

## **“Polar Poll” Spring 2024**

### **STUDENT Sample**

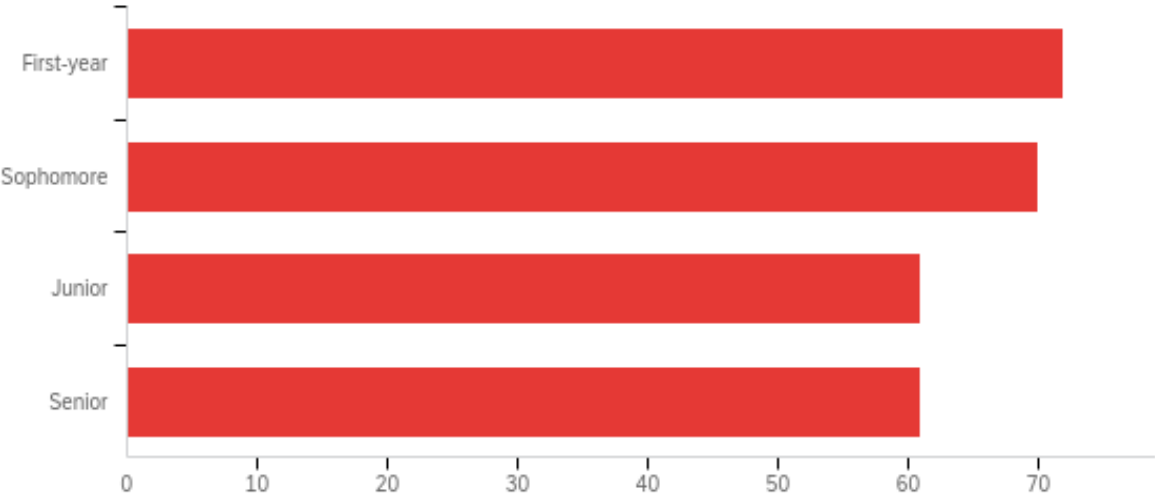
**Administered by Professor Michael Franz and students in Gov 2080  
(Quantitative Analysis of Political Science)**

**Last Modified: 3/14/2024**

NOTE: This poll is based on 264 full or partially completed surveys of a random selection of Bowdoin students between February 4 and 26, 2024. An initial sample of 700 enrolled Bowdoin students received the survey. The survey was distributed via email using the Qualtrics software system. Results are not weighted.

As with all surveys and polls, one should be cautious in drawing too many strong inferences about Bowdoin student attitudes and opinions. Inferences from data like these assume a representative sample and unbiased instruments. In designing this survey, we have worked to minimize bias in sample selection and question wording/order, but we must make assumptions that respondents answer truthfully and/or understand the intention of the questions.

# What year are you?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	First-year	27.27%	72
2	Sophomore	26.52%	70
3	Junior	23.11%	61
4	Senior	23.11%	61
	Total	100%	264

Generally speaking, on a scale of 0-100, with 0 being very liberal and 100 being very conservative, where would you place:

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Your own political views	0.00	100.00	31.77	22.83	521.31	250
2	The political views of the average Bowdoin student	0.00	100.00	26.84	15.49	240.01	250
3	The political views of the average Bowdoin faculty member	0.00	100.00	33.29	13.85	191.76	250

**On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being extremely stressed and 0 being not at all stressed, how stressed have you been in the last week?**

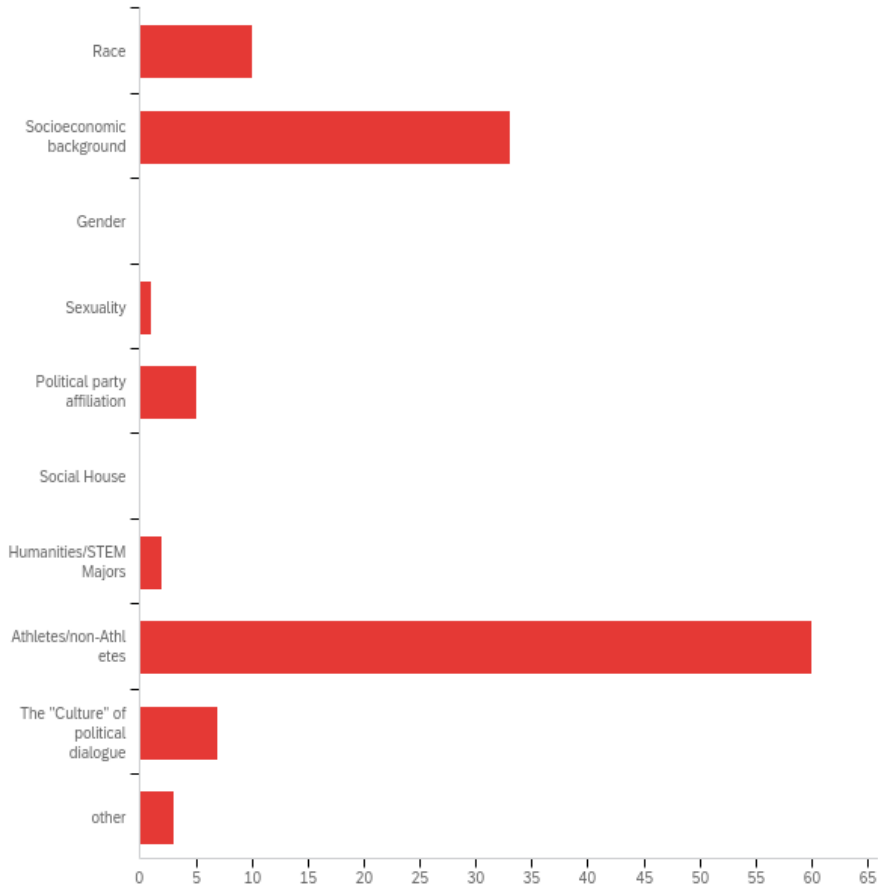
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Stress	0.00	10.00	5.84	2.47	6.09	248

Choose any number between 0 and 100. The higher the number, the warmer or more favorable you feel towards the items below; the lower the number, the colder or less favorable. You would rate the item at the 50-degree mark if you feel neither warm nor cold toward them.

