



2021 Impact Survey

About the Survey

In 2021, Herstory contracted L&G Research and Evaluation Consulting Inc. to assess the impact of its writers' workshops in the following areas:

- Community and Civic Engagement
- Enhancement of Empathy and Understanding of the “Other”
- Deeper Learning and Understanding of Social Issues
- Finding an Effective Voice, Skills for Expression, and Improvement in Narrative Techniques
- Engagement with Writing and Literature
- Healing
- Courage and Leadership
- Lasting Connections
- Participant Satisfaction

The survey was disseminated electronically via Herstory's Constant Contact email list and was open to anyone who had participated in a Herstory workshop in the past 25 years. 49 responses were collected from 11/21/21 – 12/4/21. This report includes the analyzed results.

2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY

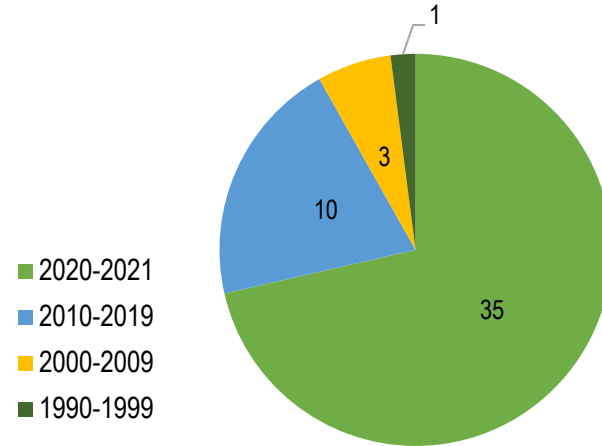
Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

Type of Workshop Survey Respondents Attended

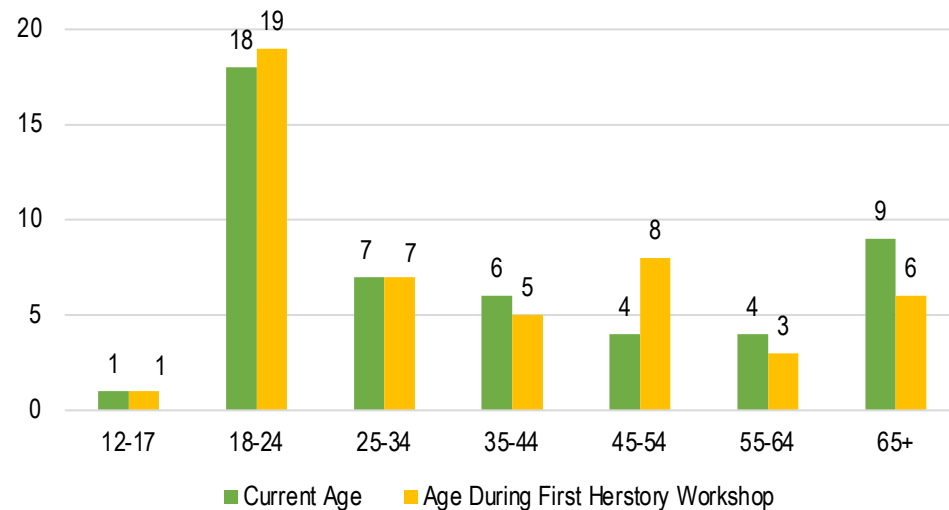
	n	%
Workshop Topic**		
Civil Rights / Black Lives Matter	5	10%
Criminology Internship	6	12%
Environmental Justice	2	4%
Facilitators' Workshop	3	6%
Freedom to Love	4	8%
Health Justice and Healing	9	18%
Hispanics in Philanthropy	2	4%
Reimagining Mental Healthcare	5	10%
Training Institute	2	4%
Other, or topic not specified	18	37%

