



Campus**Expression**Survey

The Campus Expression Survey

A Heterodox Academy Project

Administration Instructions

Contents

This document contains administration and scoring instructions for the Campus Expression Survey.

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Campus**Expression**Survey

Introduction

Most professors and campus administrators want an open environment where all members of the academic community can express their ideas honestly. But, in recent years reports that students and faculty have been self-censoring their views in the classroom and on campus in general, have increased and are concerning. If this is going on in your classroom, or at your university, then it is vital to know: WHICH students are feeling intimidated, about WHICH topics, and WHY? Are students primarily afraid of the professors, or of other students? Is it happening in all departments, or only in a few? Heterodox Academy's Campus Expression Survey is an easy to administer tool for professors and administrators that provides a diagnosis, or X-ray, of what is going on in your classroom or on your campus.

Modules

The Campus Expression Survey consists of three modules.

1. **Core Module.** The core module of the Campus Expression Survey consists of two components: Comfort and Consequences. The items in this module repeat for each of five potentially controversial issues: gender, race, politics, sexuality, and religion; as a baseline comparison, these items are also asked regarding a non-controversial topic. The full Core Module appears in Appendix A.

- a. **Comfort.** The first item asked within each issue assesses how comfortable or reluctant students to share their views in a typical small classroom setting of 20-30 students.

For instance: Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about GENDER. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

Response options include: "I would be very comfortable giving my views," "I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views," "I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views," and "I would be very reluctant giving my views."

- b. **Consequences.** Next, students are asked how concerned they would be about different consequences that might occur if they shared their views in a class discussion on a specific topic. These include concerns about the reactions of the professor and other students, as well as social media posts concerning their views.

For instance: Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about GENDER during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur: Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

Response options range from "Not at all concerned" to "Extremely concerned."

2. **Experience on Campus Module.** The Experience on Campus Module assesses student perceptions of how they think different groups of students experience the classroom (e.g., female students; male students; LGBT students).

For instance, students are asked to: "Think about each of the following categories of students at your school. Do think you that students in that category are more comfortable sharing their views in a classroom discussion compared to the average student, less comfortable compared to the average student, or about the same as the average student?" They are then presented with a variety of groups, for instance: Left-leaning or progressive students.

Response options include: "More comfortable sharing their views than the average student," "Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student," and "About the same as the average student."

The Experience on Campus module also asks students about how frequently they have been mistreated on campus on the basis of their gender, race, political views, sexuality, or religious belief.

For instance: How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity?

Response options include: "Every day," "More than once a week," "Every few weeks," "A few times a year," "Once a year or less," and, "It never happens."

Please see Appendix B for the items of the Experience on Campus Module.

3. **Viewpoint Diversity Module.** The Viewpoint Diversity Module of the Campus Expression Survey consists of four items that ask students how diverse the viewpoints are on campus among students, faculty, and administrators; and, how often the college or university encourages a wider variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

For instance: Thinking about students at your college/university, would you say most of them are politically to the left of you (more liberal) or politically to the right of you (more conservative)?

Response options include: "Most are to the left of me," "Most are to the right of me," "Most have positions close to mine," "Most are about equally to the left or right of me," and, "Don't know."

Please see Appendix C for the items of the Viewpoint Diversity Module.

Administering The Campus Expression Survey

1. Core Module

- We recommend always including the non-controversial items in any administration of the Core Module, so they can serve as a baseline for the other topics assessed.
- The controversial issues we offer in the Core Module are merely suggestions. Different issues may be more or less controversial within your local context; the instrument can be modified to capture student comfort discussing any set of issues. For example, perhaps you are interested in how comfortable students are discussing a more specific political issue, such as immigration or criminal justice. If so, you can use the basic item format and substitute your issue of interest into the items where relevant. Please customize the issues assessed to your liking.
- If you assess more than one controversial issue, we recommend that you randomize the order the issues are presented in for each respondent. We also recommend that you randomize the order of presentation for each of the potential concerns for sharing one's views, for each respondent.

2. Experience on Campus Module

- We recommend a randomized order of presentation for both sets of items (on perceptions of other students' experiences in the classroom and on personal experience on campus in general).

3. Viewpoint Diversity Module

- We recommend a randomized order of presentation for all items.

4. General Recommendations

- We recommend including a demographic assessment. Our suggested demographic questions can be found in Appendix D.
- We also recommend administering the CES through a survey platform such as Qualtrics or SurveyMonkey. We have created templates for both platforms and are happy to share them with you. This will allow you to easily distribute a unique survey link, and analyze your results.