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Safa Zaki	0.00	100.00	68.57	19.05	362.88	239
2	Your major or pre-major advisor (for double majors, consider the advisor you speak with most often)	4.00	100.00	69.38	24.22	586.62	239
3	Bowdoin Student Government (BSG)	0.00	100.00	53.54	20.36	414.59	239
4	Bowdoin Security	0.00	100.00	67.82	20.96	439.51	239
5	Dean for Student Affairs Janet Lohmann	0.00	100.00	40.40	21.27	452.35	239
6	Bowdoin Career Exploration and Development (CXD)	0.00	100.00	64.34	20.09	403.71	239

**What do you think is the greatest point of division among students on campus? By this, we mean the issue that most polarizes students.**

[This question was asked of one-half of the sample]



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Race	8.26%	10
2	Socioeconomic background	27.27%	33
3	Gender	0.00%	0
4	Sexuality	0.83%	1
5	Political party affiliation	4.13%	5
6	Social House	0.00%	0
7	Humanities/STEM Majors	1.65%	2
8	Athletes/non-Athletes	49.59%	60
9	The "Culture" of political dialogue	5.79%	7
10	other	2.48%	3
	Total	100%	121

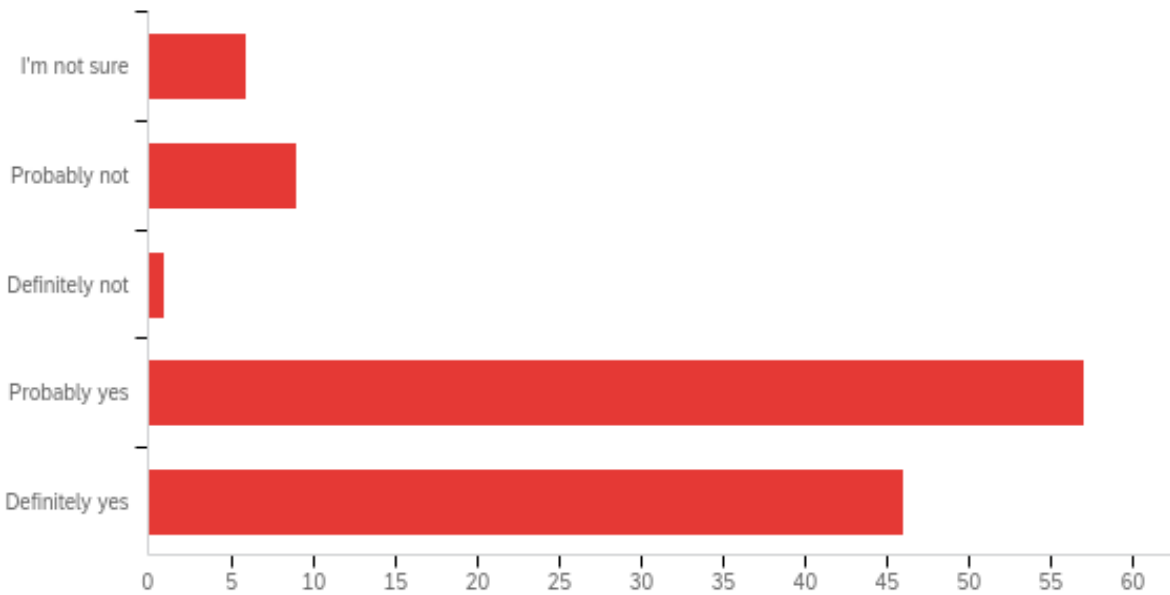
**How much do you think the below issues divide students on campus? By this, we mean how polarized do you think students are on the topic? 0 would mean the issue is not at all a divisive one and 5 would mean that students are extremely divided.**

[This question was asked of one-half of the sample]

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Race	0.10	5.00	2.08	1.10	1.21	55
2	Socioeconomic background	0.40	5.00	2.91	1.18	1.39	64
3	Gender	0.20	4.00	1.67	0.86	0.74	54
4	Sexuality	0.30	3.80	1.54	0.98	0.96	44
5	Political party affiliation	0.20	5.00	2.68	1.38	1.92	63
6	Humanities/STEM Majors	0.00	4.80	1.65	1.23	1.52	50
7	Athletes/non-Athletes	0.50	5.00	3.20	1.20	1.44	59
8	The "culture" of political dialogue	0.40	5.00	2.63	1.22	1.49	61

## Do you think Joe Biden is too old to run for re-election?

[This question was asked of one-half of the sample. The other half was asked the version on the next page.]

