

Report Card

Semester in Democracy

Dates	May 11th to June 26th
Location	Online
Teachers	Shauna Sylvester, Executive Director, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue Dr. Daniel Savas

SFU's Semester in Dialogue, Democracy the Next Frontier was a full-time, hands-on learning experience where 21 university students, all from different programs and life experiences, came together for seven weeks to examine the institutions, culture and practice of democracy in Canada. Based on an independent program evaluation with the students, the following report card outlines the program's success.



Key Sources of Learning:

- ✓ Hosting, conversing and connecting with diverse range of esteemed guest speakers
- ✓ Empowering youth focused projects independently led by students
- ✓ Hands-on assignments and workshops
- ✓ Personalized feedback from instructors, peers, subject experts and practitioners



100% of students indicated coordinating a politician/public servant to speak to their class as the most valuable component to their learning



Growth Outcomes

Before
After

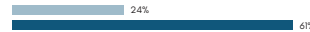
Increased confidence in ability to influence government

Ordinary citizens can influence government if they are willing to make an effort



Made politics more relatable and personable for students

Elected officials care what ordinary people think



Fostered more positive view on politicians and Canada's democracy

Trust in civil servants



Generated deeper understanding of complex reality of Canada's democracy

Strong level of knowledge of strategies to strengthen democracy



Expanded understanding and willingness to participate in democratic engagement

Strong understanding of their role in democracy in Canada



Strong understanding of democratic engagement



Yielded increased value in local politics and community involvement

Strong sense of belonging to province



If have a concern in community, know who to contact

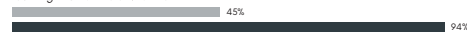


Imparted transferrable skills

How to write a candidate issue brief



Learning in an online environment



Online public presentations



Dialogue



Research



See the extended report for a full list of transferrable skills learned in SID.

"Before the program I was a little bit intimidated by the idea of democracy because I felt like I didn't really understand what it was. However, as the course went on I felt like I watched myself progress in my comfort with talking about democracy and politics and talking to the leaders and experts."