culture?”

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Bulldogs_N_Action	386	19	24	68	57	101	3.7	269
Convocation	35	113	112	209	112	69	2.9	615
Voice	61	134	99	193	110	53	2.7	589
Saturday Info	185	52	72	167	106	67	3.1	464
LGBTQ Lunch	528	35	13	32	25	17	2.8	122
Resilience Tues	324	55	58	127	56	22	2.8	318
Truman Lect	34	82	107	234	131	63	3.0	617
Truman Way	25	91	95	221	146	73	3.0	626
Up Your Game	52	96	105	218	114	64	2.9	597

Table 3 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help identify opportunities for Civic Engagement and its role in the Truman Culture?” (0 = did not participate)

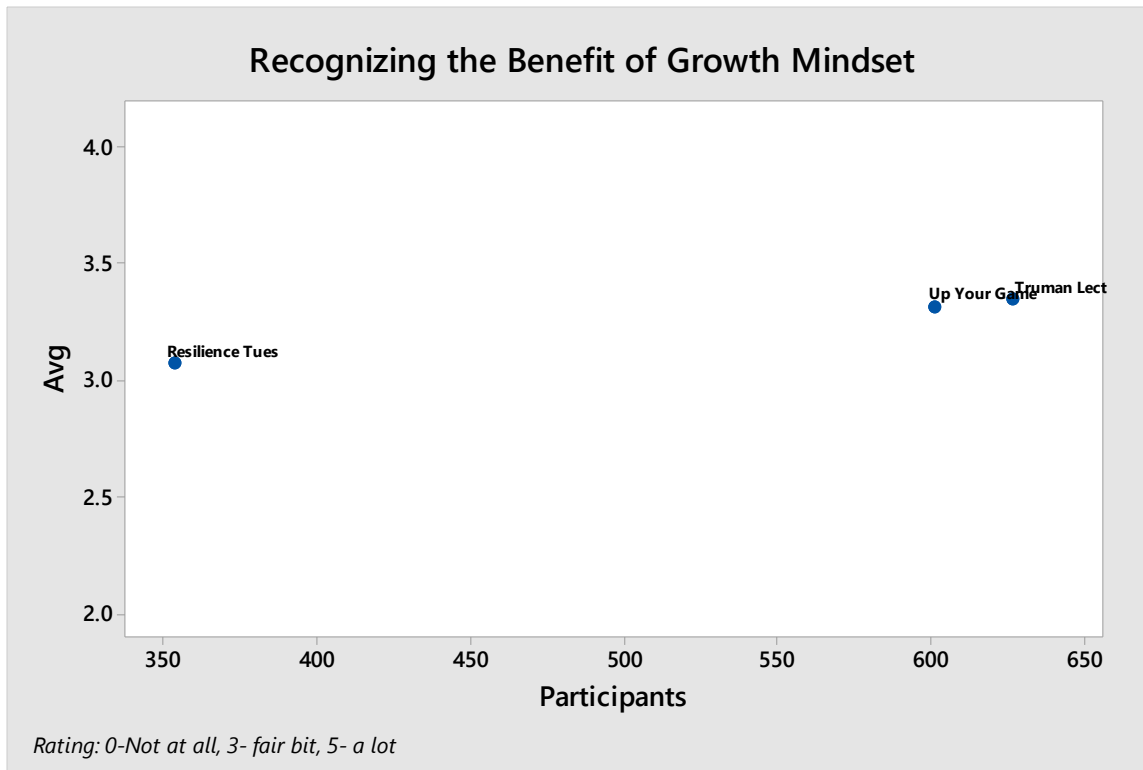


Figure 17 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you to recognize the benefits of a growth mindset and the value of failure as data in the pursuit of success?”

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Resilience Tues	298	44	50	138	81	41	3.1	354
Truman Lect	27	59	75	197	183	112	3.3	626
Up Your Game	50	61	77	194	151	118	3.3	601

Table 4 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you to recognize the benefits of a growth mindset and the value of failure as data in the pursuit of success?” (0 = did not participate)