**Categories are not mutually exclusive, as some participants have attended more than one workshop.

Year of First Herstory Workshop Attended



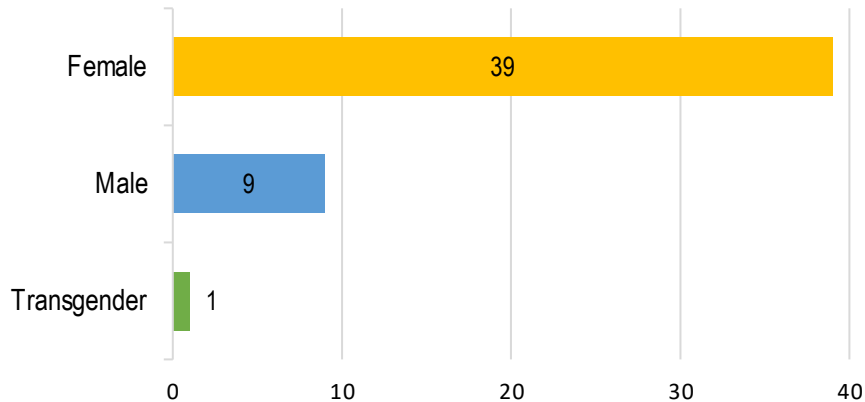
Age Range of Participants



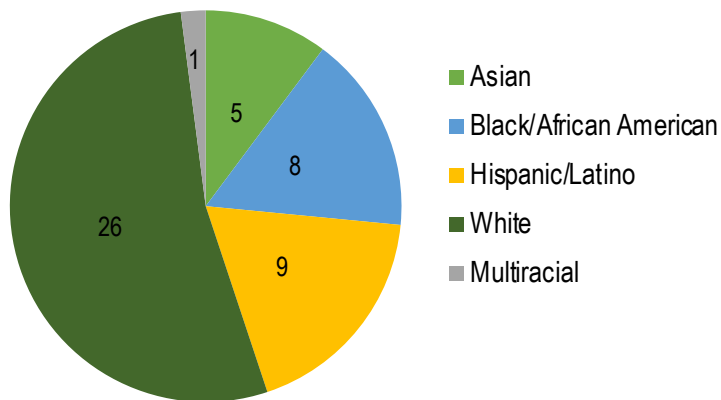
2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY

Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

Gender of Participants



Race/Ethnicity of Participants



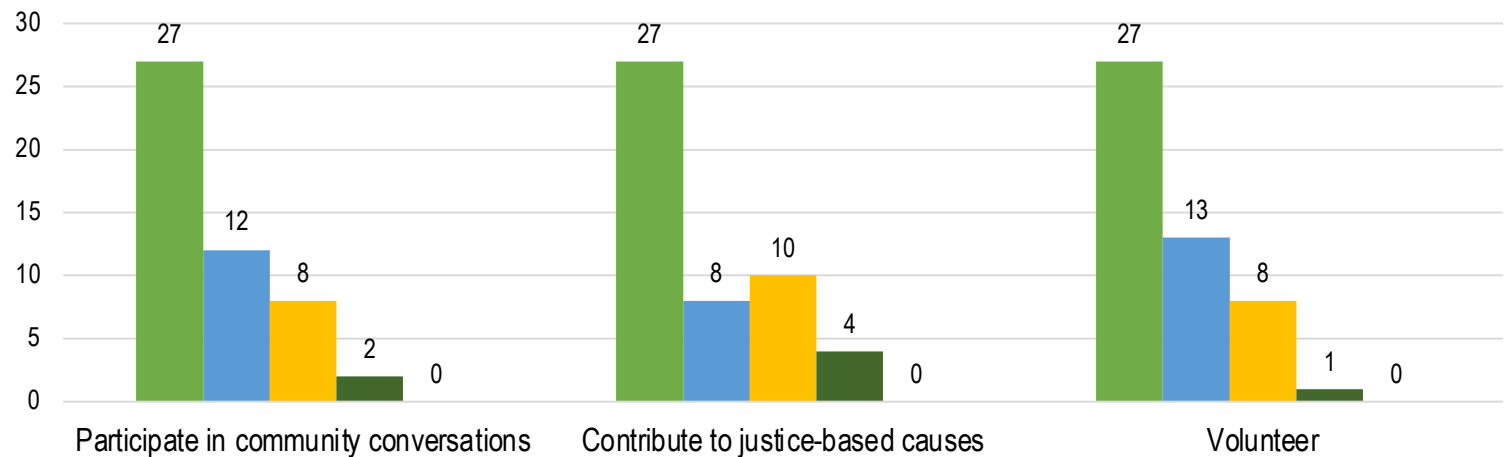
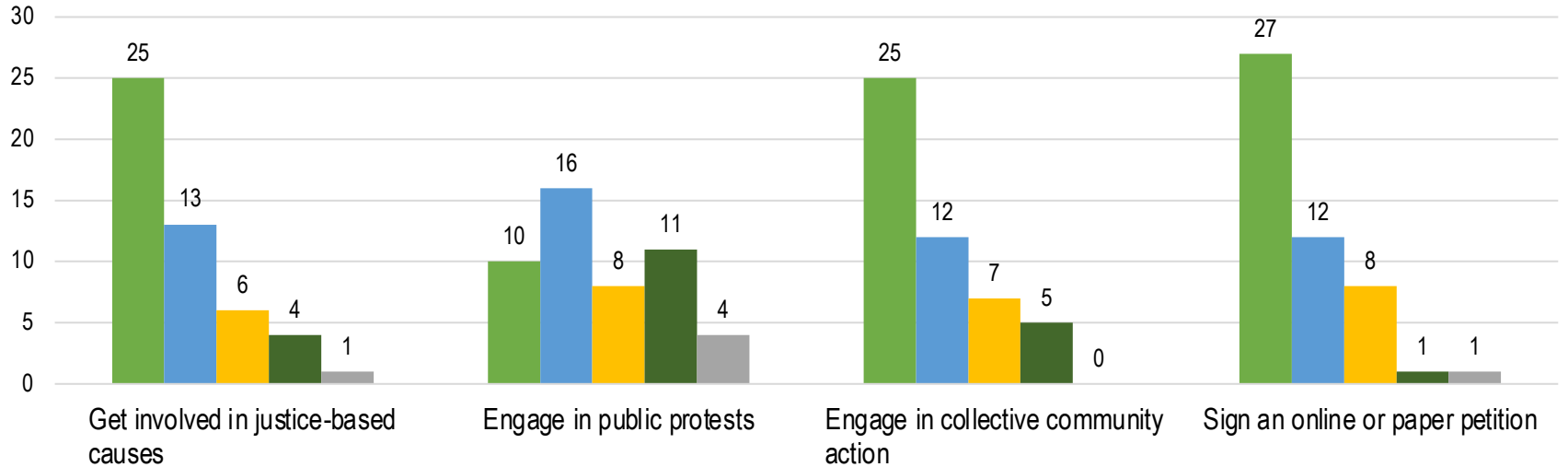
Participants' Education Level and Employment Status

