

2017

## Encountering Ourselves through the Human Library

Jacalyn A. Kremer

*Fairfield University*, [jkremer@fairfield.edu](mailto:jkremer@fairfield.edu)

Barbara Ghilardi

*Fairfield University*, [bghilardi@fairfield.edu](mailto:bghilardi@fairfield.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/library-pubs>

Copyright 2017 the Authors

This presentation has been archived here with permission from the copyright holder.

---

### Repository Citation

Kremer, Jacalyn A. and Ghilardi, Barbara, "Encountering Ourselves through the Human Library" (2017).  
*DiMenna-Nyselius Library Publications*. 9.

<https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/library-pubs/9>

### Published Citation

Kremer, J. & B. Ghilardi. (Aug. 2017). Encountering Ourselves through the Human Library. Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities Social Justice Conference Through the Eye of the Needle: The Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, Seattle University, Seattle, WA.

This item has been accepted for inclusion in DigitalCommons@Fairfield by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Fairfield. It is brought to you by DigitalCommons@Fairfield with permission from the rights-holder(s) and is protected by copyright and/or related rights. **You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.** For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@fairfield.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@fairfield.edu).



# Encountering Ourselves Through the Human Library

Jackie Kremer and Barbara Ghilardi, DiMenna-Nyselius Library, Fairfield University





 HUMAN

Real People - Real conversations



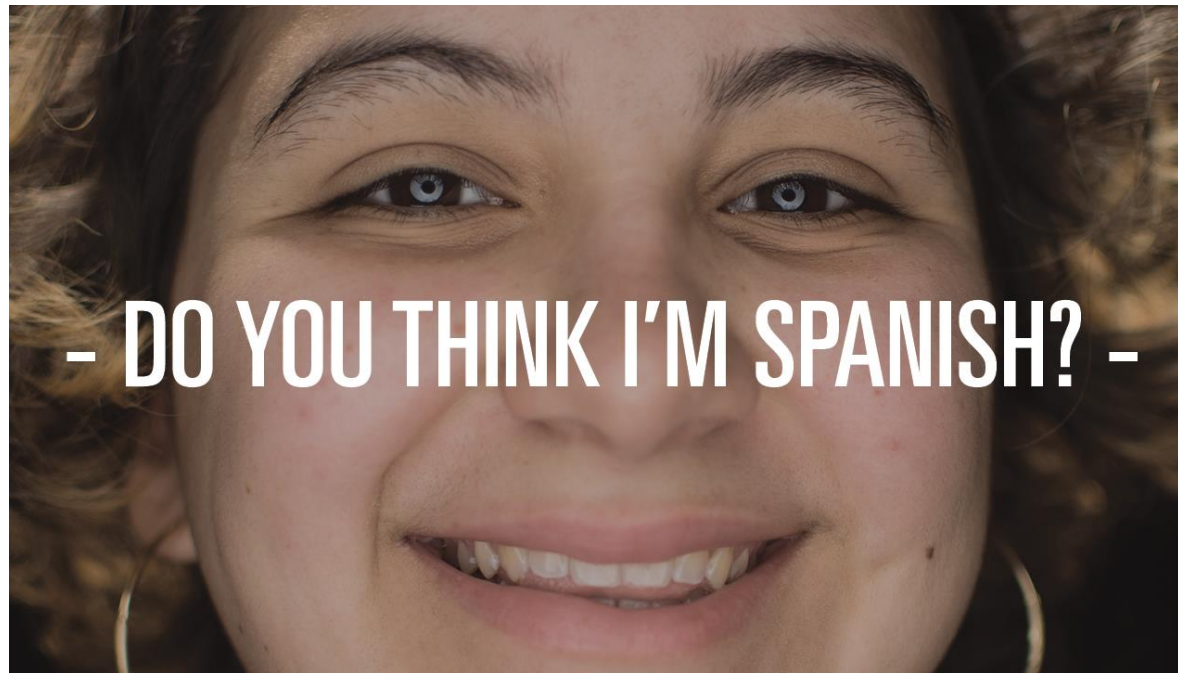
# Why Fairfield? Why Now?





