

# Rachel's Challenge

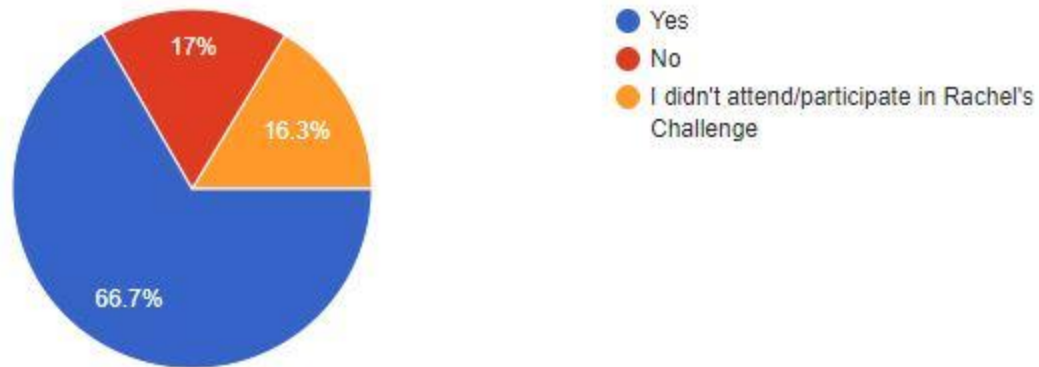
Senior Service Project

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What was Rachel's Challenge to us?

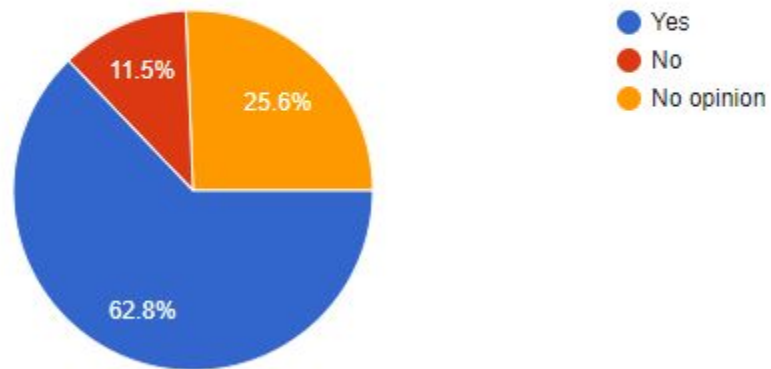
Did you feel like Rachel's Challenge was a valuable experience for you personally?

153 responses



Would you be in support of bringing Rachel's Challenge back for future classes to participate in it?

156 responses



# Why It Matters

I feel that the experience of Rachel's challenge was valuable because it had prompted me to be open in a way that I had never been before. I feel that the environment that Rachel's challenge created **a more safe, open environment** than any kind of diversity or unity day could do during an hour and a half advisory class.

Rachel's Challenge was invaluable for me. It changed my life and set me on a course that has become an integral part of who I am. At the end of the event, there was an open floor where students could take the mic and share their thoughts. I took a chance and got up there in front of everyone and gave my piece. That was the birth of my public speaking career. After my "speech," people that I didn't even know, including adults, came up to me and praised me on my speaking, asking if that was something I did or planned on doing for my career. **I realized the power of what I had just started.** From that point on, I joined FBLA and competed in public speaking, placing 8th at nationals. Now, public speaking is something I am known for and something I will always include into my life. None of that would've happened the way it did if it weren't for Rachel's Challenge. Not only is the content of the day valuable in itself, but it has surprising implications afterwards.

This was a valuable experience for me because I got to **connect emotionally** and get personal with people I hadn't met before. **I still have this sheet of paper that we all signed** and I remember having specific people sign it. I would love to go back and relive this experience and in a way I do when reading this paper

# Our Project

- Initial redesigning
  - Moving locations
  - Requesting students bring their own lunch
  - Replacing activities that include any physical contact
  - Allowing students to choose the day they attend the event
- Fundraising
  - Adjusting current school events to bring in funding
    - I.e. a percentage of food truck sales at the bonfire; school dances
  - Gathering sponsors from the community
  - Writing proposals for educational grants

# Addressing Student Concerns

Firstly, everyone was mandated to "accept" the challenge, which takes away the sincerity and seriousness that should have been present. It became something that was easily forgotten instead of having meant anything to the participants. Further, the overall relevancy had decreased dramatically overtime, considering that very few activities have been planned around it since.

- Involve Fossil's leadership groups (DLA, StuCo, etc.) in linking Rachel's Challenge into our annual Diversity and Unity Days
- Students love to be asked their thoughts on why they are doing something - it makes us feel like we have some choice in an environment where we often don't
  - Therefore, we'll call in students from a variety of realms to find out what they want to see in a revised Rachel's Challenge
  - Connections through the Leadership Summit

What else do we need to be aware of  
in terms of past concerns we need to  
address?