	n	%
Highest Level of Education Completed		
High School	18	37%
Vocational School or Junior College	3	6%
4-year College or University	13	27%
Graduate Degree (Master's Level)	12	24%
MD/JD/PhD	3	6%
Employment Status*		
Employed Full-time	16	33%
Employed Part-time	13	27%
In School	5	10%
Retired	5	10%
Self-employed	6	12%
Student Full-time	14	29%
Student Part-time	2	4%

*Employment categories are not mutually exclusive, as more than one category applied to some participants.

2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Community and Civic Engagement

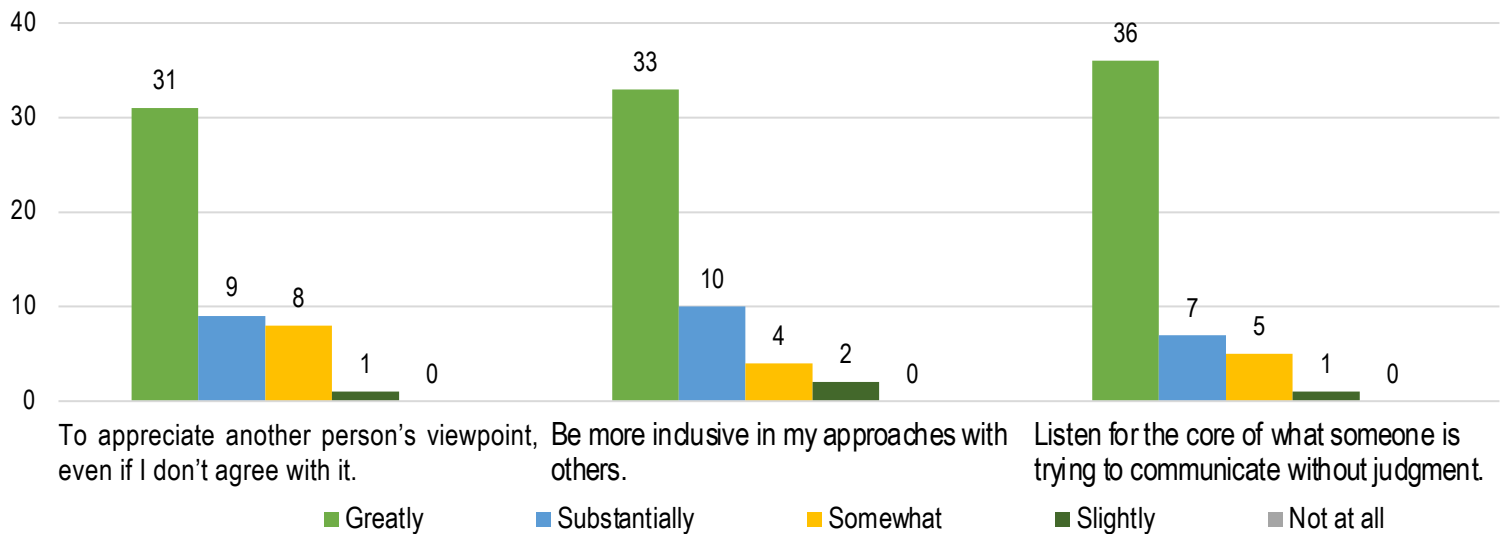
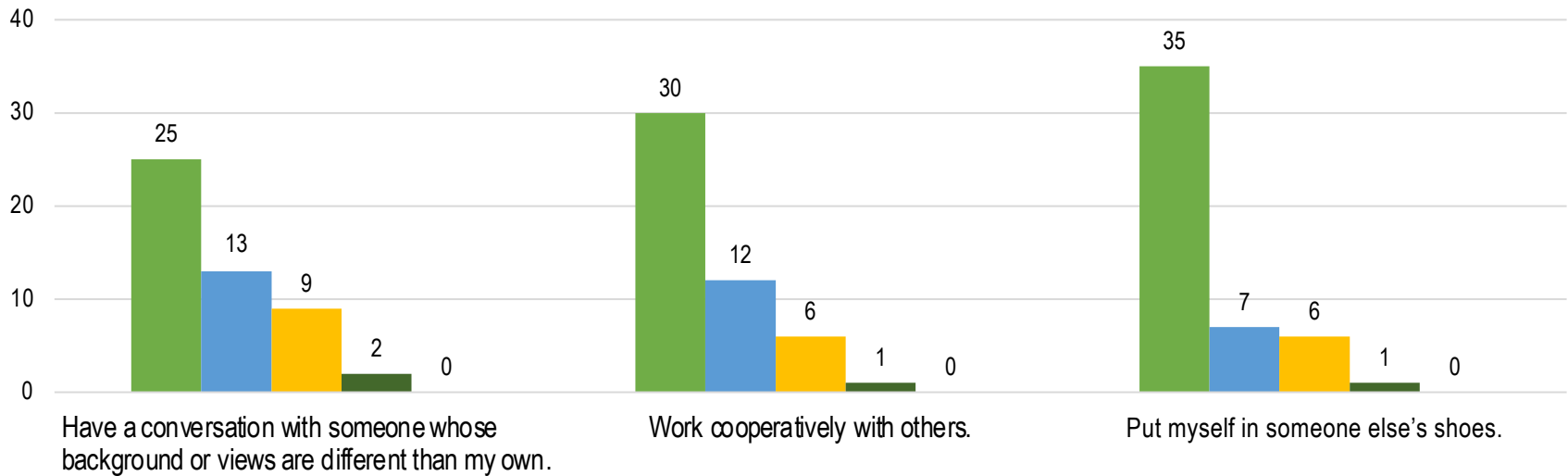
As a result of participating in the workshop(s), I am more likely to engage in the following activities...