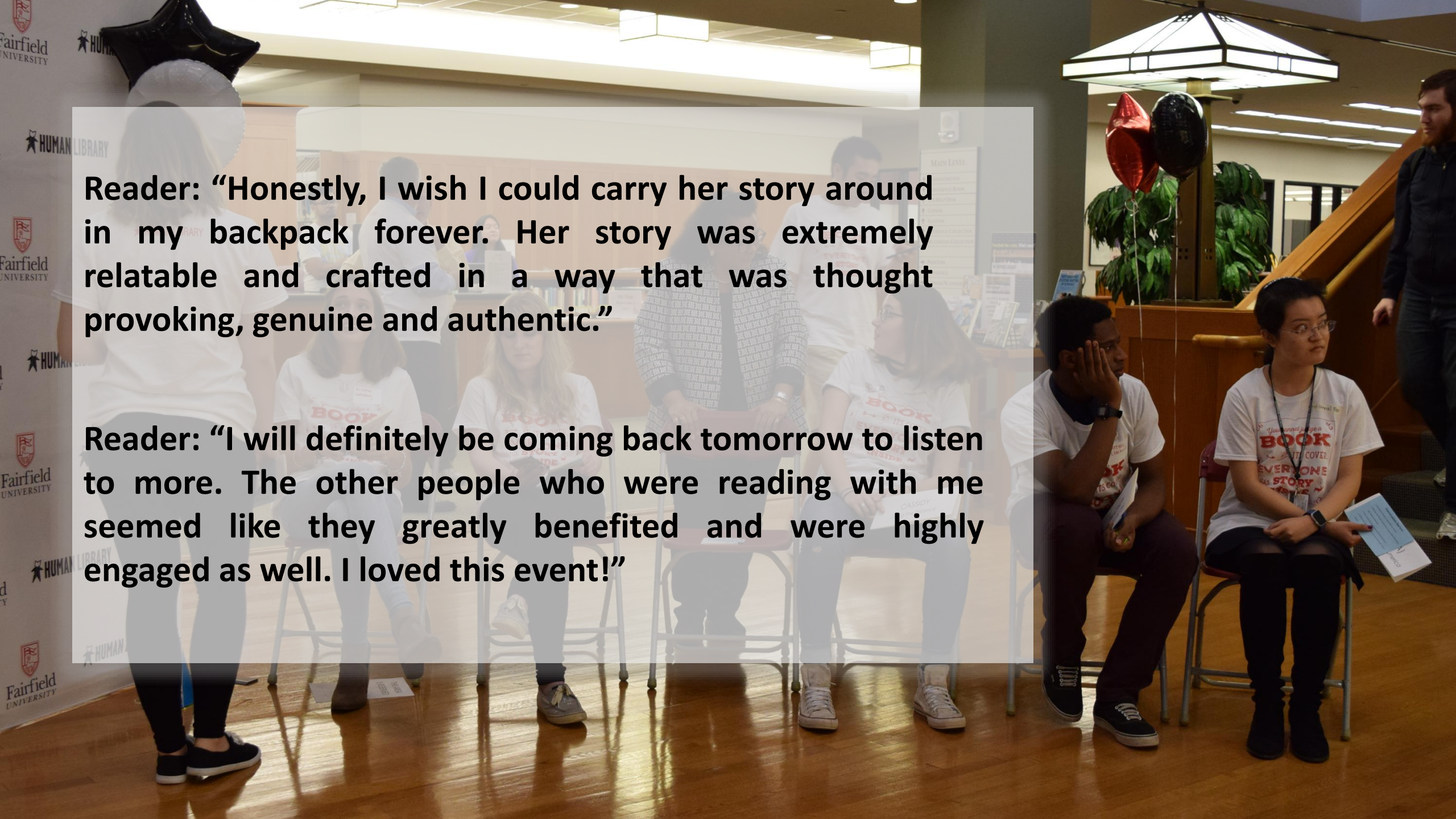


- EXCHANGING HISTORIES -



- DO YOU THINK I'M SPANISH? -





**Reader: "Honestly, I wish I could carry her story around in my backpack forever. Her story was extremely relatable and crafted in a way that was thought provoking, genuine and authentic."**

**Reader: "I will definitely be coming back tomorrow to listen to more. The other people who were reading with me seemed like they greatly benefited and were highly engaged as well. I loved this event!"**



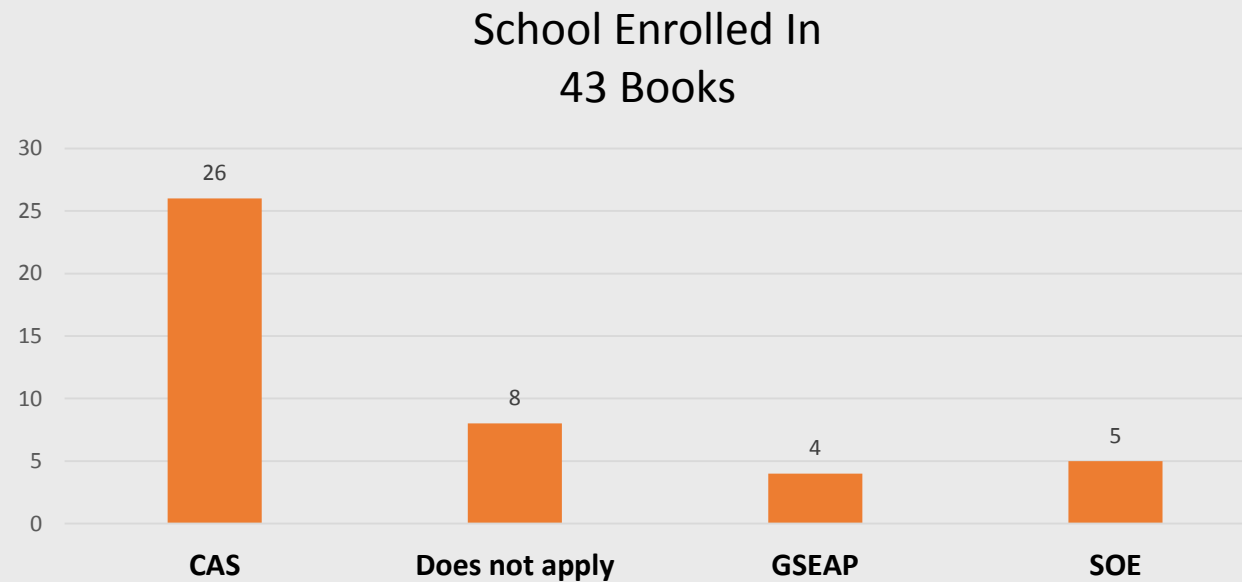
# Human Library @ a Glance!

- Held on Wednesday Nov. 9th from 2-5pm and Thursday Nov. 10th from 5-8pm.
- Over 400 students attended as “Readers” over the 2 day event.
- 43 students, faculty and staff graciously shared their stories as “Books”.
- Sponsored by Library, the Office of Student Diversity & Multicultural Affairs, Center for Faith and Public Life, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.


