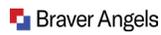


# College Debates and Discourse Alliance



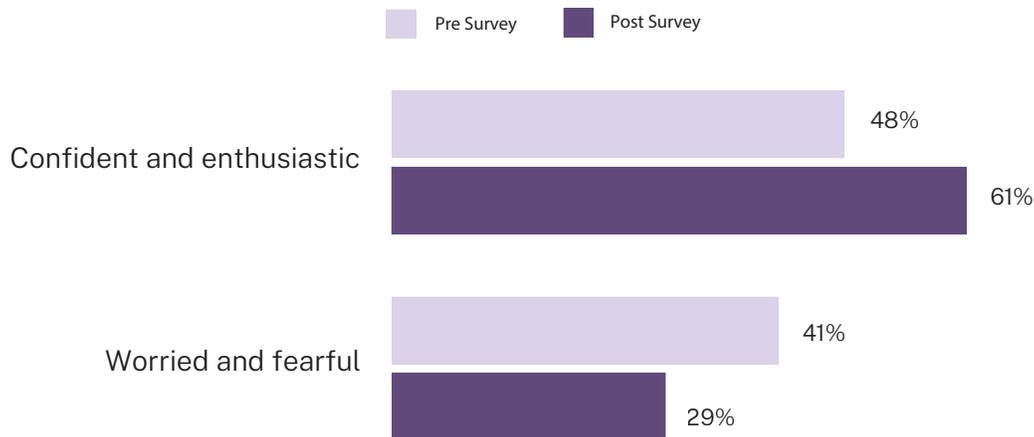
## FALL 2025 IMPACT REPORT

In Fall of 2025, the **College Debates and Discourse (CD&D) Alliance** piloted a new partnership with the **Democratic Erosion Consortium (DEC)**, a nonpartisan research, teaching, and policy collaboration dedicated to addressing the threat of democratic erosion in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to bringing the CD&D Curricular Toolkit and programming to DEC Faculty Affiliate courses, our teams developed and launched a new pre- and post-event survey.

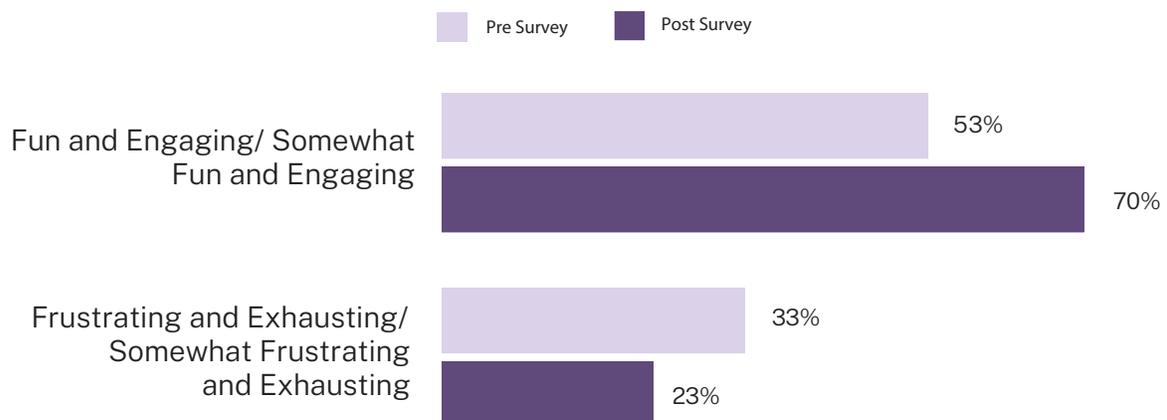
The following data points reflect program efficacy and impact from the Fall 2025 semester, based on a sample of 924 student participants across 39 unique institutions. Participants engaged in Braver Campus Dialogues and/or Braver Angels College Debates on campus and in the classroom.

Following participation in a CD&D debate or dialogue event, student survey data shows...