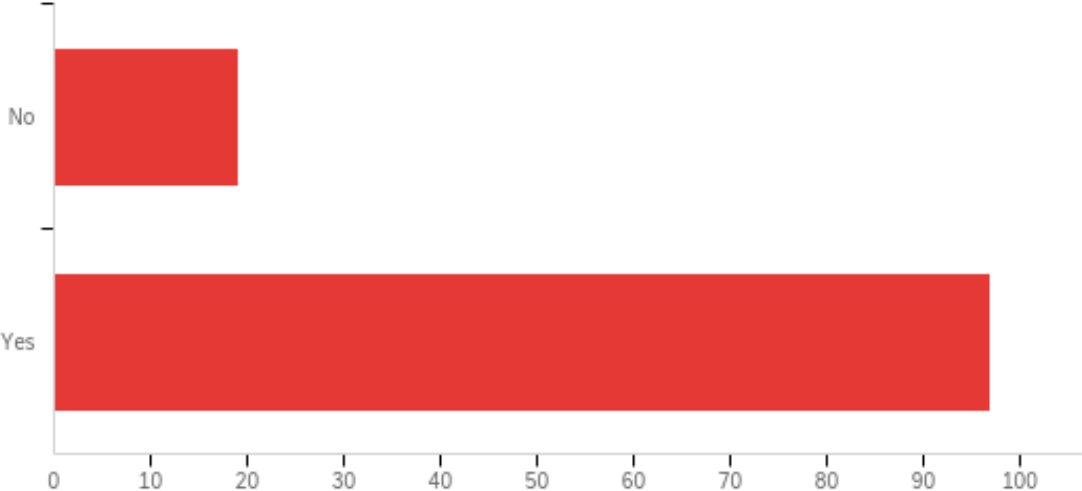


#	Answer	%	Count
0	I'm not sure	5.04%	6
1	Probably not	7.56%	9
2	Definitely not	0.84%	1
-1	Probably yes	47.90%	57
-2	Definitely yes	38.66%	46
	Total	100%	119



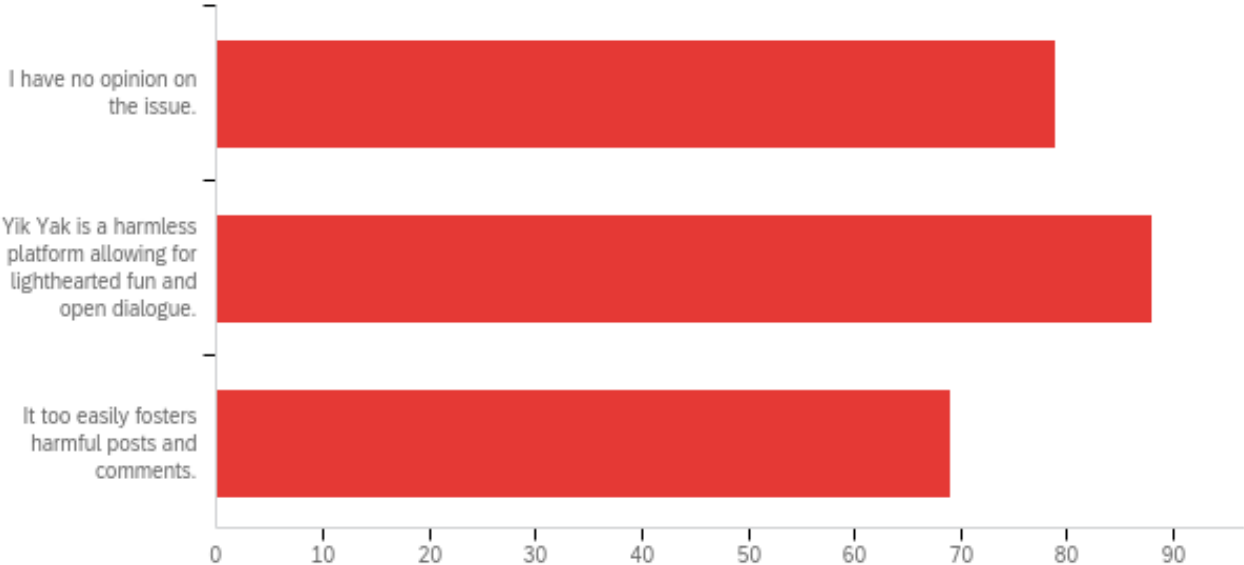
# Do you think Joe Biden is too old to run for re-election?

[This question was asked of one-half of the sample]



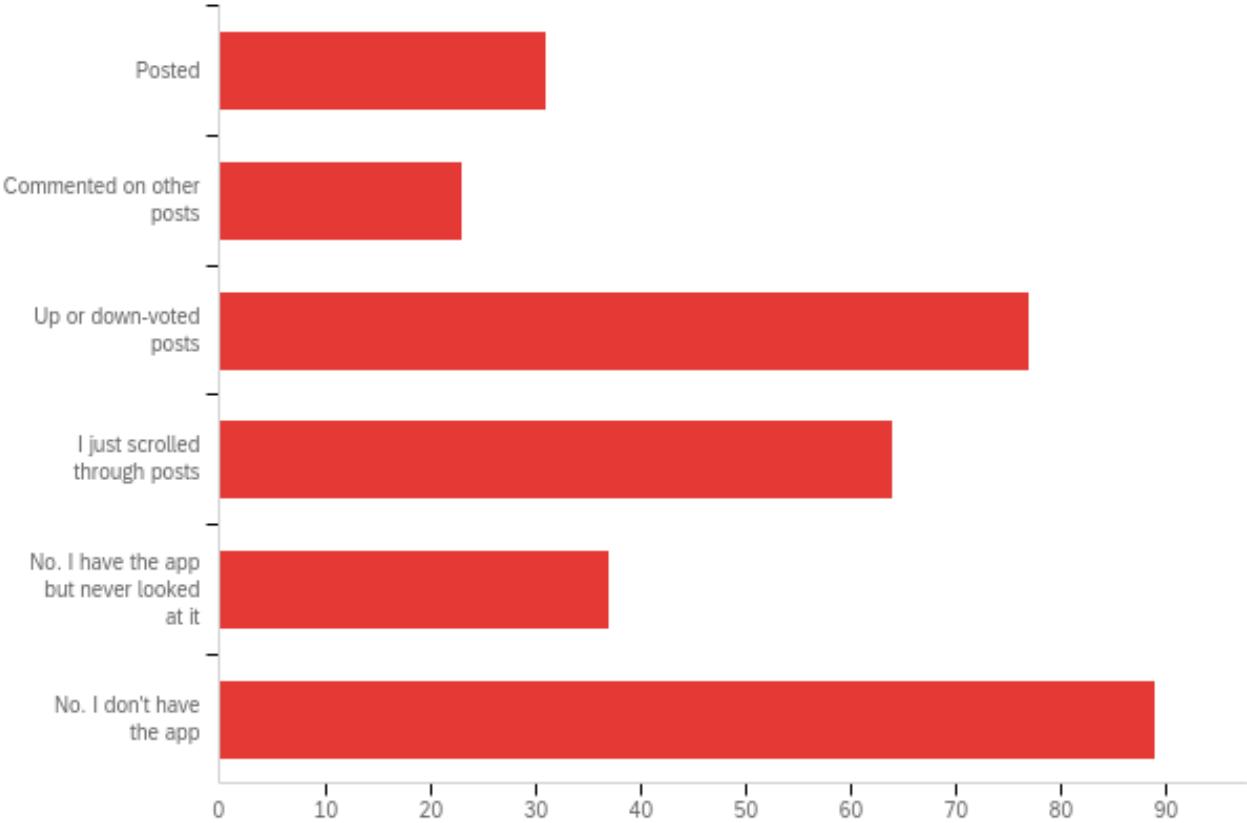
#	Answer	%	Count
0	No	16.38%	19
1	Yes	83.62%	97
	Total	100%	116