# Demographics of 43 Human Books

67% undergrads, 19% staff, 12% grads, 2% faculty

63% female, 35% male





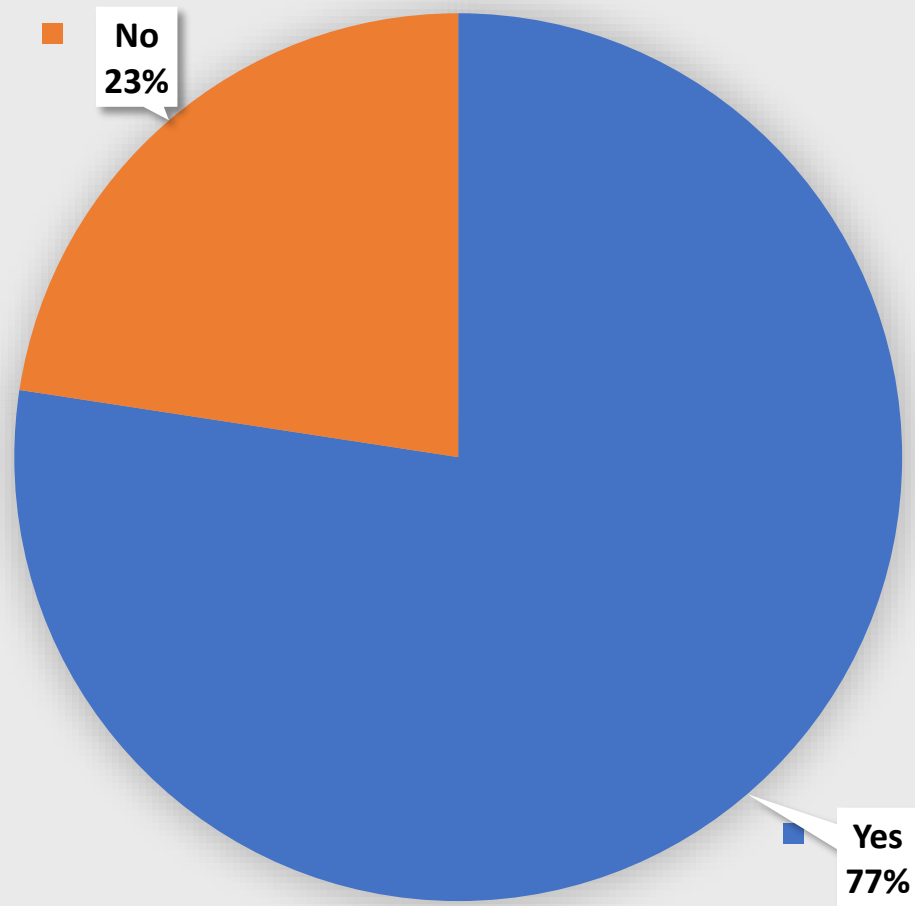
A photograph of several students sitting in a row, facing left, at a Human Library event. They are wearing white t-shirts with the Human Library logo. The background is a white banner with repeating logos for Fairfield University and the Human Library. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the image.

**Book: “Through my conversations, I realized how other students have been affected by similar experiences as well, and that I am not alone.”**



# Book Assessment

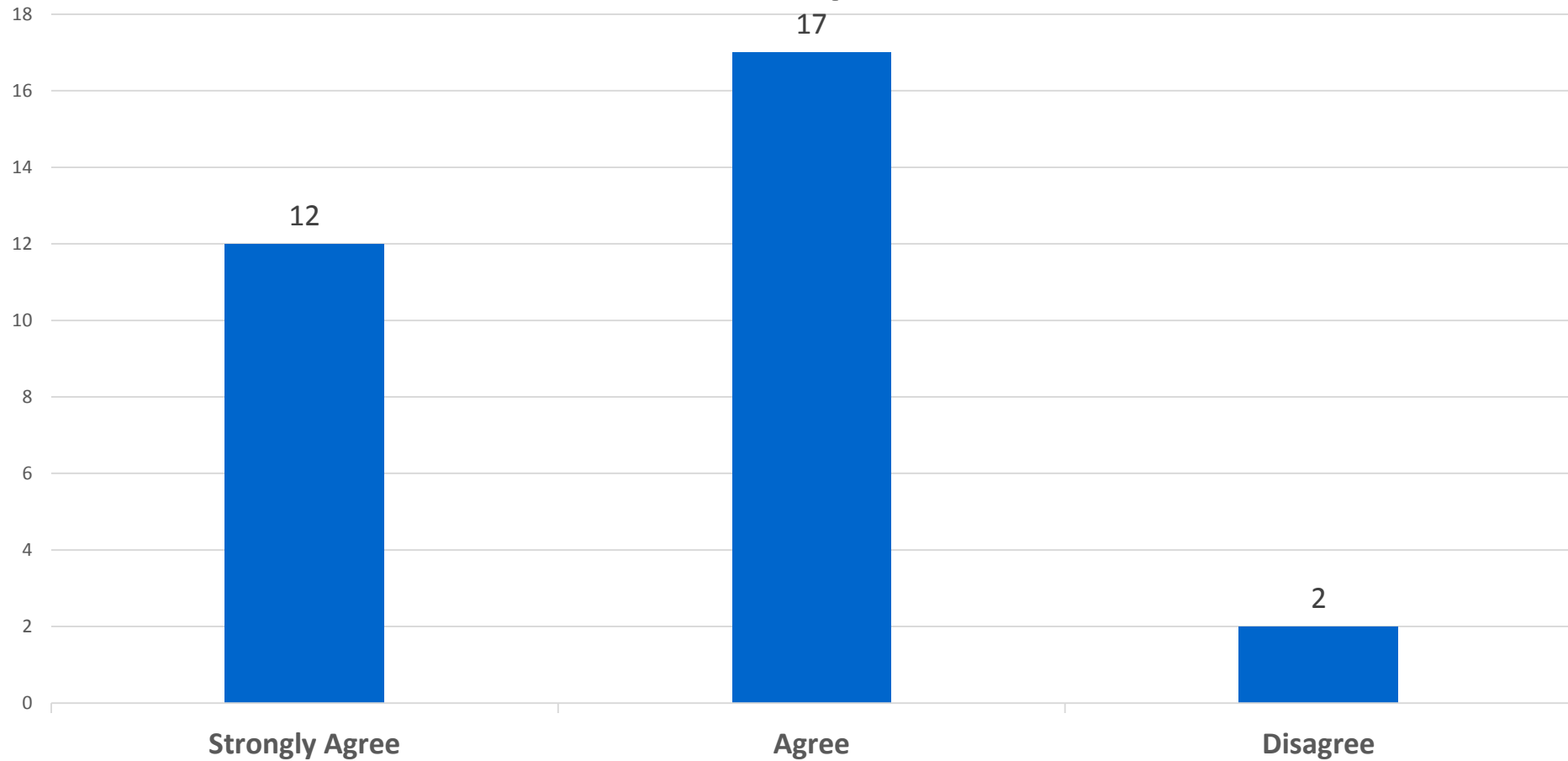
Do you identify with a group that has been marginalized  
and/or stereotyped?  
31 BOOK respondents