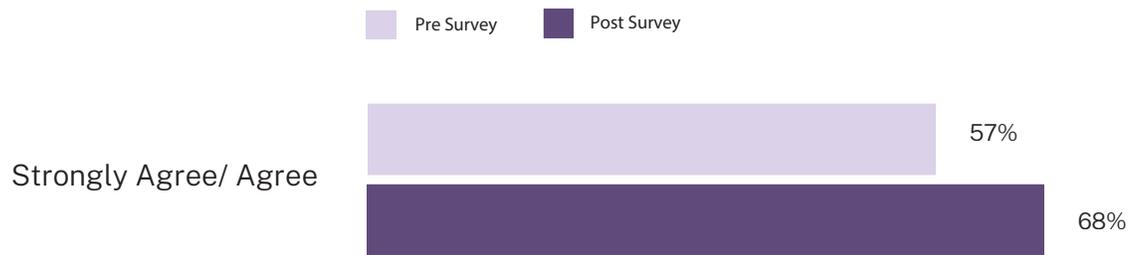
An **increase of 13 percentage points in confidence and enthusiasm in sharing ideas and opinions in class;** and a decrease of 12 percentage points in fear and worry about sharing ideas and opinions in class.



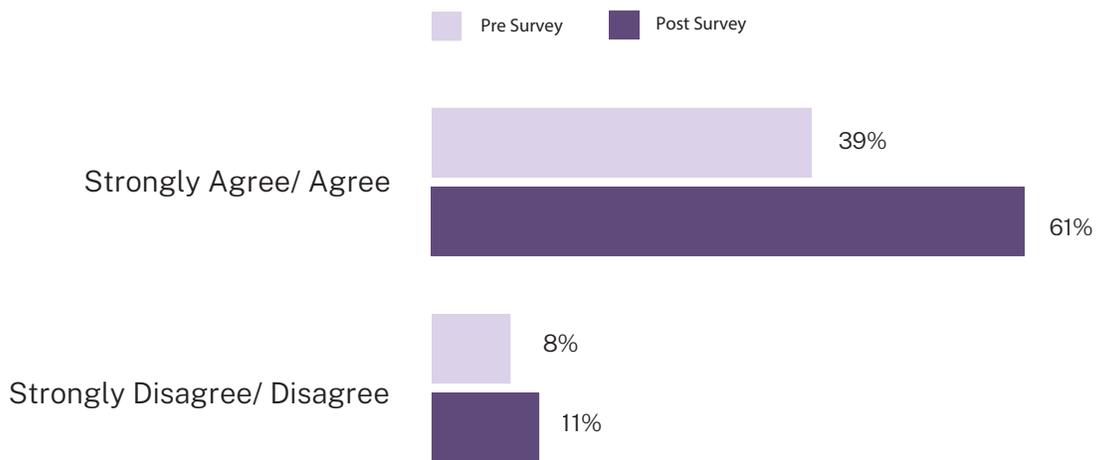
An **increase of 17 percentage points in finding talking about political issues with people who have different beliefs to be fun and engaging;** and a decrease of 10 percentage points in finding it to instead be frustrating and exhausting.



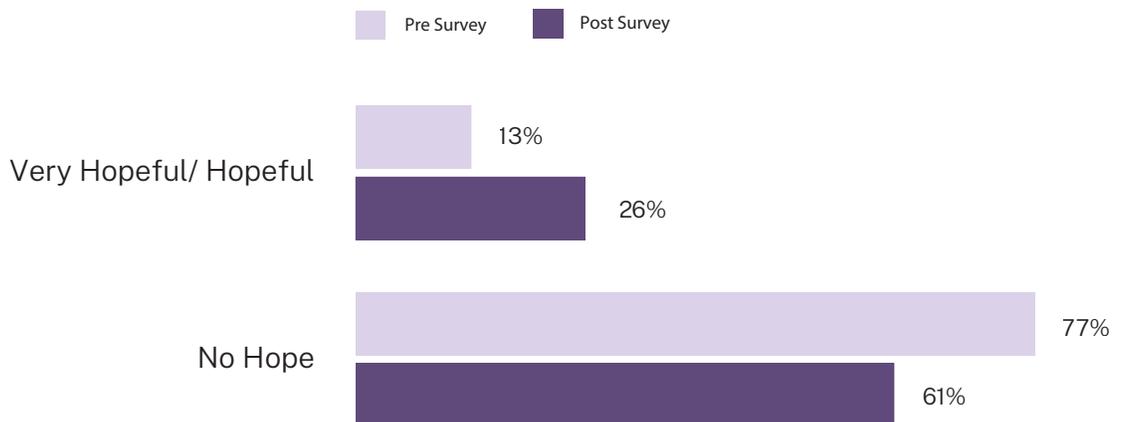
An increase of 11 percentage points in empathy and understanding of viewpoints that differ from participants' own beliefs.