Many people are talking about Yik Yak. Do you think Yik Yak is a harmless platform allowing for lighthearted fun and open dialogue, or that it too easily fosters harmful dialogue? Consider in your answer which of the below best reflects your view.



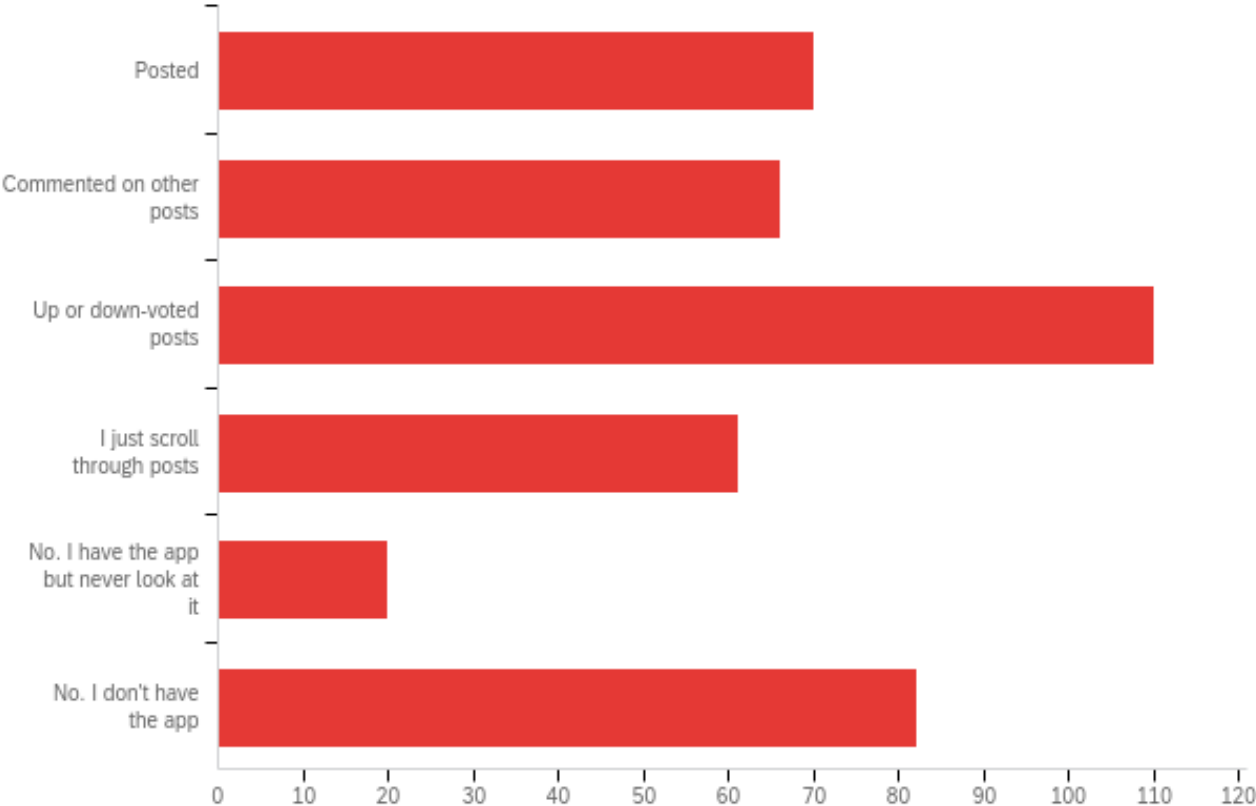
#	Answer	%	Count
0	I have no opinion on the issue.	33.47%	79
1	Yik Yak is a harmless platform allowing for lighthearted fun and open dialogue.	37.29%	88
-1	It too easily fosters harmful posts and comments.	29.24%	69
	Total	100%	236

Have you posted, commented, or up/down voted on Yik Yak in the last week? Check all that apply.