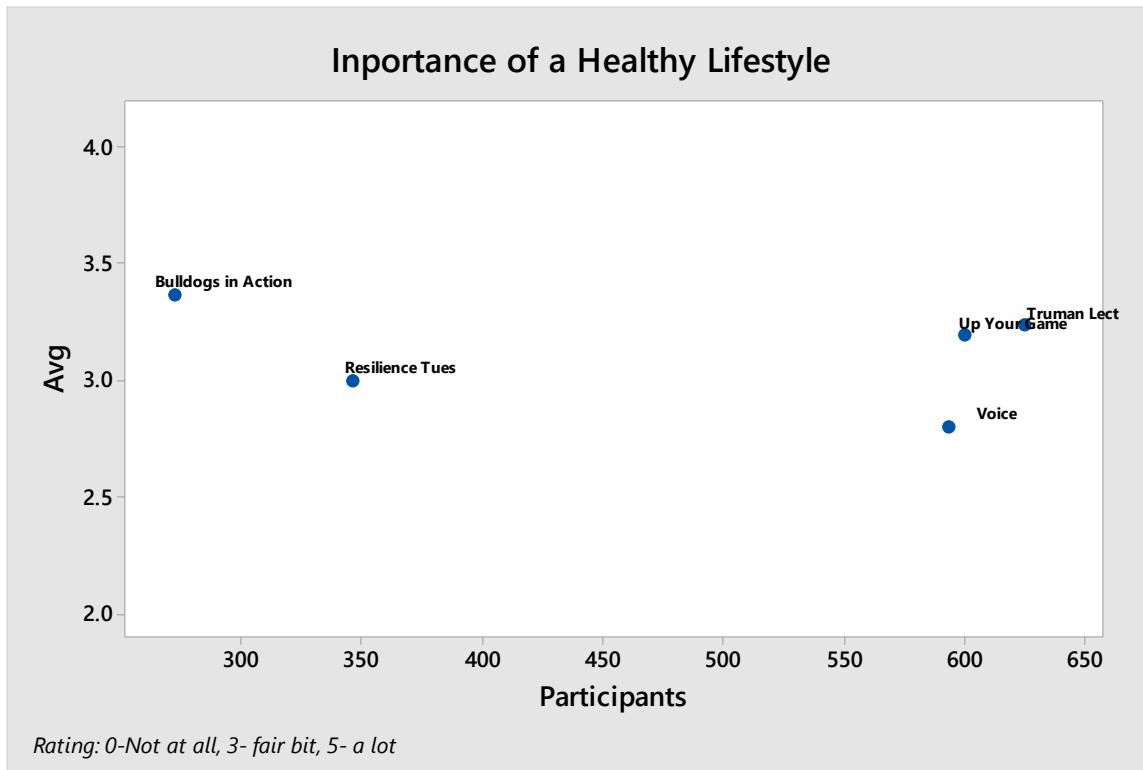


Figure 18 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you understand the

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Bulldogs_n_Action	380	27	34	83	71	58	3.4	273
Voice	61	122	104	193	119	55	2.8	593
Resilience Tues	307	47	44	152	69	34	3.0	346
Truman Lect	29	58	83	228	167	89	3.2	625
Up Your Game	52	67	83	209	151	90	3.2	600

Table 5 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you understand the importance of a balanced, healthy life habits?” (0 = did not participate)

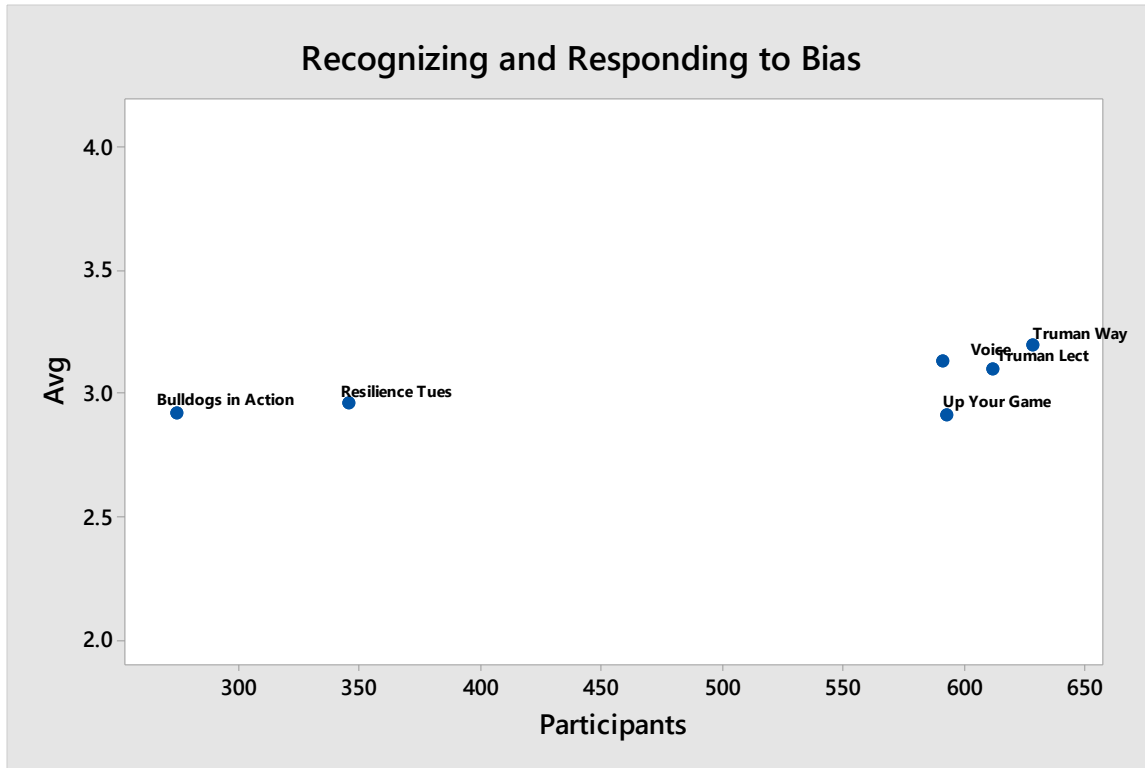


Figure 19 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you recognize bias and unconscious bias and develop strategies to respond and/or intervene?”

Activity	Rating						Avg	Participants
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
Bulldogs_n_Action	378	50	43	92	57	32	2.9	274
Voice	57	98	74	172	150	97	3.1	591
Resilience Tues	299	53	48	142	66	36	3.0	345
Truman Lect	31	69	101	215	156	71	3.1	612
Truman Way	24	71	92	211	155	99	3.2	628
Up Your Game	52	86	113	220	116	58	2.9	593

Table 6 – “How well did each listed Truman Week activity help you recognize bias and unconscious bias and develop strategies to respond and/or intervene?” (0 = did not participate)