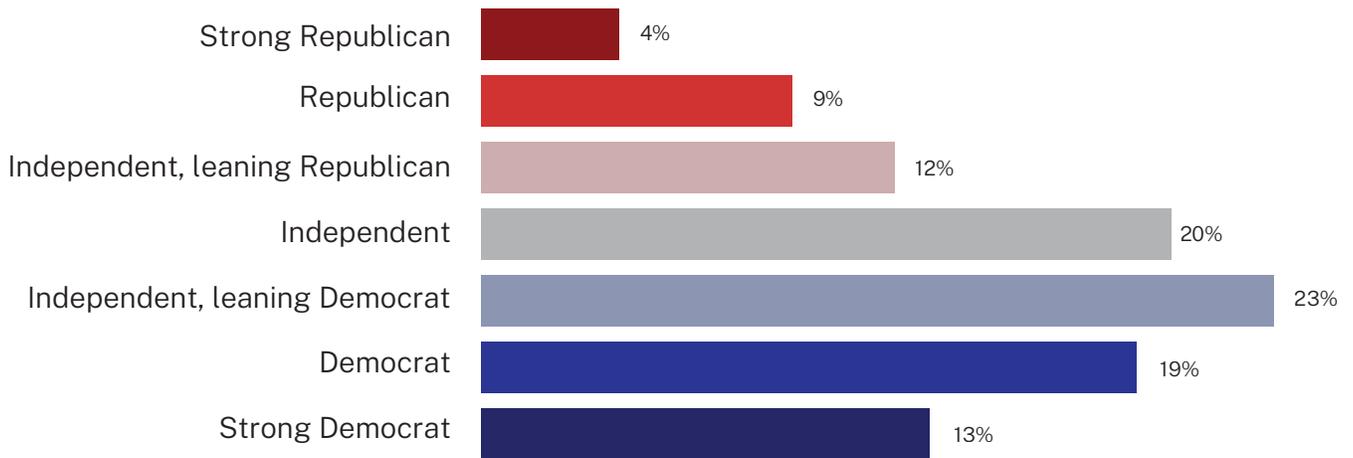
An increase of 22 percentage points in participant belief that they could explain what the different viewpoints/arguments on the topic are.



An increase of 13 percentage points in feeling hopeful about the state of politics today; and a decrease of 16 percentage points in feeling that there is no hope for the state of politics today.