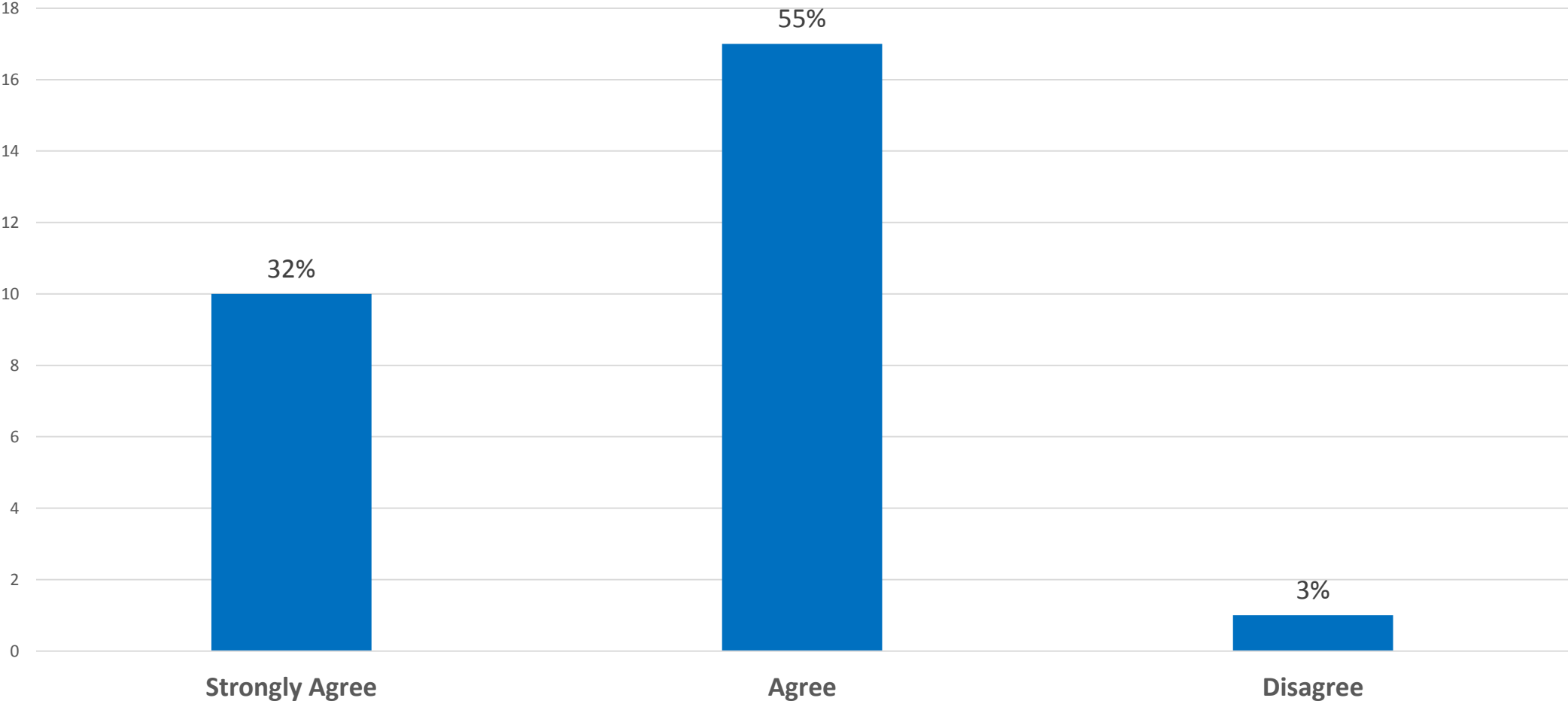
Through my conversations, I learned something new about myself that surprised me.