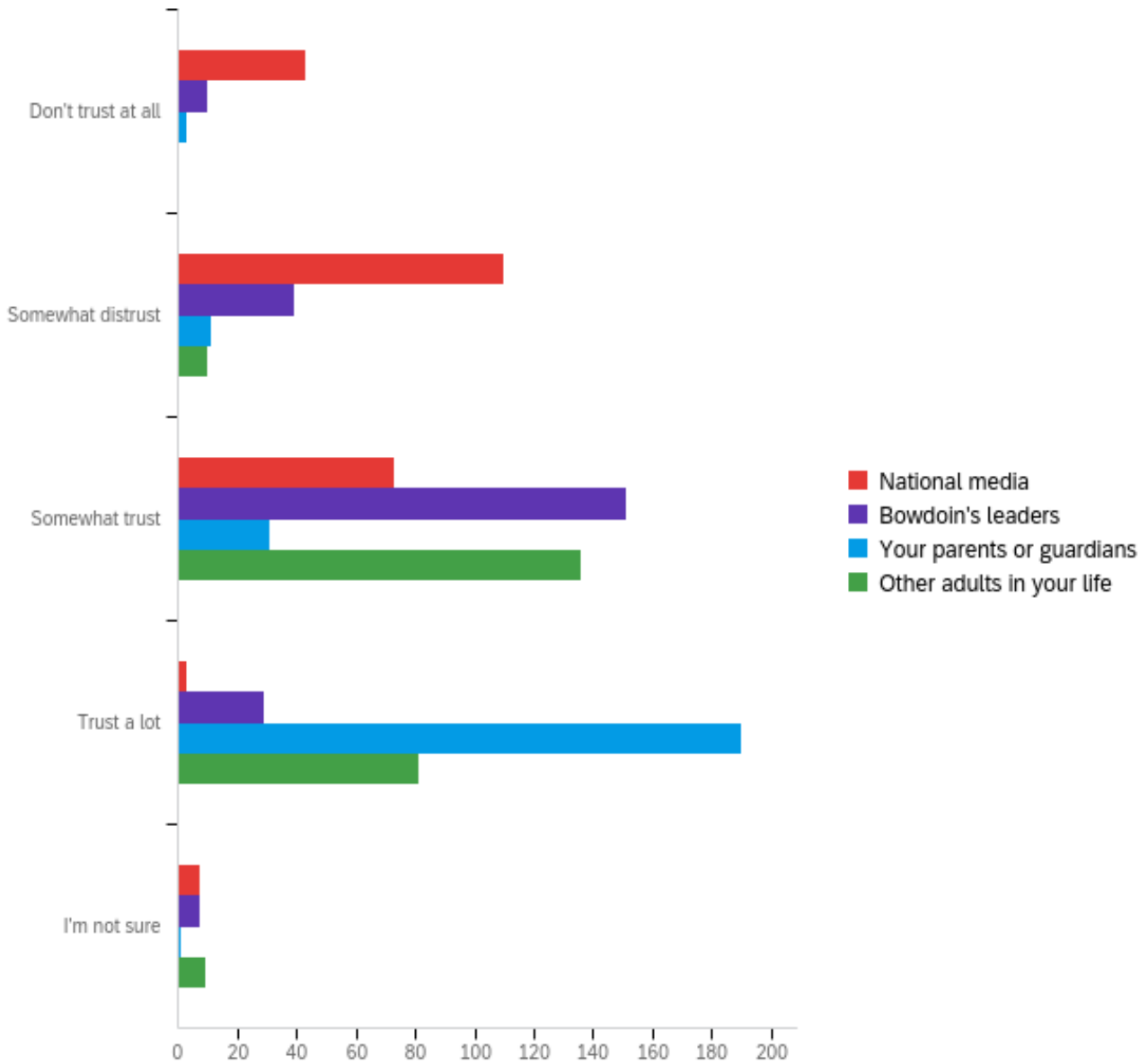
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Posted	9.66%	31
2	Commented on other posts	7.17%	23
3	Up or down-voted posts	23.99%	77
4	I just scrolled through posts	19.94%	64
5	No. I have the app but never looked at it	11.53%	37
6	No. I don't have the app	27.73%	89
	Total	100%	321

Have you posted, commented, or up/down voted on Yik Yak since September? Check all that apply.



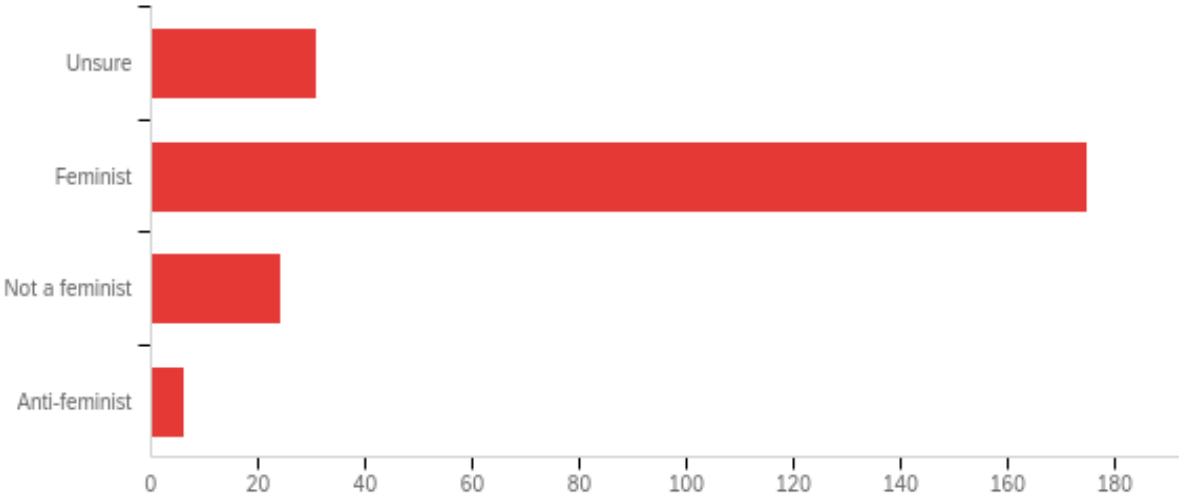
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Posted	17.11%	70
2	Commented on other posts	16.14%	66
3	Up or down-voted posts	26.89%	110
4	I just scroll through posts	14.91%	61
5	No. I have the app but never look at it	4.89%	20
6	No. I don't have the app	20.05%	82
	Total	100%	409

