

Students teaching students: An academic civic engagement opportunity for large classes in collaboration with local elementary schools.

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“...any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to any child at any stage of development. ...The task...is one of representing the structure of that subject in terms of the child’s way of viewing things.”

Jerome Bruner (1960). *The Process of Education*, p. 33.







Objectives

- 1) provide college/university students in a large class with an experiential learning opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of an aspect of psychology
- 2) provide students with an opportunity to connect developmental psychology concepts with real children
- 3) expose elementary students to the field of psychology
- 4) strengthen connections between the campus and the wider community



Bridgewater Elementary School
Principal: Nancy Antoine



Sibley Elementary School
Principal: Scott Sannes



Greenvale Park Elementary School
Principal: David Craft

St. Dominic School
Principal: Vicki Kalina Marvin

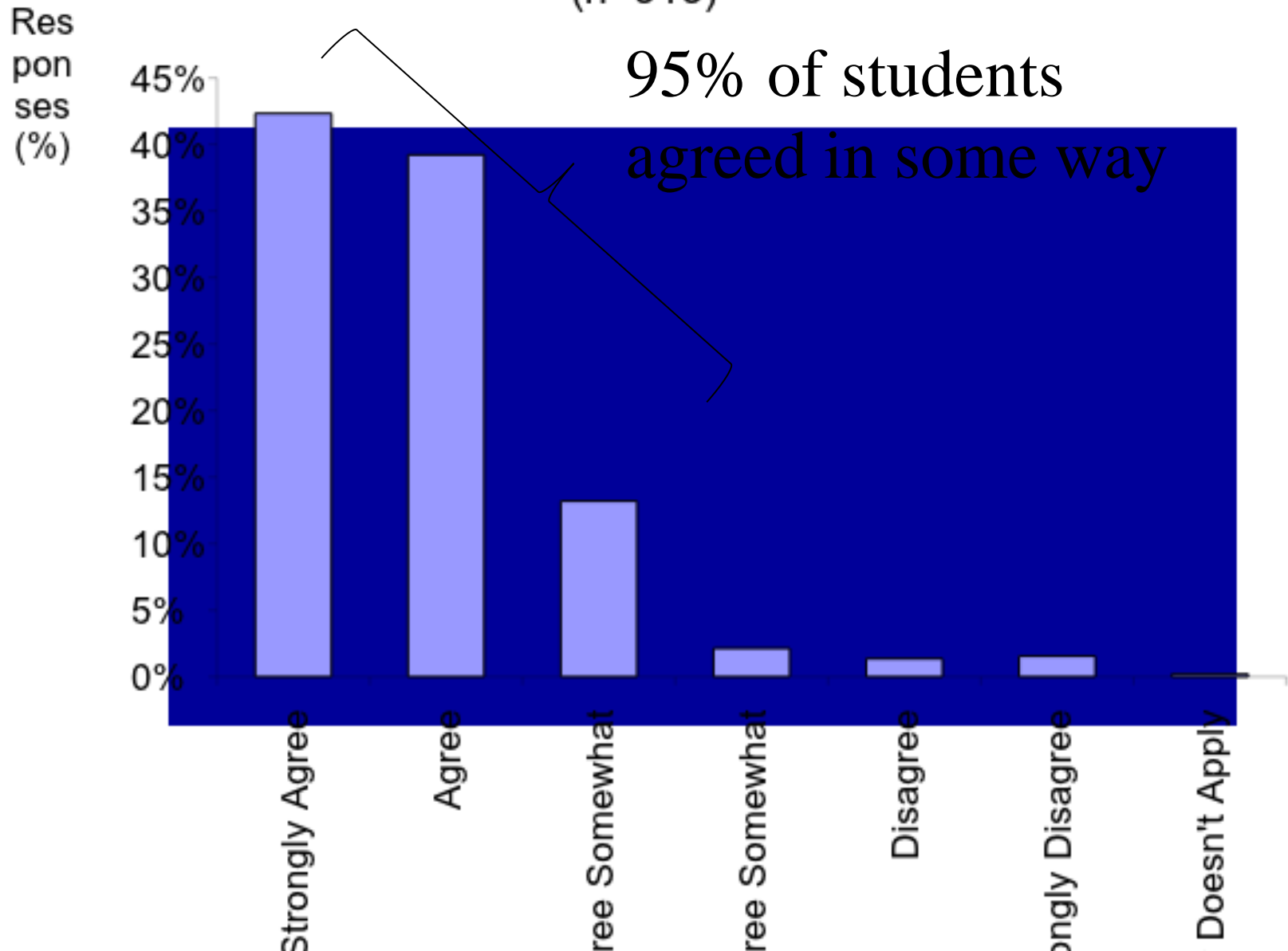








Q1: The presentation was a valuable learning experience
(n=515)