Scoring The Campus Expression Survey

The nature of the items in the Campus Expression Survey invite raw number comparisons across issues and items. Appendix E shows a sample report from a classroom administration of the CES. Beyond computing and visualizing frequency (or percentage) of responses, the CES is not otherwise scored.

Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions about the Campus Expression Survey, please contact Sean Stevens, Heterodox Academy's Research Director, at stevens@heterodoxacademy.org.

Appendix A: Core Module

We are interested in how you would feel about expressing your personal opinions in class discussions on various topics. Think of a class with about 20-30 students.

Gender Items:

Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about GENDER. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about GENDER during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur (presented in a randomized order):

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Race Items:

Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about RACE. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about RACE during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur:

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Political Issue Items:

Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial POLITICAL ISSUE. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial POLITICAL ISSUE during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur:

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Sexuality Items:

Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about SEXUALITY. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about SEXUALITY during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur:

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Religion Items:

Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about RELIGION. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about RELIGION during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur:

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Non-Controversial Items:

**Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a NON-CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC.
How comfortable or reluctant would you feel about speaking up and giving your views on this topic?**

- _____ I would be very comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat comfortable giving my views.
- _____ I would be somewhat reluctant giving my views.
- _____ I would be very reluctant giving my views.

Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about a NON-CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC during a class discussion, how concerned would you be that the following would occur:

The professor would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Other students would criticize my views as offensive.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would post critical comments about my views on social media.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Someone would file a complaint claiming that my views violated a campus harassment policy or code of conduct.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would give me a lower grade because of my views.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

The professor would say my views are wrong.

- _____ Not at all concerned
- _____ Slightly concerned
- _____ Somewhat concerned
- _____ Moderately concerned
- _____ Extremely concerned

Appendix B: Experience on Campus Module

Perception of How Comfortable Other Students are Sharing Their Views:

Now that you have told us how comfortable you FEEL in classroom discussions, please tell us how you think members of various other groups on campus feel in those classroom discussions.

Think about each of the following categories of students at your school. Do you think that students in that category are more comfortable sharing their views in a classroom discussion compared to the average student, less comfortable compared to the average student, or about the same as the average student?

Left-leaning or progressive students.

_____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ About the same as the average student.

Right-leaning or conservative students.

_____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ About the same as the average student.

White (Caucasian) students.

_____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Black (African-American) students.

_____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Hispanic/Latino students.

_____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.

_____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Asian students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Female students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Male students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Transgender students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Gay/lesbian/bisexual students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Straight students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Christian students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Jewish students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Muslim students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Atheist students.

- _____ More comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ Less comfortable sharing their views than the average student.
- _____ About as comfortable as the average student.

Is there any other group, not listed above, that you think faces a hostile climate or other restrictions on speech? (If so, please also supply a rating using the same rating scale).

[Open-ended response option]

Individual Treatment on Campus in General:

Next, the following questions are about your experiences ON CAMPUS IN GENERAL - including classroom activities, public events with speakers, meetings of student organizations, informal gatherings, and conversations with other students.

Please use the scale beneath each item to indicate your response:

How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity?

- _____ Every day
- _____ More than once a week
- _____ Every few weeks
- _____ A few times a year
- _____ Once a year or less
- _____ It never happens

How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your sex or gender?

- _____ Every day
- _____ More than once a week
- _____ Every few weeks
- _____ A few times a year
- _____ Once a year or less
- _____ It never happens

How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your religion?

- _____ Every day
- _____ More than once a week
- _____ Every few weeks
- _____ A few times a year
- _____ Once a year or less
- _____ It never happens

How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your political views?

- _____ Every day
- _____ More than once a week
- _____ Every few weeks
- _____ A few times a year
- _____ Once a year or less
- _____ It never happens

How frequently are you treated badly or unfairly because of your sexual orientation?

- _____ Every day
- _____ More than once a week
- _____ Every few weeks
- _____ A few times a year
- _____ Once a year or less
- _____ It never happens

Appendix C: Viewpoint Diversity Module

Thinking about students at your college/university, would you say most of them are politically to the left of you (more liberal) or politically to the right of you (more conservative)?

- _____ Most are to the left of me
- _____ Most are to the right of me
- _____ Most have positions close to mine
- _____ Most are about equally to the left or right of me
- _____ Don't know

Thinking about faculty at your college/university, would you say most of them are politically to the left of you (more liberal) or politically to the right of you (more conservative)?