31 BOOK Respondents



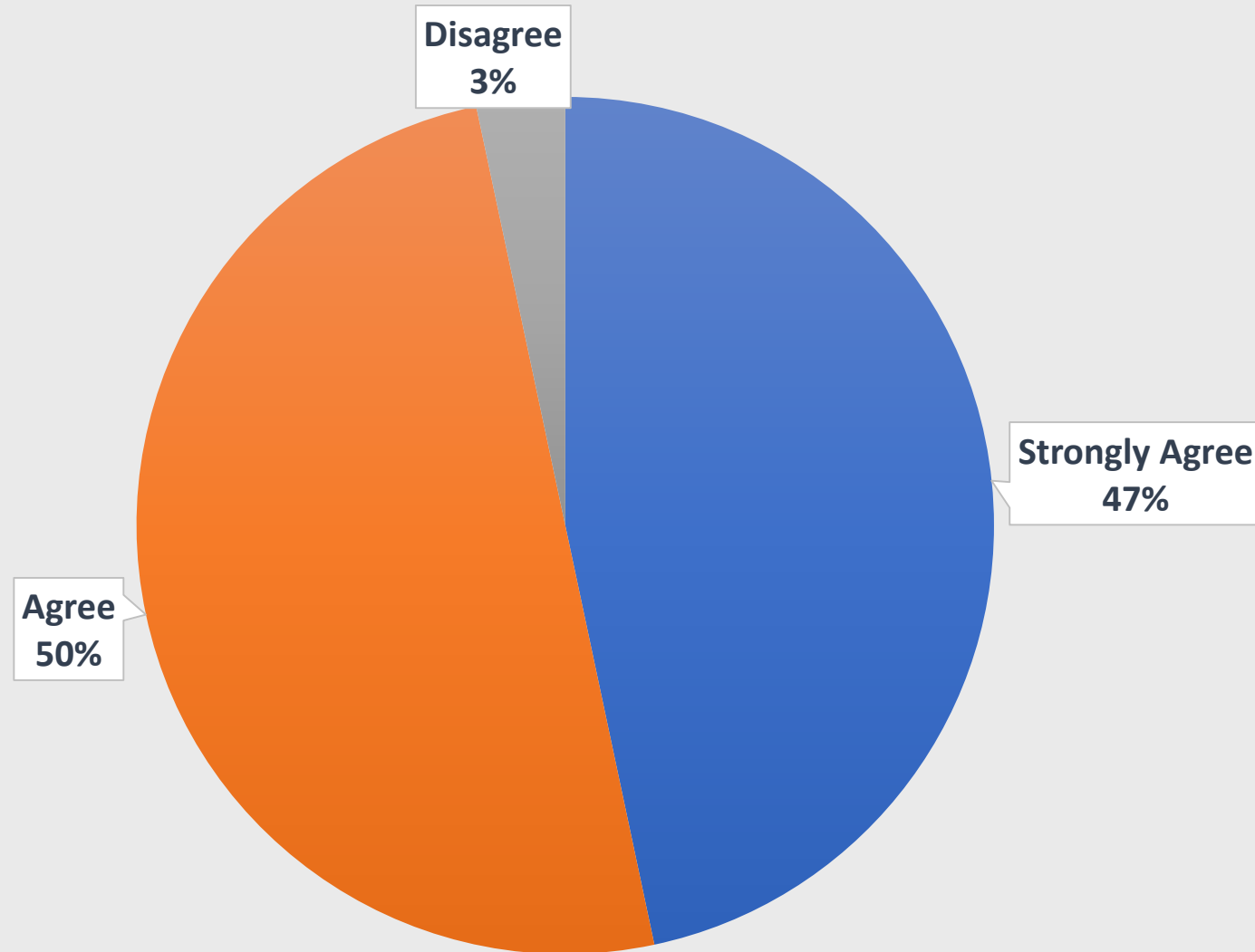


Through my conversation(s), I was effective in  
communicating stereotypes and/or barriers I face.  
**31 BOOK Respondents**



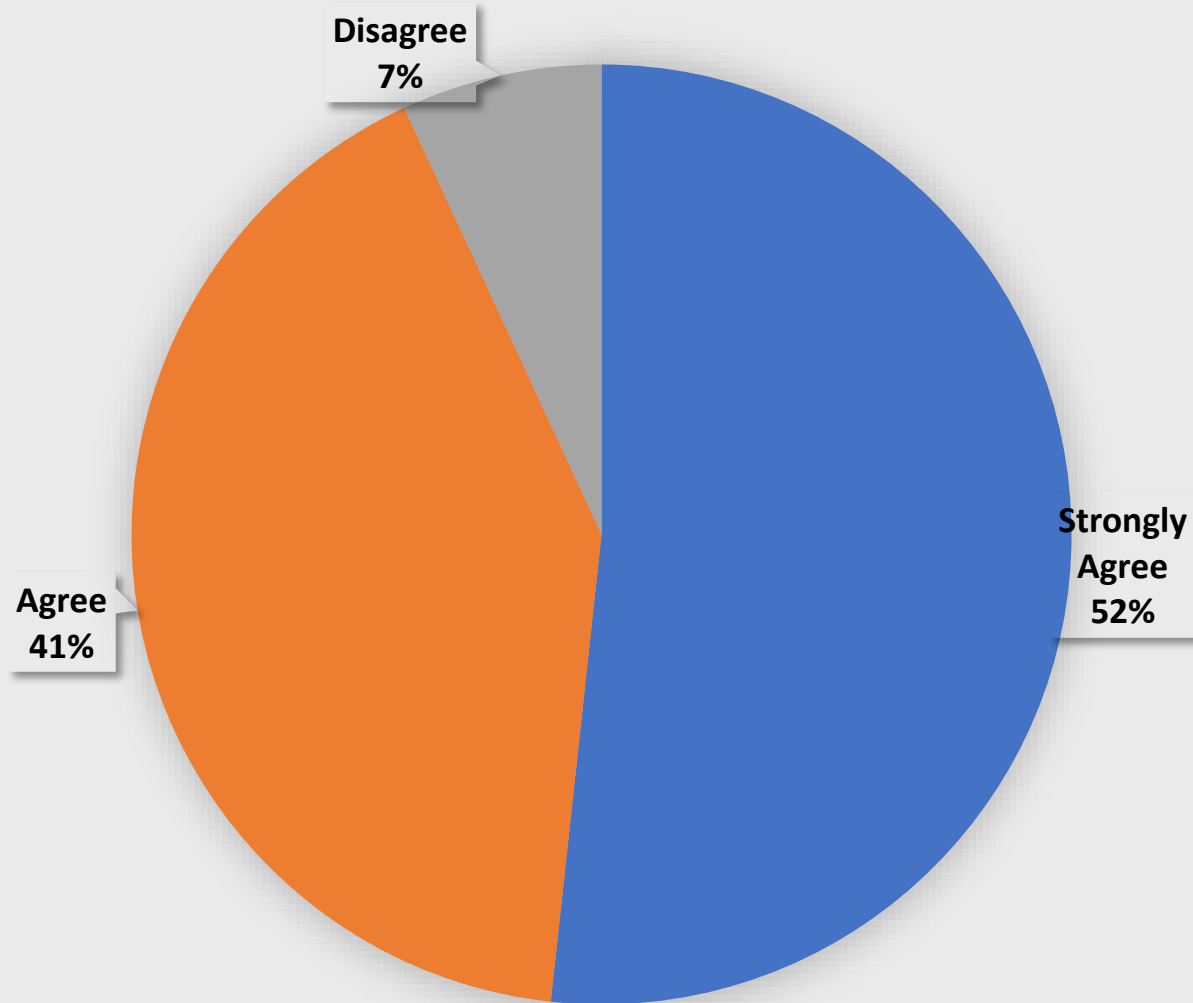
Through conversation(s), I better understand  
my own point of view and/or experiences.