■ Extremely Likely
 ■ Likely
 ■ Somewhat Likely
 ■ Unlikely
 ■ Extremely Unlikely

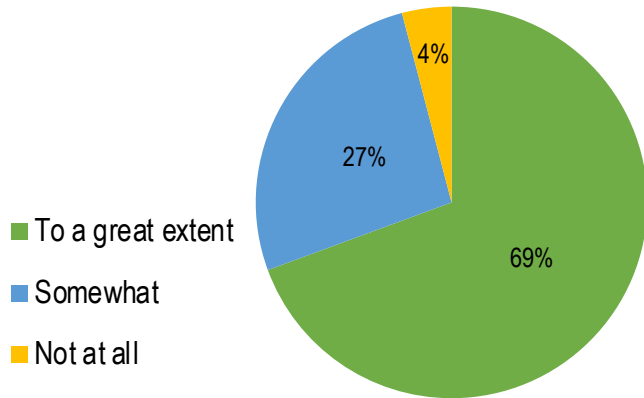
2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Enhancement of Empathy and Understanding of the “Other”

My experience participating in the workshop(s) has contributed to my ability to...

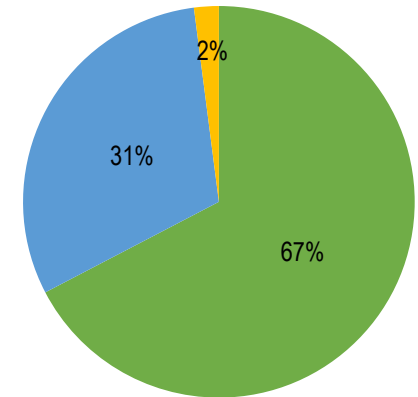


2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Deeper Learning and Understanding of Social Issues

After taking the workshop(s), I take more interest in social, economic, and political issues and their impact on people.