- _____ Most are to the left of me
- _____ Most are to the right of me
- _____ Most have positions close to mine
- _____ Most are about equally to the left or right of me
- _____ Don't know

Thinking about administrators at your college/university, would you say most of them are politically to the left of you (more liberal) or politically to the right of you (more conservative)?

- _____ Most are to the left of me
- _____ Most are to the right of me
- _____ Most have positions close to mine
- _____ Most are about equally to the left or right of me
- _____ Don't know

How often does your college/university encourage students to consider a wider variety of viewpoints and perspectives?

- _____ Very frequently
- _____ Frequently
- _____ Occasionally
- _____ Rarely
- _____ Very rarely
- _____ Never

Appendix D: Suggested Demographic Questions

How old are you?

- _____ 18 to 19
- _____ 20 to 21
- _____ 22 to 25
- _____ 26 to 29
- _____ 30 to 39
- _____ 40 to 49
- _____ 50 to 59
- _____ 60 and over
- _____ Prefer not to say

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- _____ Republican
- _____ Democrat
- _____ Independent
- _____ Something else [Open-ended response option]
- _____ Prefer not to say

When it comes to politics do you usually think of yourself as liberal, conservative, moderate, libertarian, or something else?

- _____ Very liberal
- _____ Liberal
- _____ Slightly liberal
- _____ Moderate or middle-of-the-road
- _____ Slightly conservative
- _____ Conservative
- _____ Very conservative
- _____ Libertarian
- _____ Something else [Open-ended response option]
- _____ Haven't thought much about this
- _____ Prefer not to say

What is your major or intended major (if double-major, indicate both)?

- _____ [Open-ended response option]
- _____ Undecided
- _____ Prefer not to say

What is your current year of study?

- First Year (Freshman)
- Second Year (Sophomore)
- Third Year (Junior)
- Fourth Year (Senior)
- Fifth Year or More (Senior)
- Graduate student
- Prefer not to say

How do you describe your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other [Open-ended response option]
- Prefer not to say

How do you describe your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Other [Open-ended response option]
- Prefer not to say

How do you describe your race/ethnicity?

- African American/Black
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- East or Southeast Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Middle Eastern/North African
- South or Southwest Asian
- White/Caucasian
- Multiracial
- Other [Open-ended response option]
- Prefer not to say

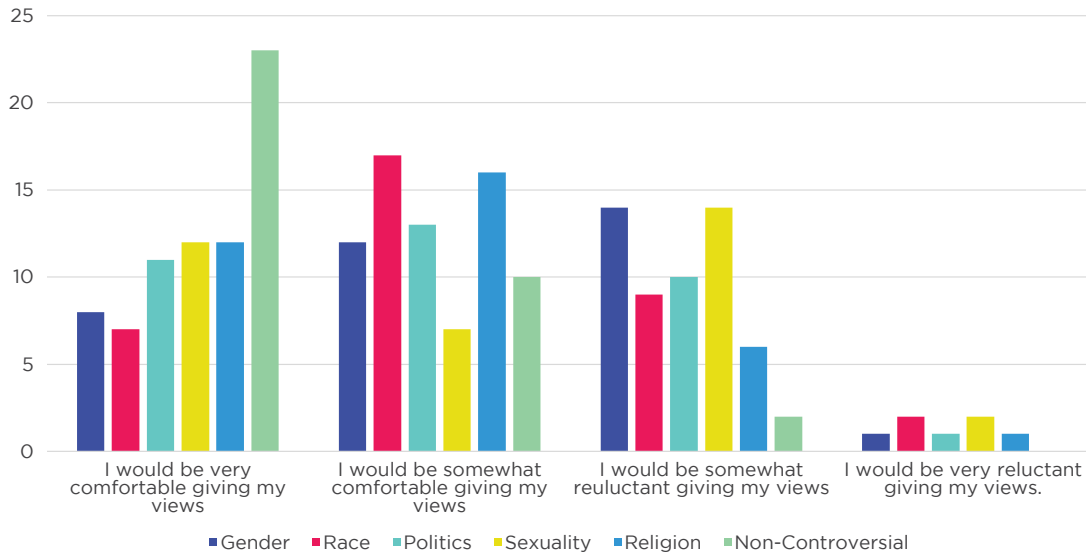
How do you describe your religious beliefs?