31 BOOK Respondents



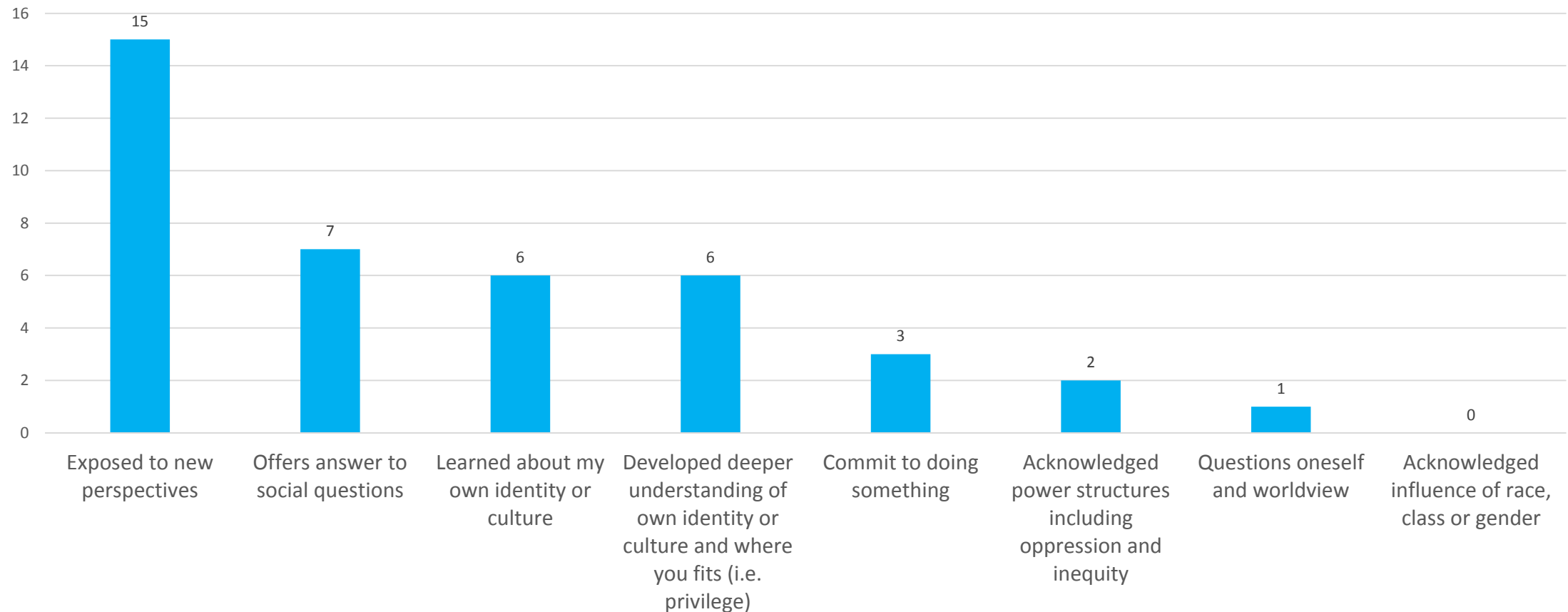


Being a Human Book made me more aware of the  
diversity within my Fairfield University community.  
**31 BOOK Respondents**



In your own words, please tell us what was the impact of your conversation(s)? What is your most important take-away?

Survey Results  
43 Respondents





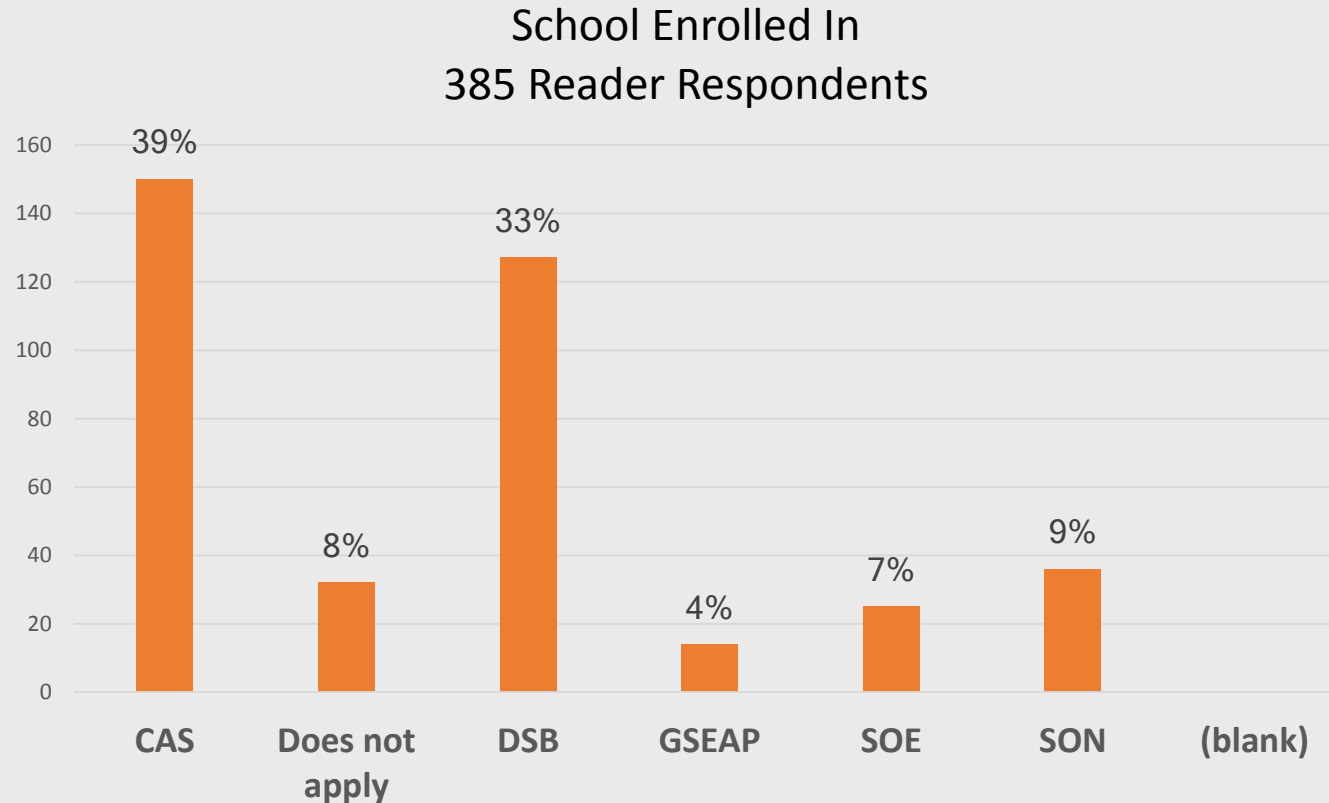


98% of the “books” agreed or strongly agreed that “Through my conversation(s), I learned something new about myself that surprised me.”