Q2: The presentation was an enjoyable experience
(n=507)

Res
pon
ses
(%)

70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

98% of students
agreed in some way

Strongly Agree

Agree

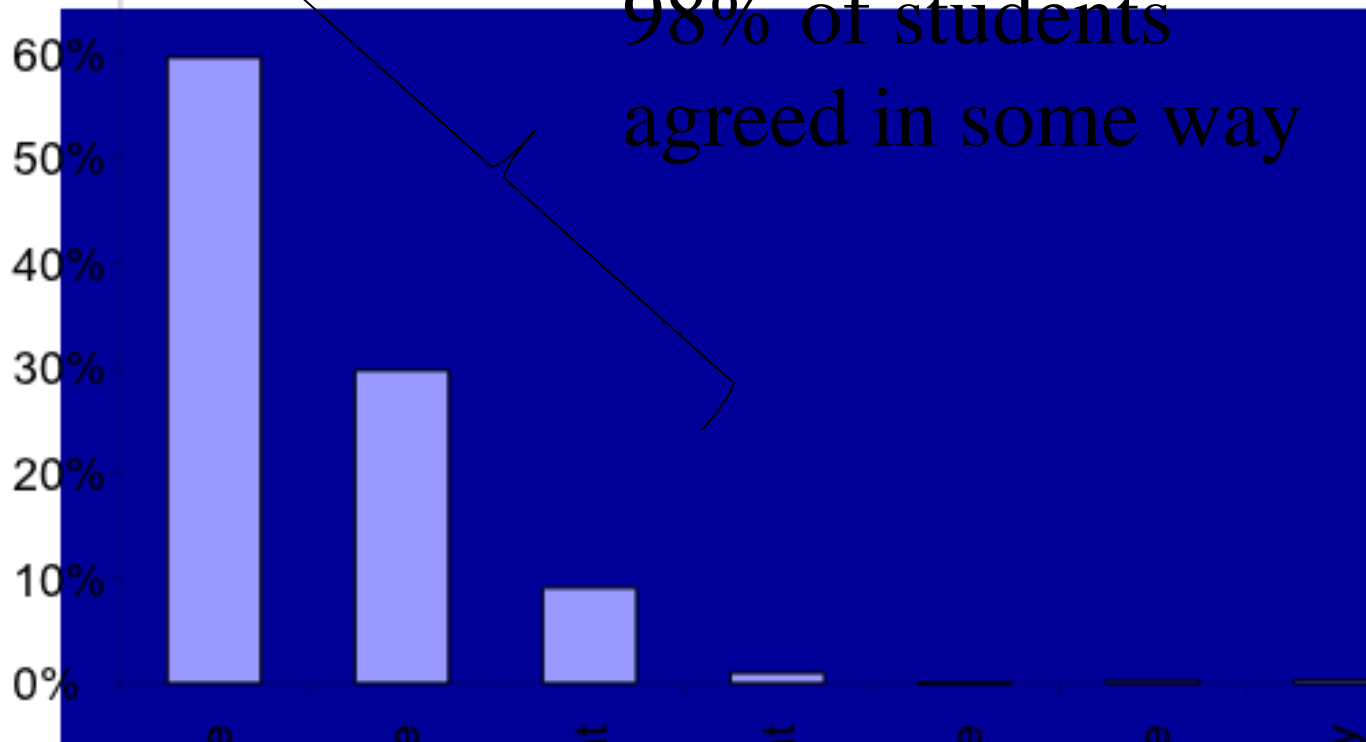
Somewhat
Agree

Somewhat
Disagree

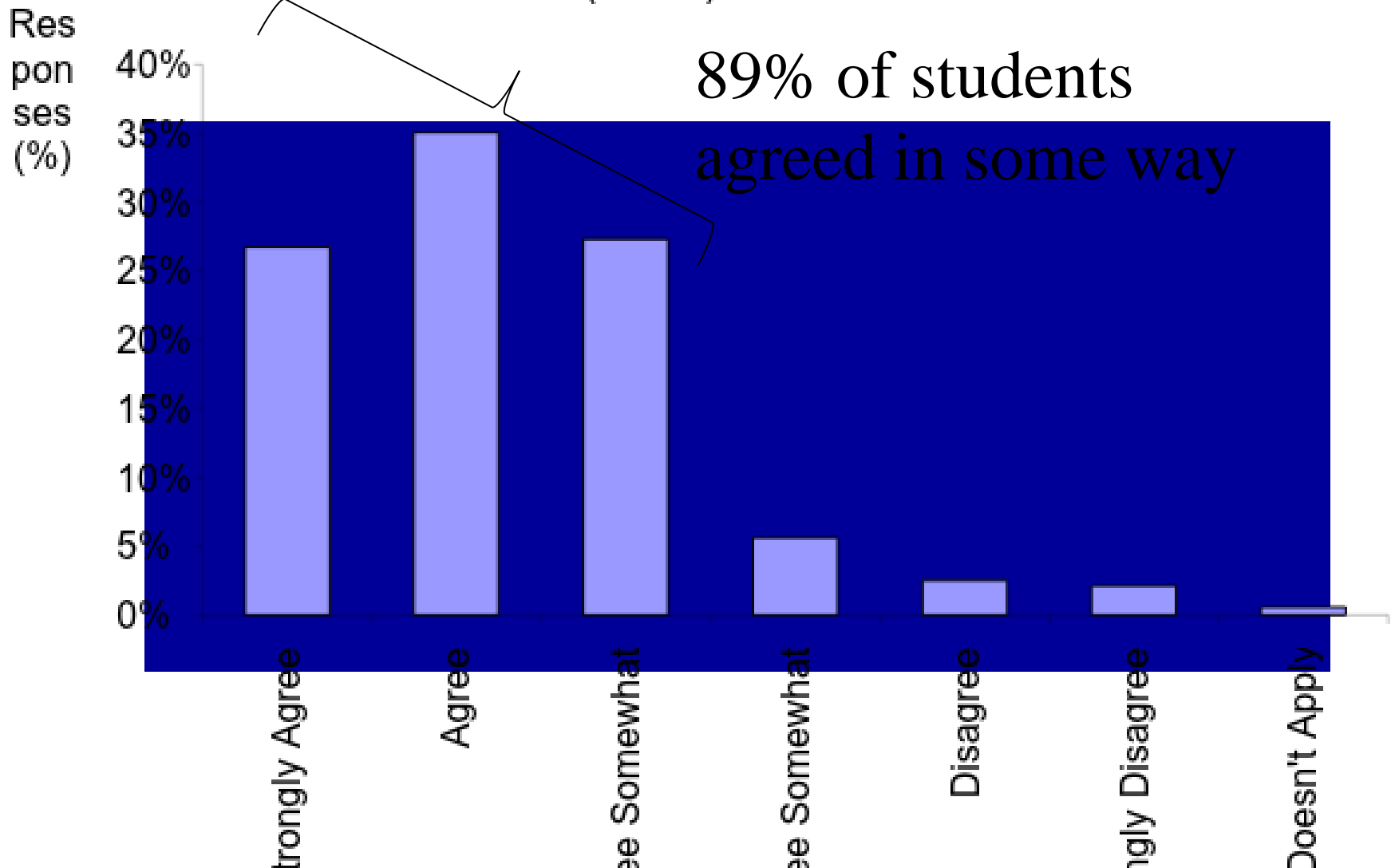
Disagree

Strongly Disagree

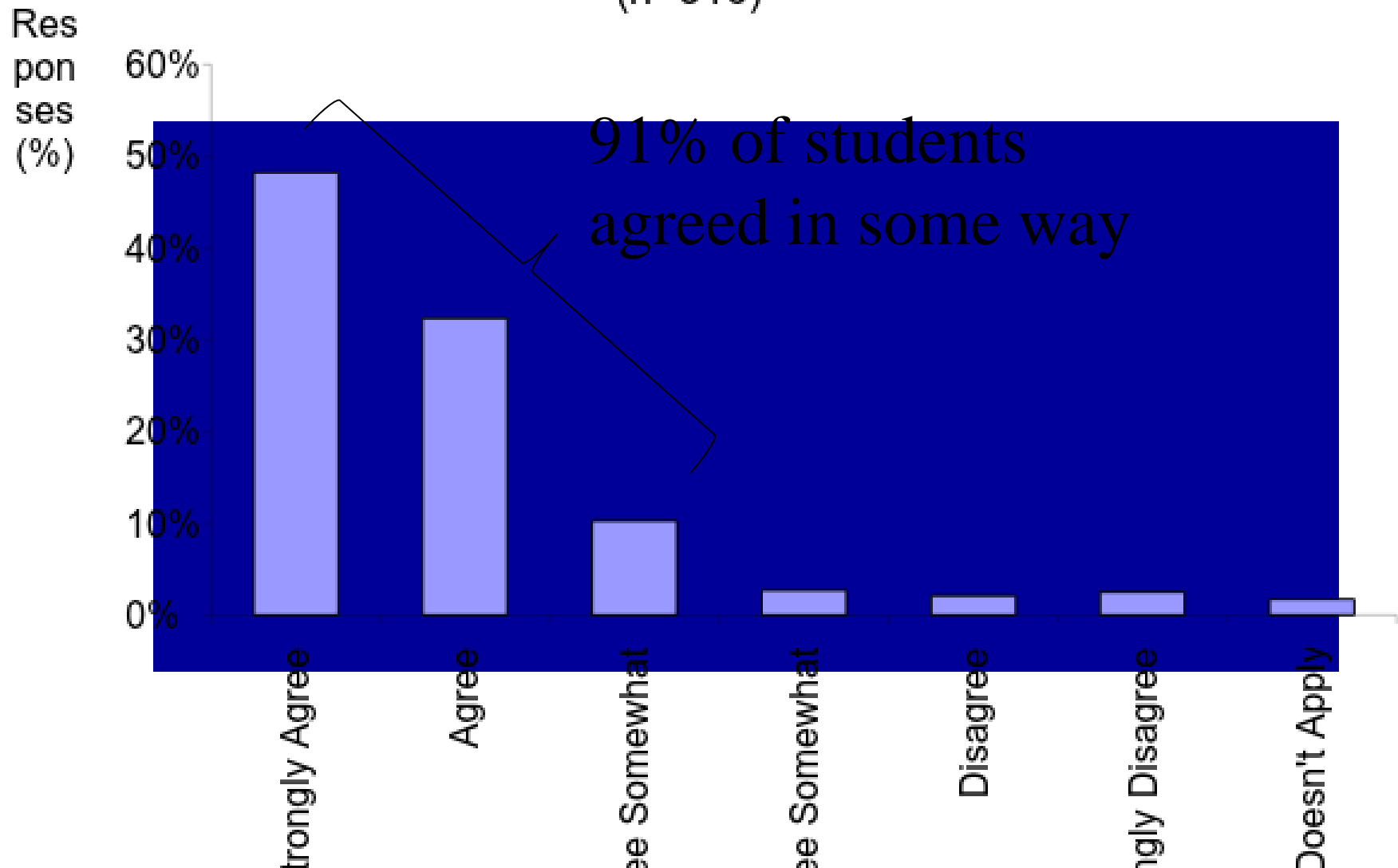
Doesn't Apply



Q3: The presentation helped increase my understanding of psychology
(n=516)



Q4: The presentations should be a regular part of this course (n=516)



“Just by requiring that we teach an area of psychology to younger children caused us to learn about it in a much more in-depth kind of way, and to figure out alternate ways of teaching it, so the kids could understand. It also gave us insight into how children learn and behave in general.”

“The presentation was a great project, partially because I love working with kids. However, challenging yourself to teach a fairly complex scientific concept to elementary students forces you first, to understand the concept inside and out, and second, to be creative in designing ways to teach and explain the material, which further cements the concept for you.”

“It helped me understand how both learning takes place in the "real world" and how diverse the levels of learning for different kids are even in the same grade level. It also helped me realize how to apply what I was learning in the class room and apply it outside in the "real world."”

“In order to really know a subject, one should try to teach it. The elementary school project was a blast.”