- Christian
- Evangelical Protestant
- Mainline Protestant
- Catholic
- Mormon
- Orthodox Christian
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Atheist
- Agnostic
- Other [open-ended response option]
- Prefer not to say

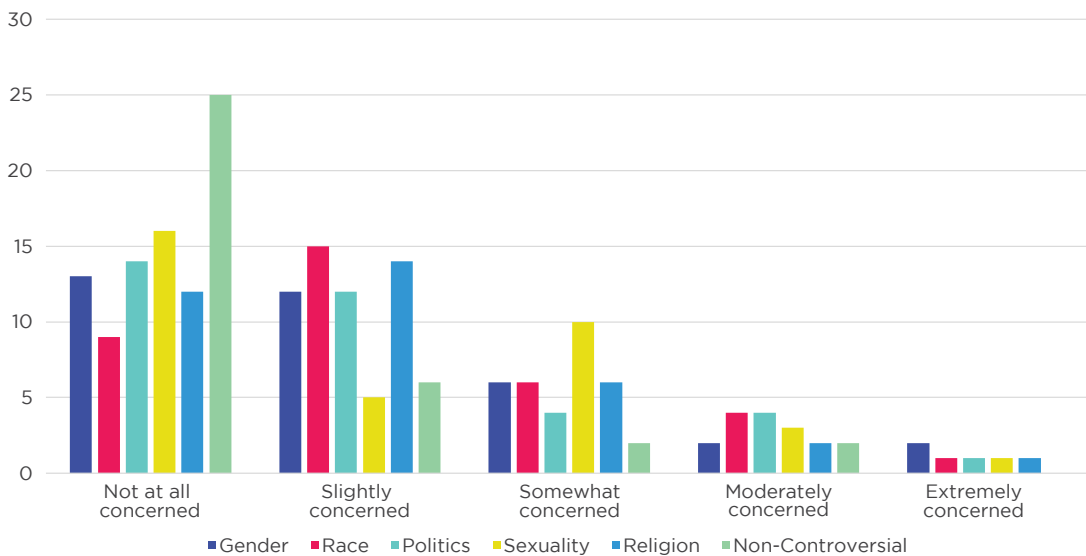
Appendix E: Sample Report

Appendix E presents results obtained from an administration of the Campus Expression Survey in a small classroom of 35 students.

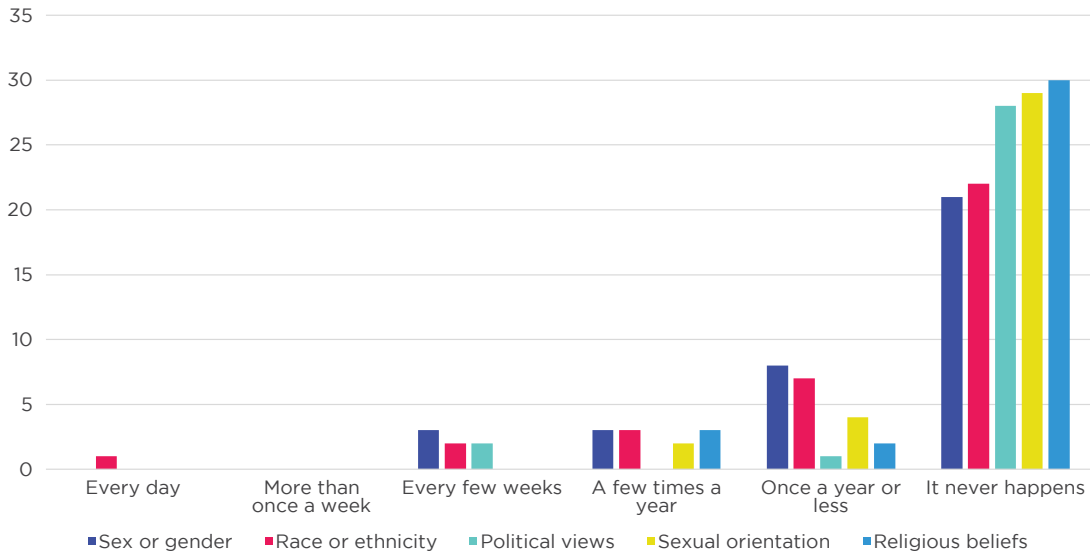
Think about being at your school in a class that was discussing a controversial issue about [INSERT TOPIC]. How comfortable or reluctant would you feel speaking up and giving your views on this topic?



Next, if you were to speak up and give your views on a controversial issue about [INSERT TOPIC], how concerned would you be that the following would occur: Other students would criticize my views as offensive.



How frequently are you treated badly because of your [INSERT CATEGORY]?



Thinking about STUDENTS at your college/university, would say most of them are politically to the left of you (more liberal) or politically to the right of you (more conservative)?