# Demographics of Over 400 Readers

91% undergrads, 4% grads, 2% faculty

58% female, 40% male

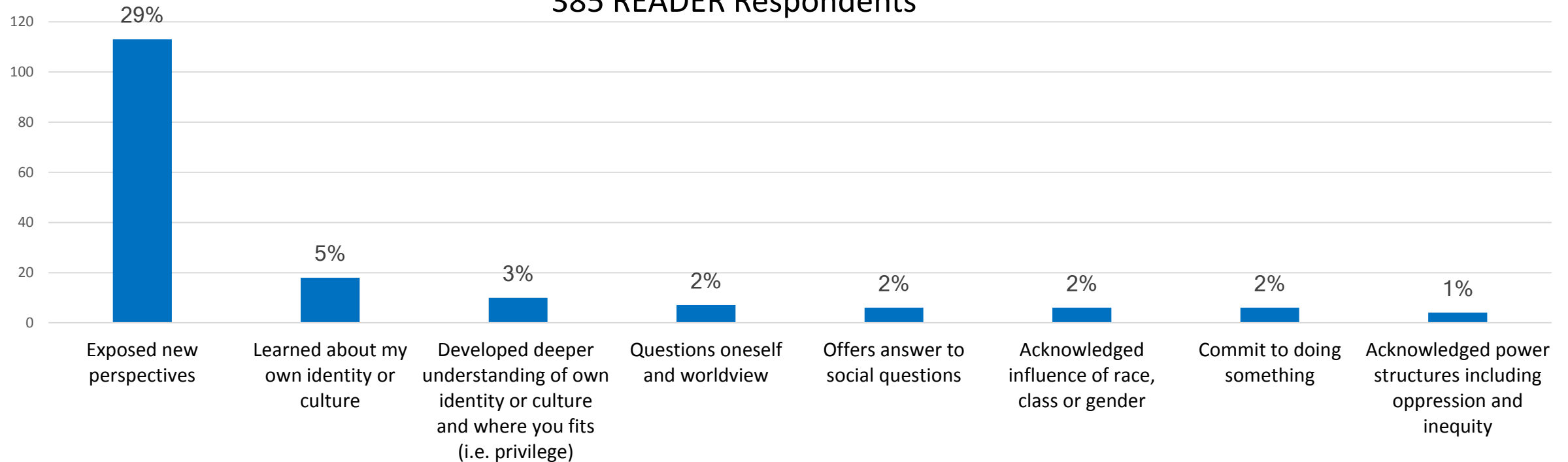


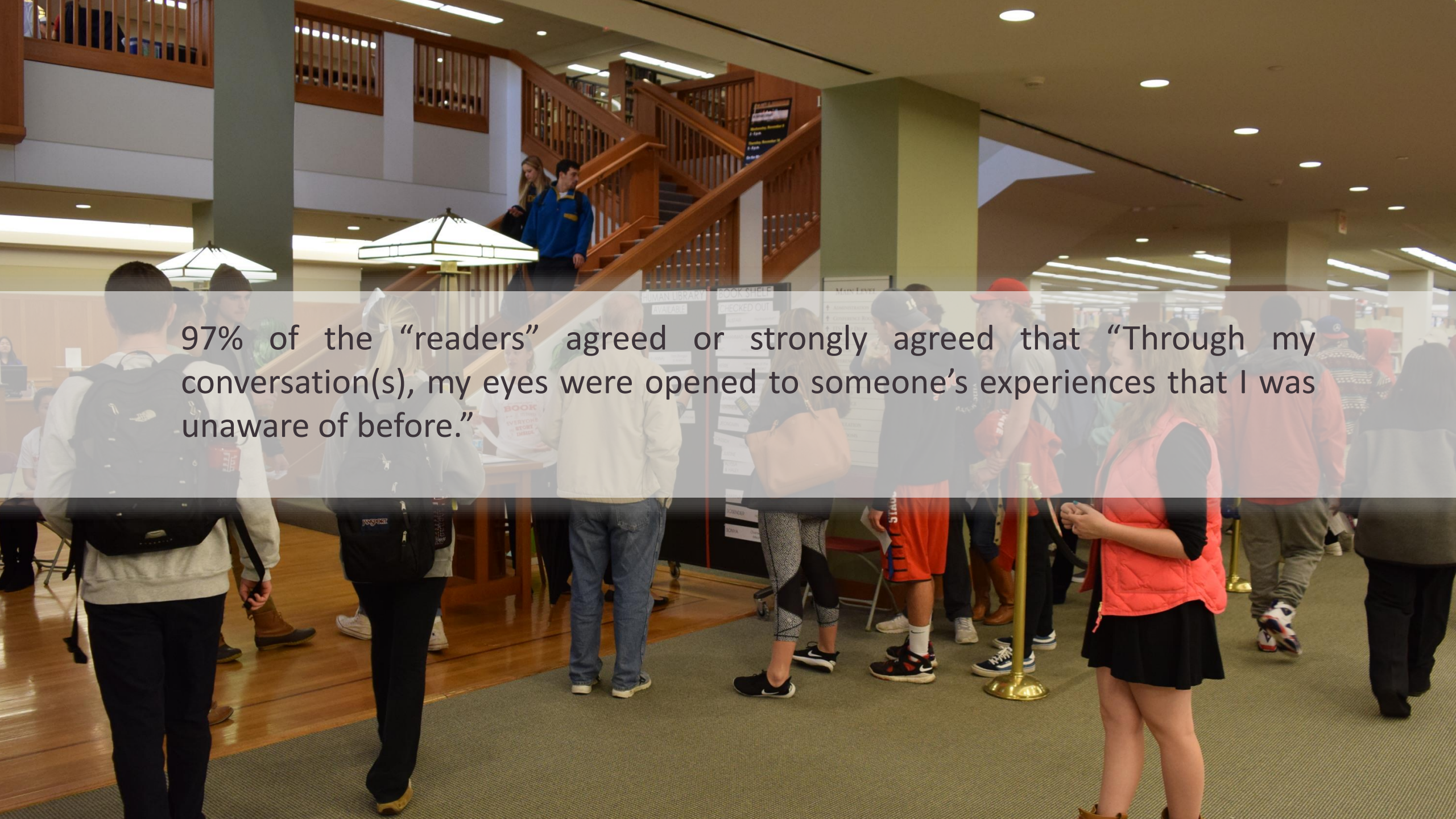


# Readers Assessment

In your own words, please tell us what was the impact of your conversation(s)? What is your most important take-away?

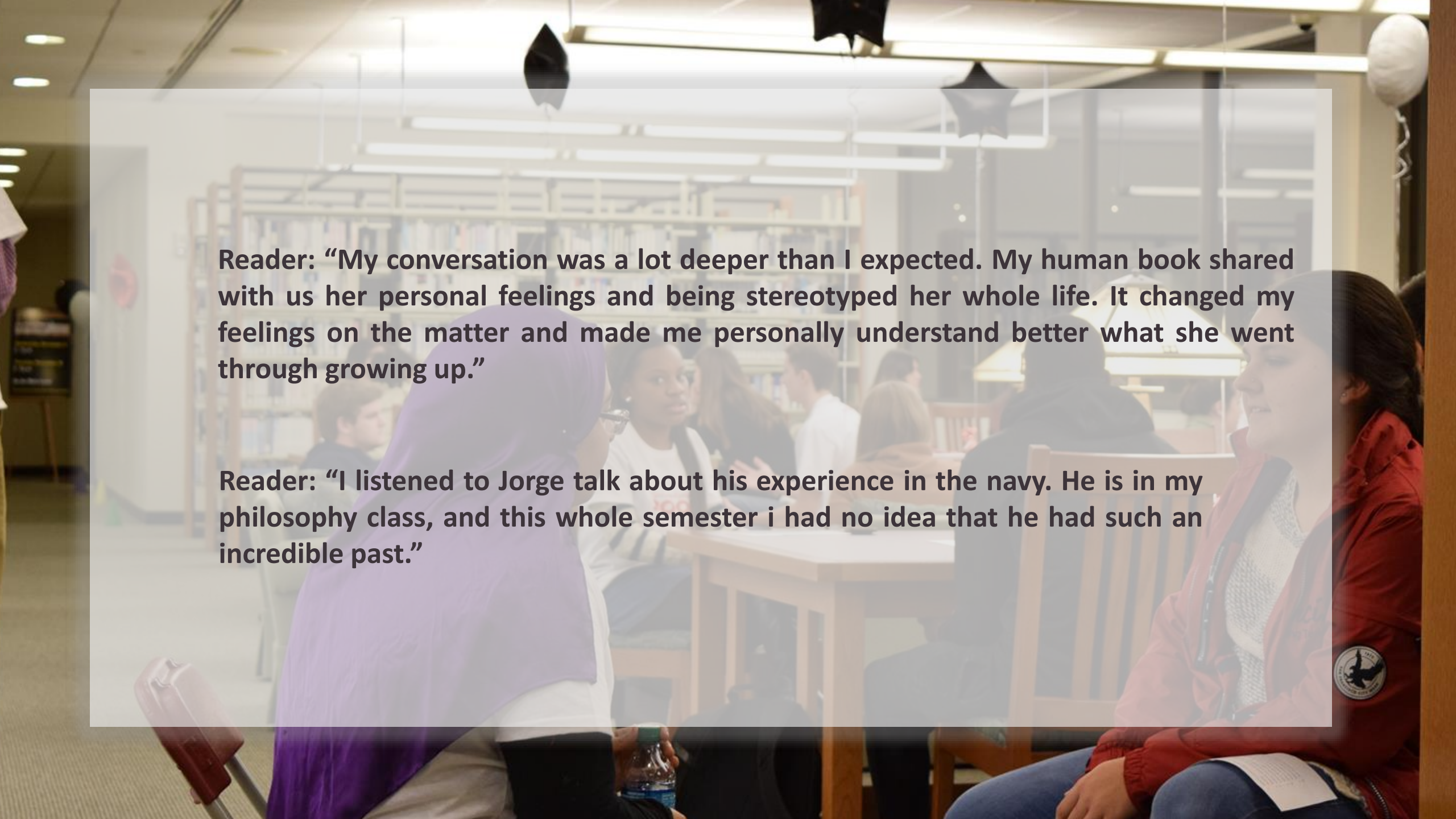
## Survey Results 385 READER Respondents





97% of the “readers” agreed or strongly agreed that “Through my conversation(s), my eyes were opened to someone’s experiences that I was unaware of before.”





**Reader: "My conversation was a lot deeper than I expected. My human book shared with us her personal feelings and being stereotyped her whole life. It changed my feelings on the matter and made me personally understand better what she went through growing up."**

**Reader: "I listened to Jorge talk about his experience in the navy. He is in my philosophy class, and this whole semester i had no idea that he had such an incredible past."**

# Takeaways

Book recruitment

Campus partners are key

Multiple types of marketing

Length of the event

HUMAN LIBRARY

HUMAN LIBRARY



Fairfield  
UNIVERSITY