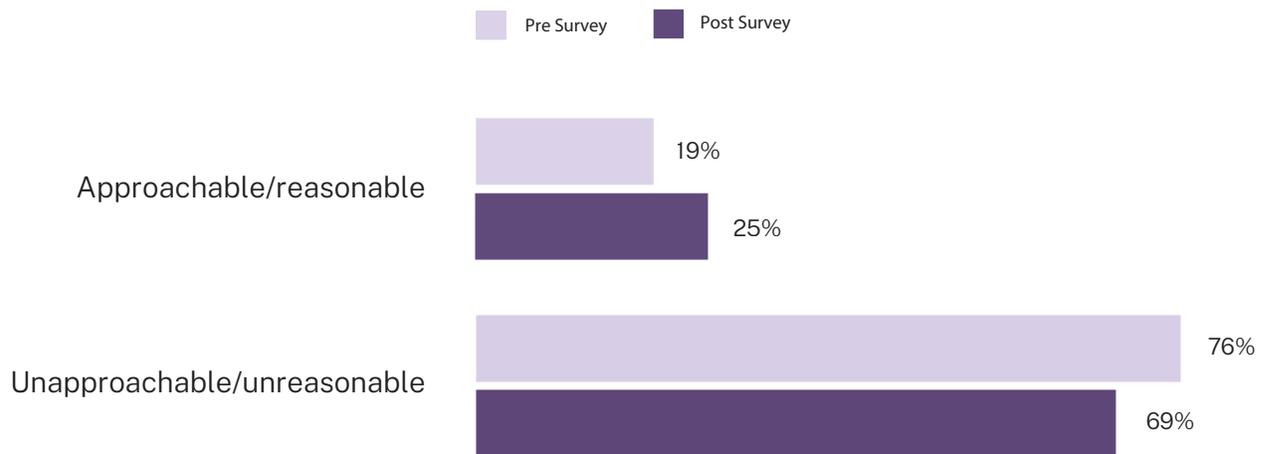


The following graph illustrates political affiliation of surveyed participants.

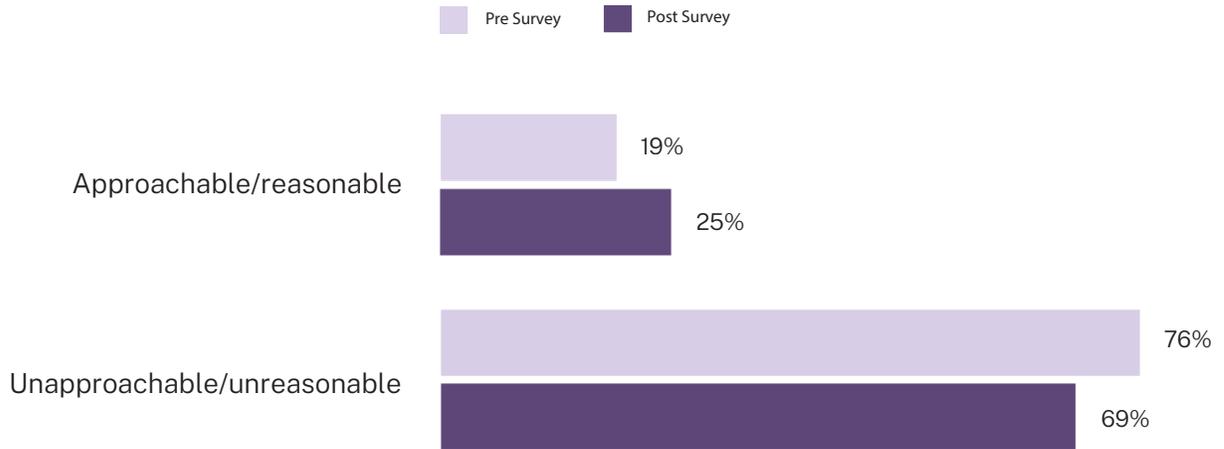


Following participation in a CD&D debate or dialogue event, student data shows...

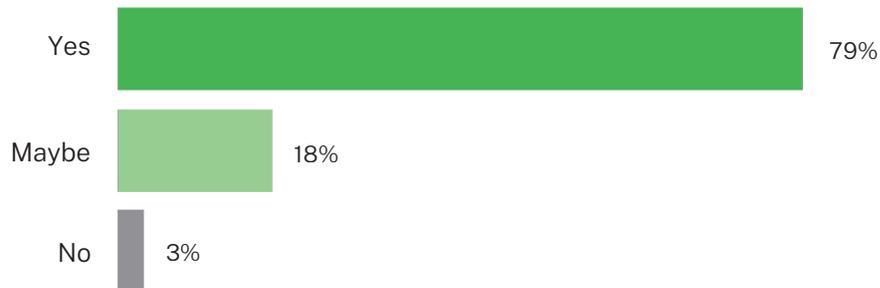
**A 6 percentage point increase from Independent and Republican participants in their feeling that Democrats are approachable and reasonable;** and an 8 percentage point decrease in their feeling that Democrats are unapproachable or unreasonable.



A 6 percentage point increase from Independent and Democrat participants in their feeling that Republicans are approachable and reasonable; and a 7 percentage point decrease in their feeling that Republicans are unapproachable or unreasonable.



Among debate and dialogue participants, a large majority of students said that they would recommend this experience to someone they know.



Brought to you by the College Debates and Discourse Alliance

Contact the CD&D Team

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