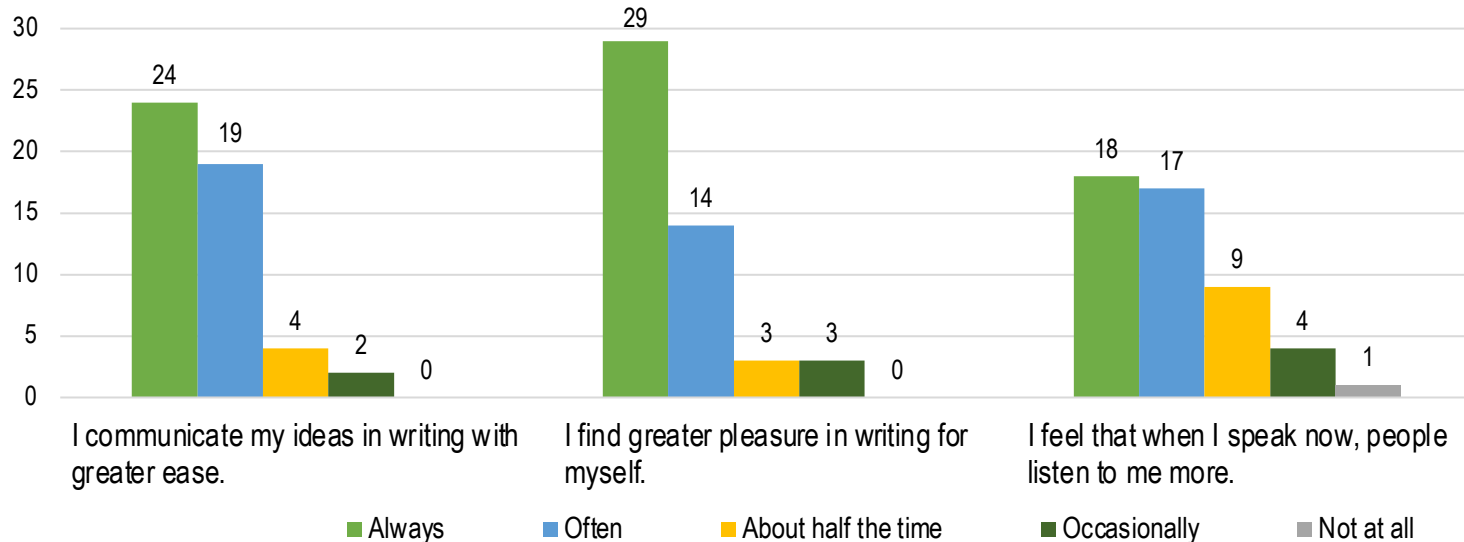
- To a great extent
- Somewhat
- Not at all



After taking the workshop(s), I am better able to consider conflicting points of views in each situation I encounter.

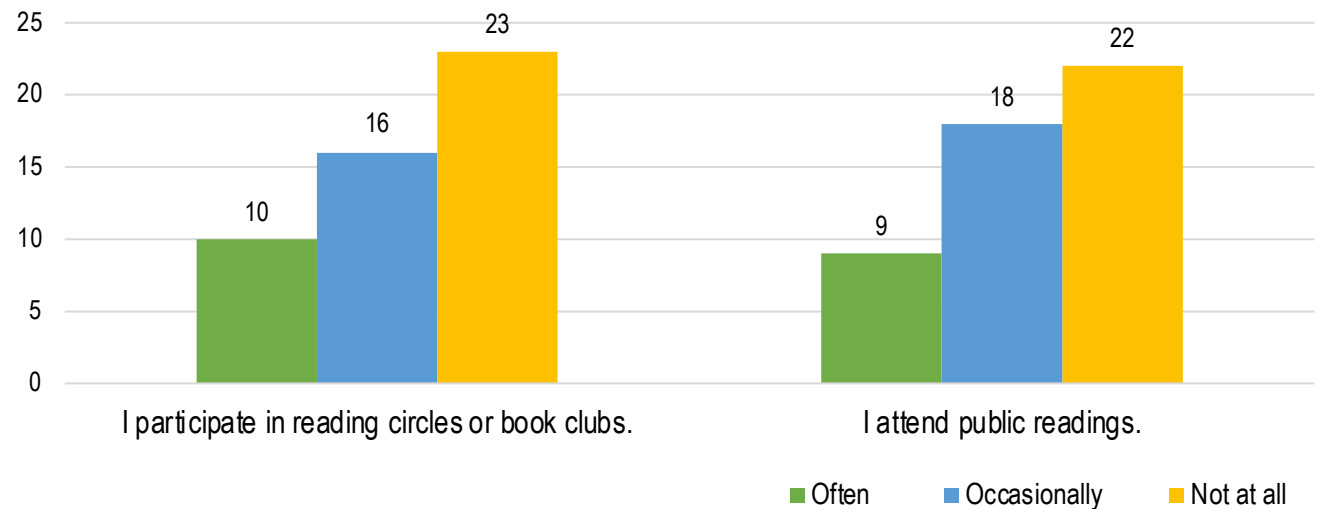
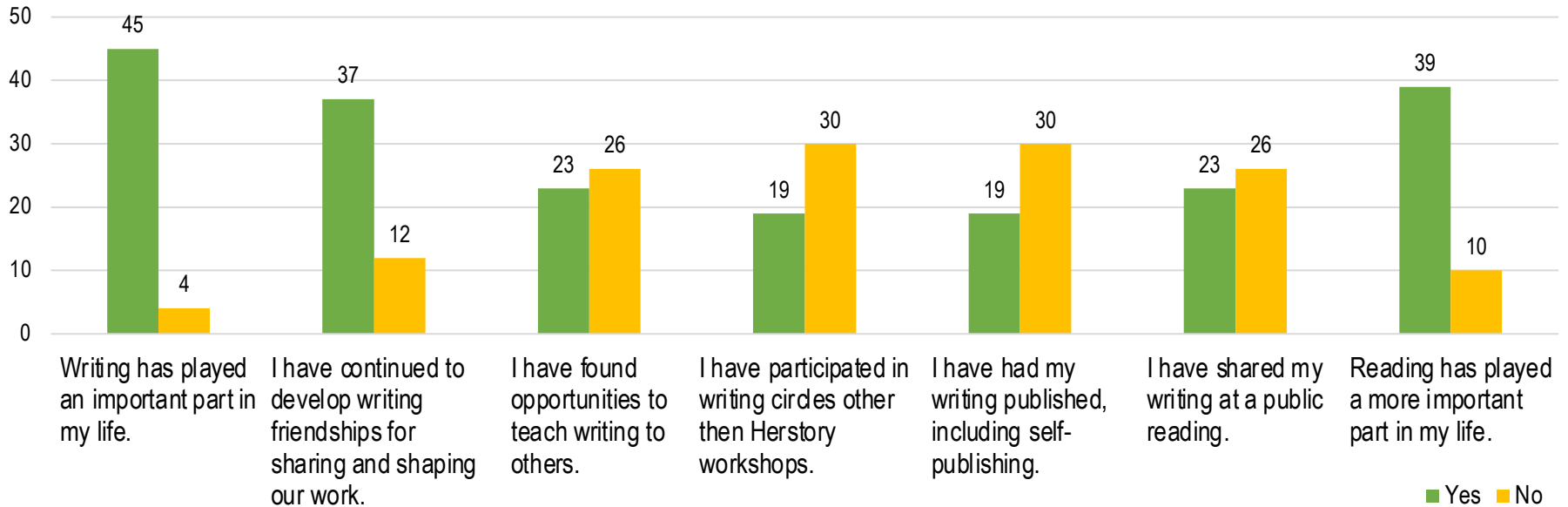
Finding an Effective Voice; Skills for Expression; Improvement in Narrative Techniques