## To what extent do you trust the following people or institutions in your life?



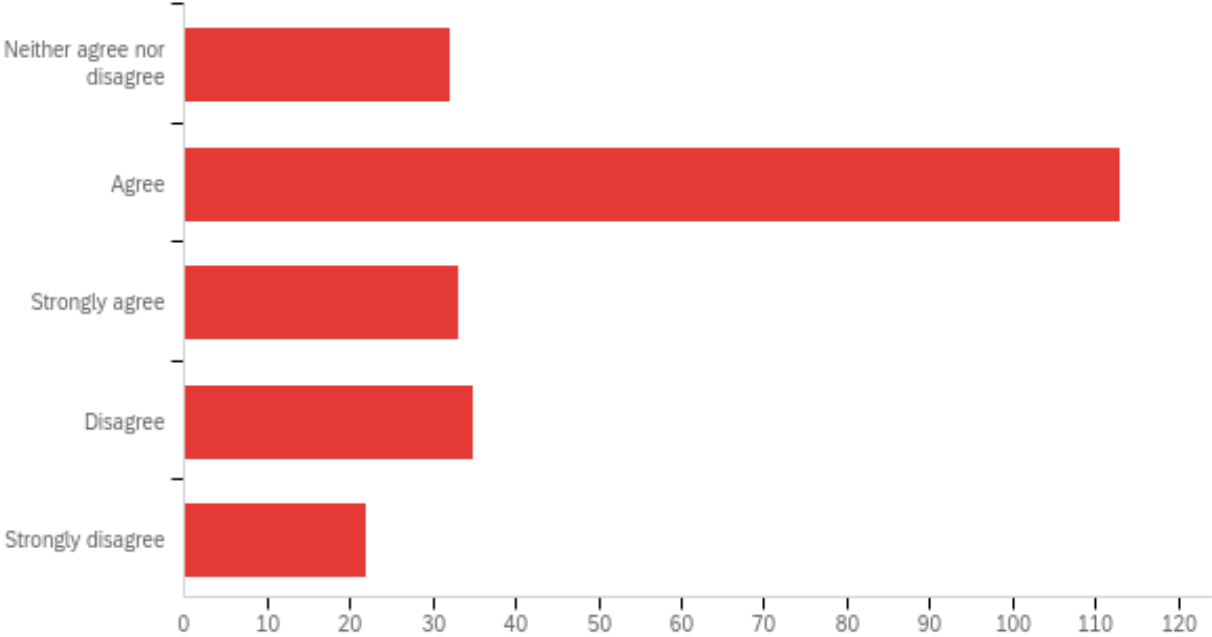
#	Question	Don't trust at all		Somewhat distrust		Somewhat trust		Trust a lot		I'm not sure		Total
1	National media	18.22%	43	46.61%	110	30.93%	73	1.27%	3	2.97%	7	236
2	Bowdoin's leaders	4.24%	10	16.53%	39	63.98%	151	12.29%	29	2.97%	7	236
3	Your parents or guardians	1.27%	3	4.66%	11	13.14%	31	80.51%	190	0.42%	1	236
4	Other adults in your life	0.00%	0	4.24%	10	57.63%	136	34.32%	81	3.81%	9	236

**Do you consider yourself to be a feminist, not a feminist or an anti-feminist?**



#	Answer	%	Count
0	Unsure	13.14%	31
1	Feminist	74.15%	175
-1	Not a feminist	10.17%	24
-2	Anti-feminist	2.54%	6
	Total	100%	236

**How do you evaluate this statement? I feel safe expressing my political views on Bowdoin's campus.**



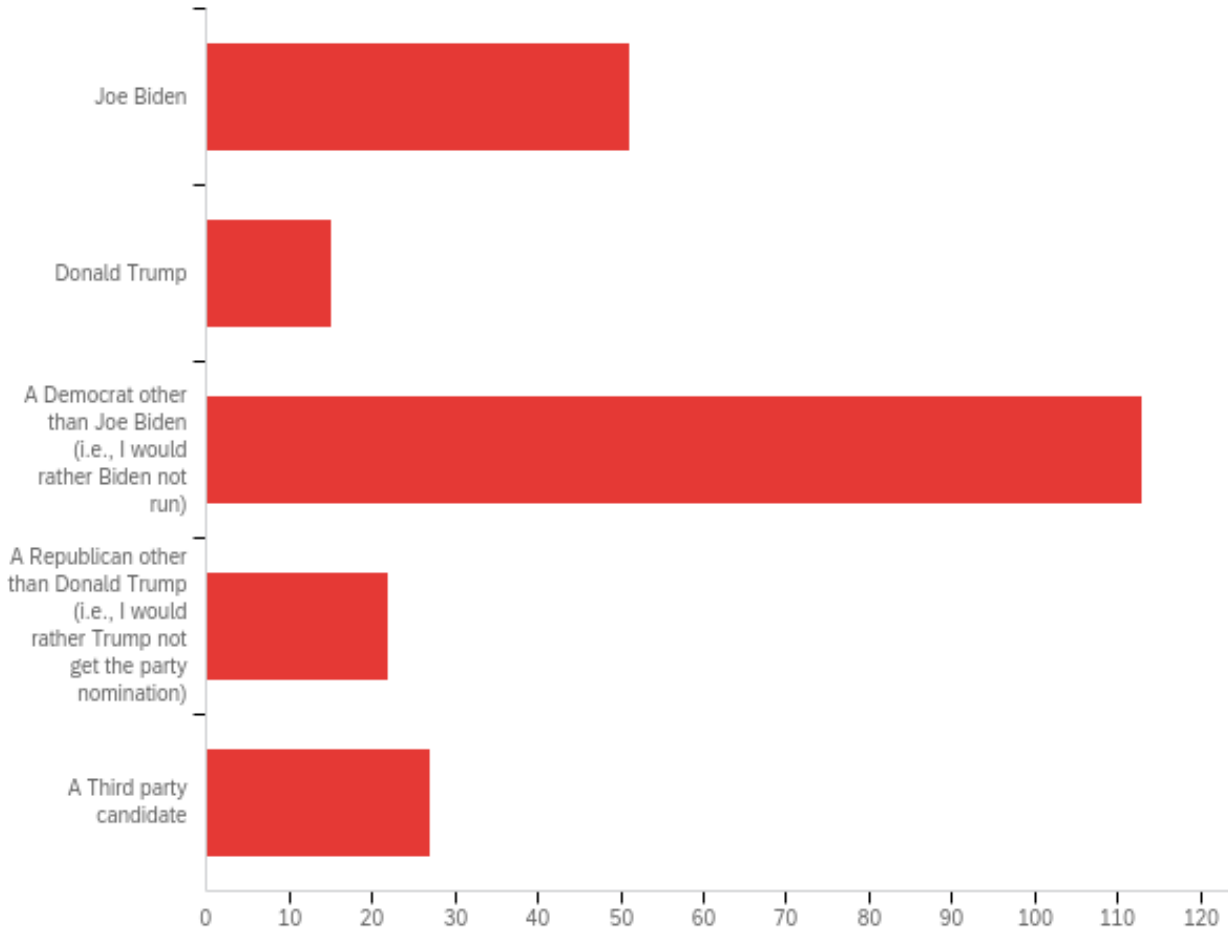
#	Answer	%	Count
0	Neither agree nor disagree	13.62%	32
1	Agree	48.09%	113
2	Strongly agree	14.04%	33
-1	Disagree	14.89%	35
-2	Strongly disagree	9.36%	22
	Total	100%	235