After participating in a Herstory workshop...



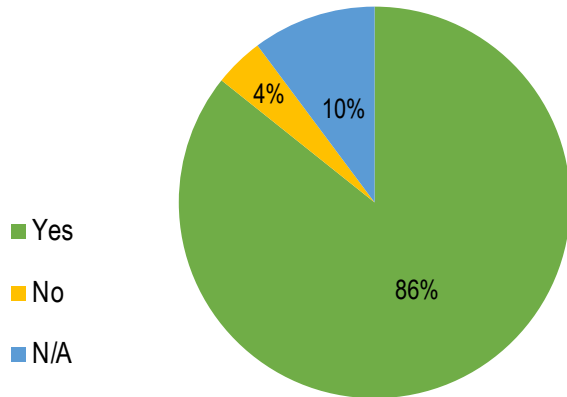
2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Engagement with Writing and Literature

After participating in a Herstory workshop...

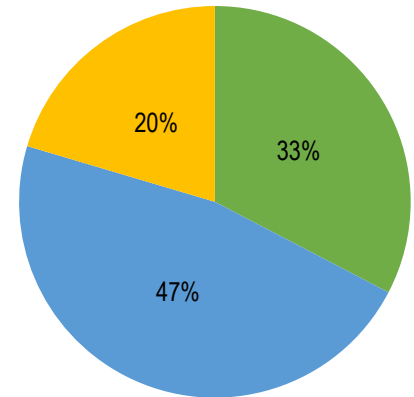


2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Healing

If applicable, did writing in the workshop(s) contribute to positively dealing with or overcoming a difficult experience?

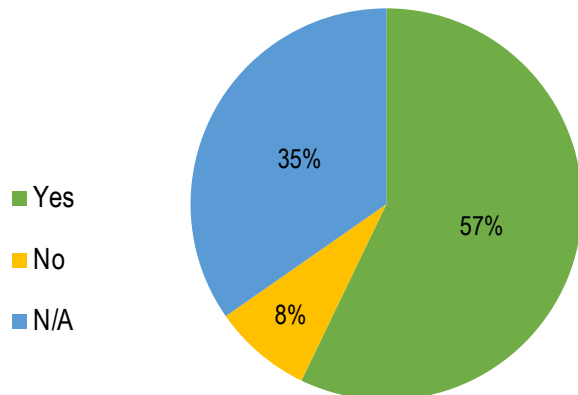


- Increased
- Somewhat increased
- Stayed the same
- Somewhat decreased
- Decreased

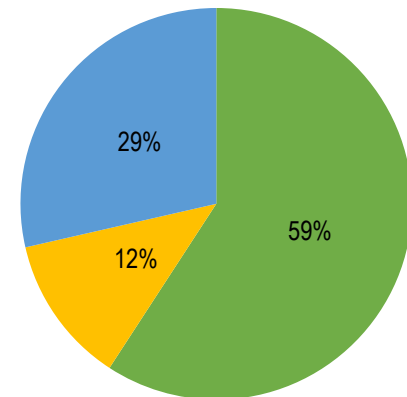


Do you find that after taking the workshop(s), your trust towards others has...?

If applicable, has the writing in the workshop(s) helped you to reach a state of forgiveness?



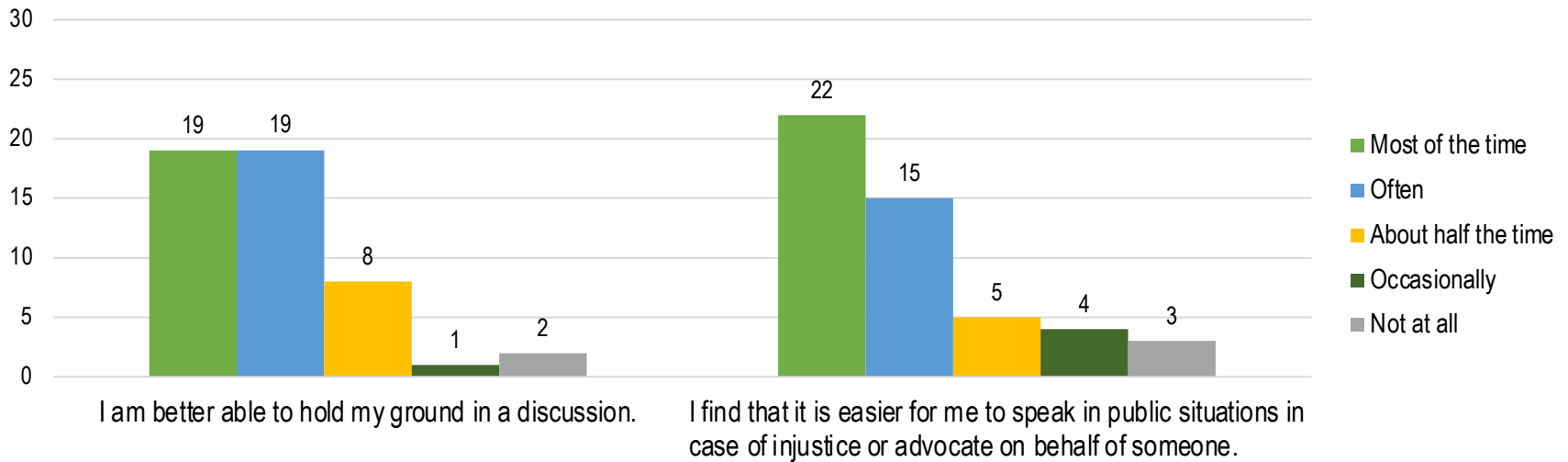
- Yes
- No
- N/A



If applicable, do you find that you are better able to tap into your strengths if you are being attacked or hurt than before taking the workshop(s)?

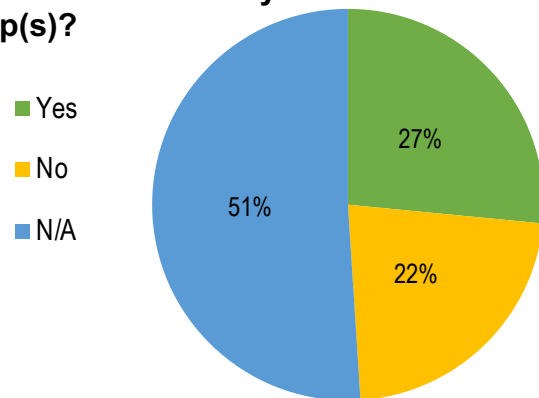
2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS: Courage and Leadership

After taking the workshop(s)...



Lasting Connections

If you participated in a workshop a year ago or more, did you keep in touch with any of the other members of the workshop(s)?



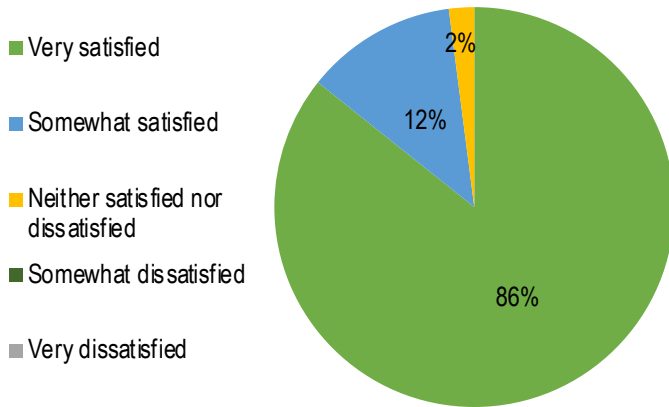
If yes, in what capacity? (Select all that apply.)



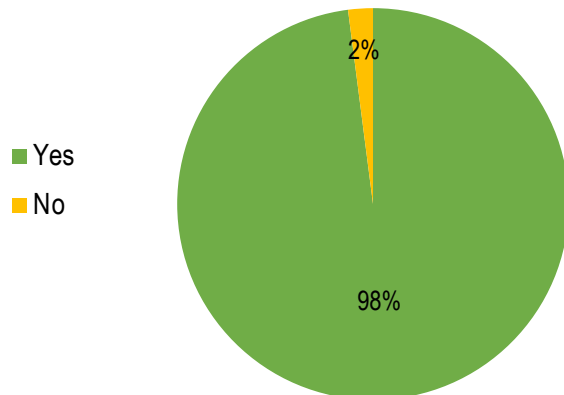
2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY

Satisfaction

Please rate your overall satisfaction with participating in Herstory's writing communities.



Would you recommend this workshop to others?



Please tell us what we can do to improve the workshop experience.

"Maybe have groups participate in ice breakers or trust building activities before jumping right into sharing potentially very personal and vulnerable stories."

"More concrete political action/awareness."

"Please offer some more workshops specifically for elders and LGBT folks."

"Facilitators with higher energy, more willing to really critique, more mature people able to analyze the work of older persons."

"More locations/workshops."

"I can't think of anything! The workshop is amazing as is."

"Should this stay on Zoom, maybe make it mandatory for students and participants to have their cameras on."

"Helps in improving your writing and communication skills as an individual."

"Making any necessary resources more accessible would help to improve the workshop experience."

"Seems fine to me if you are a SBU student and want an engaging way to earn your EXP+ credit and enjoy writing."

"Keep up the great work! This workshop was very well managed and was a rewarding experience for me."

"Expand to other areas of injustice."

"I had a really good time; there's nothing that needs improvement."

"Keep up the good work. I'll definitely be back soon!"

"I do wish I would have stayed connected with some of the people I met. It would have been great to be part of a Slack/WhatsApp/Google group with people."

2021 HERSTORY IMPACT SURVEY

Satisfaction

Please tell us what we can do to improve the workshop experience (continued).

“For the facilitator’s workshop, specifically, use of a manual that is more easily a How-To.”	“It was honestly amazing. If I could change anything it’d be to have more time to be able to talk to speakers that come.”
“Lowering the minimum number of pages. It could get stressful trying to balance exams and homework with trying to find time to write. Also, maybe sharing certain parts of the ‘Paper Stranger’ book through Drive or something similar since the book was delivered late for me.”	
“I believe you all can create a place for young writers online.”	“I can’t think of anything. I love the format. I’m learning to be a better facilitator and I love the feedback.”
“I’ve had bad experiences with activist groups in the past, where social justice was a sort of rigid dogma that got in the way to being truly open with ourselves and others. It might be helpful to have a space/event to talk openly about the not so pretty aspects of social justice movements, share stories, and work toward building better organizing strategies.”	
“Continue having them in a variety of settings.”	“Meetings could be longer to help continue and facilitate discussion.”
“I just wanted to say that these questions don’t take into consideration that we may have been doing some of these things before taking the workshop. My experience of the workshop has been positive, but it has not necessarily changed my thinking or behavior.”	
“Publicize it more.”	“More speakers on criminal justice topics.”
“This workshop was great for me to work through my trauma. Sometimes my pieces went over well; other times they did not. All constructive feedback helped me to learn and grow. I wrote my first draft with Herstory, but I am opting not to return until I figure out how to write a second draft without opening old wounds.”	
“I wouldn’t change a thing. I love this workshop!”	“Create more opportunities for the workshops to interact/ share writings.”
“Make it clearer in the syllabus that your writing for the course doesn’t necessarily have to include an experience related to the criminal justice program.”	
“I would love to coordinate a writing retreat and/or meet-and-greet once per year so that we can all meet in-person.”	“I’m just so grateful that it exists. This workshop has helped me, connected me, and given me community and hope.”
“More bilingual/multilingual offerings. I have received requests from a few people to create a workshop where you are free to write in both English and Spanish for those who think in both languages and grew up bilingual.”	
“I like how it is. I feel safe to share very deep painful feelings. When it’s the first time telling a story that I have kept secret for all of my life, safety is required for me to even thin about putting it on paper, never mind reading it out loud. The personal is the political but it starts with feeling safe enough to move to the next level. If I feel pushed to share when it doesn’t feel safe, I won’t come back. Or I’d connect with the leaders. It’s not a therapy session, but it’s definitely therapeutic. It’s definitely helping me learn to write better – awesome feedback that is hard to find elsewhere from leaders and cohort. I would miss this group so much if it went away. The world needs to hear our stories. But first we have to be able to speak them in a small safe place. There is not a safe place to write like this and feel heard and accepted anywhere else.”	