Below are the component parts of the Offer of the College, which is highlighted on Bowdoin's webpage. Consider the opportunities you have had while at Bowdoin. Rate the below from 0 to 100, where 0 would indicate that Bowdoin has not offered you enough opportunities in that area. 100 would indicate that the College has provided many chances for you. 50 would indicate that you are unsure or neutral on the opportunities in that area.

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	TO BE AT HOME in all lands and all ages;	0.00	100.00	61.36	22.46	504.66	228
2	To count Nature a familiar acquaintance,	20.00	100.00	76.18	18.15	329.42	228
3	and Art an intimate friend;	0.00	100.00	64.41	20.75	430.45	228
4	To gain a standard for the appreciation of others' work...And the criticism of your own;	0.00	100.00	72.50	18.77	352.16	228
5	To carry the keys of the world's library in your pocket, and feel its resources behind you in whatever task you undertake;	5.00	100.00	72.07	18.94	358.89	228
6	To make hosts of friends... Who are to be leaders in all walks of life;	0.00	100.00	73.58	23.02	529.91	228
7	To lose yourself in generous enthusiasms	3.00	100.00	69.89	21.45	459.93	228
8	And cooperate with others for common ends	0.00	100.00	71.46	19.60	384.00	228

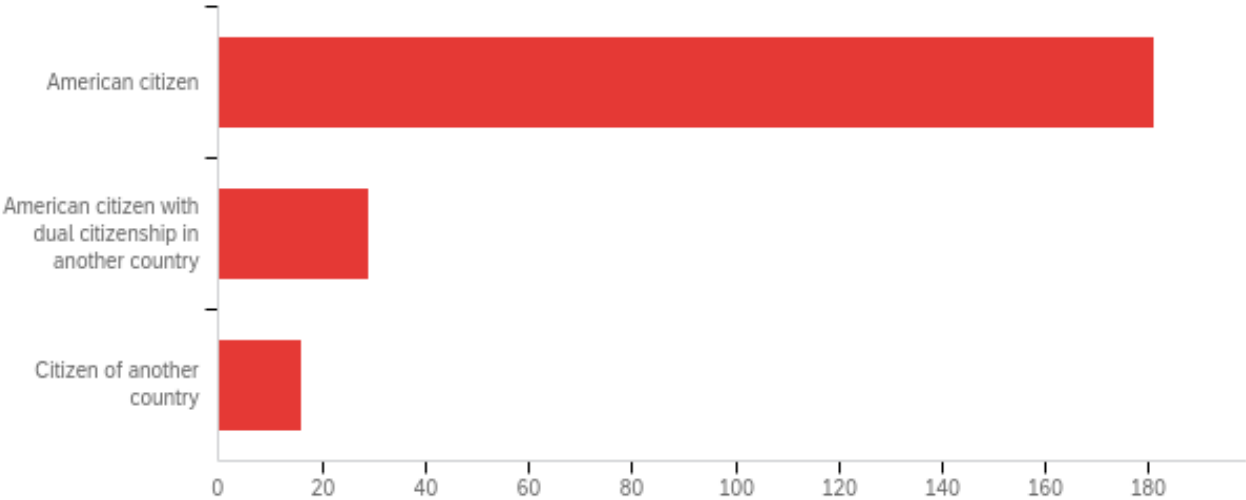


## In this year's presidential election, who do you prefer to win?



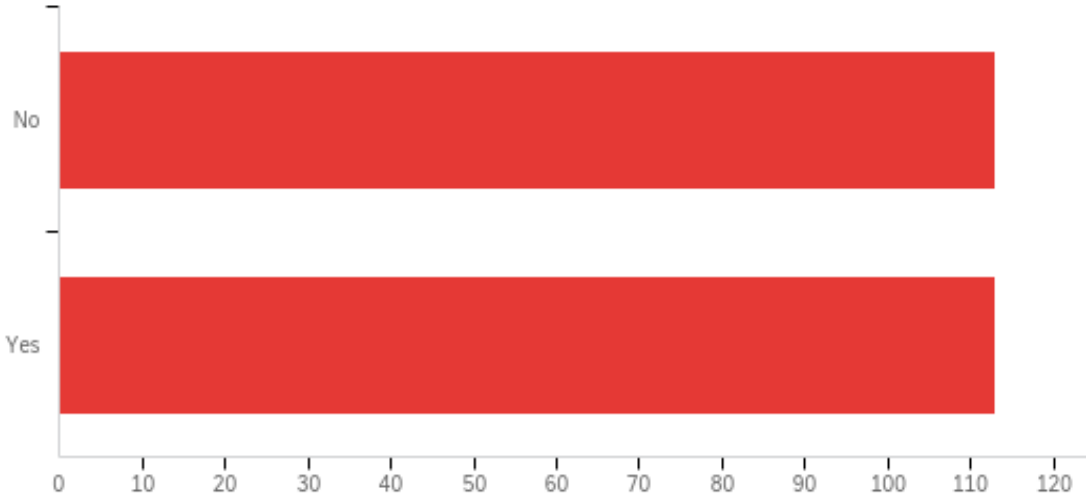
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Joe Biden	22.37%	51
2	Donald Trump	6.58%	15
3	A Democrat other than Joe Biden (i.e., I would rather Biden not run)	49.56%	113
4	A Republican other than Donald Trump (i.e., I would rather Trump not get the party nomination)	9.65%	22
5	A Third party candidate	11.84%	27
	Total	100%	228

**We have just a few final questions. What is your national citizenship?**



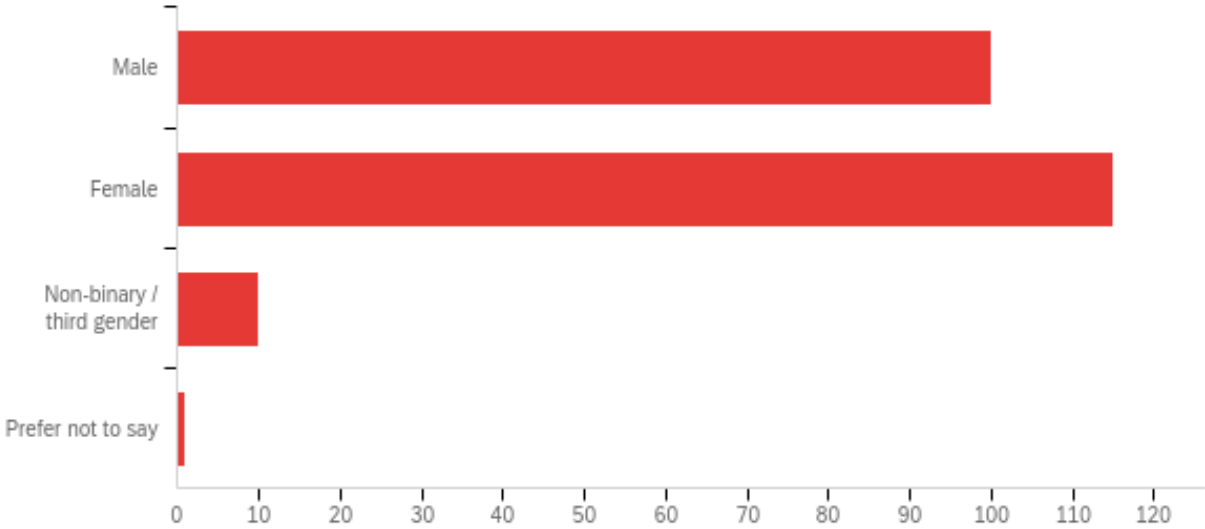
#	Answer	%	Count
1	American citizen	80.09%	181
2	American citizen with dual citizenship in another country	12.83%	29
3	Citizen of another country	7.08%	16
	Total	100%	226

# Do you receive financial aid?



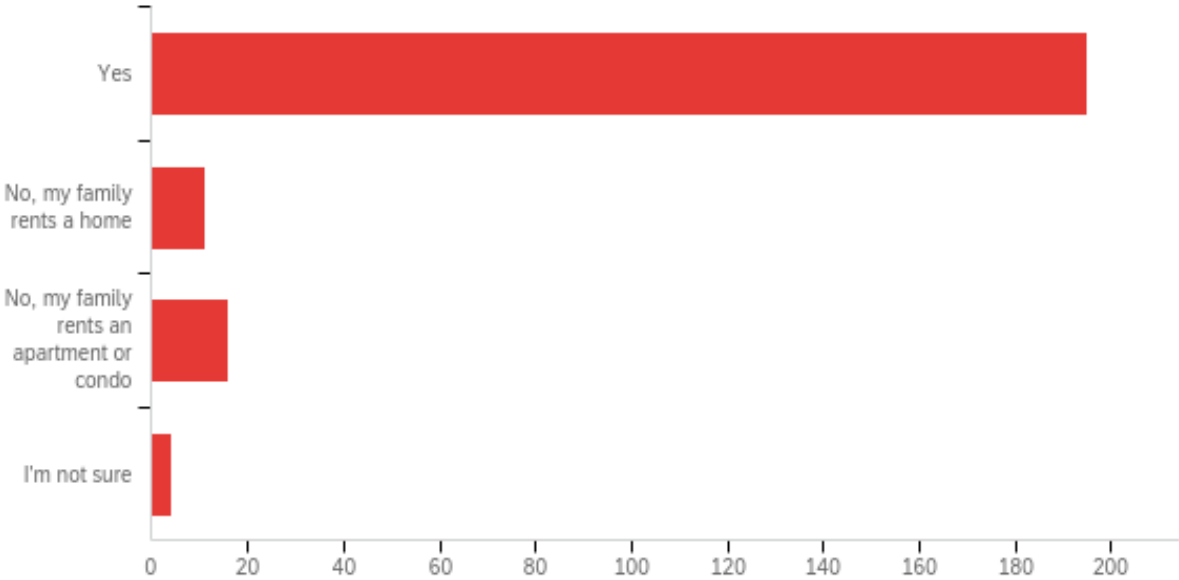
#	Answer	%	Count
0	No	50.00%	113
1	Yes	50.00%	113
	Total	100%	226

# What is your gender identity?



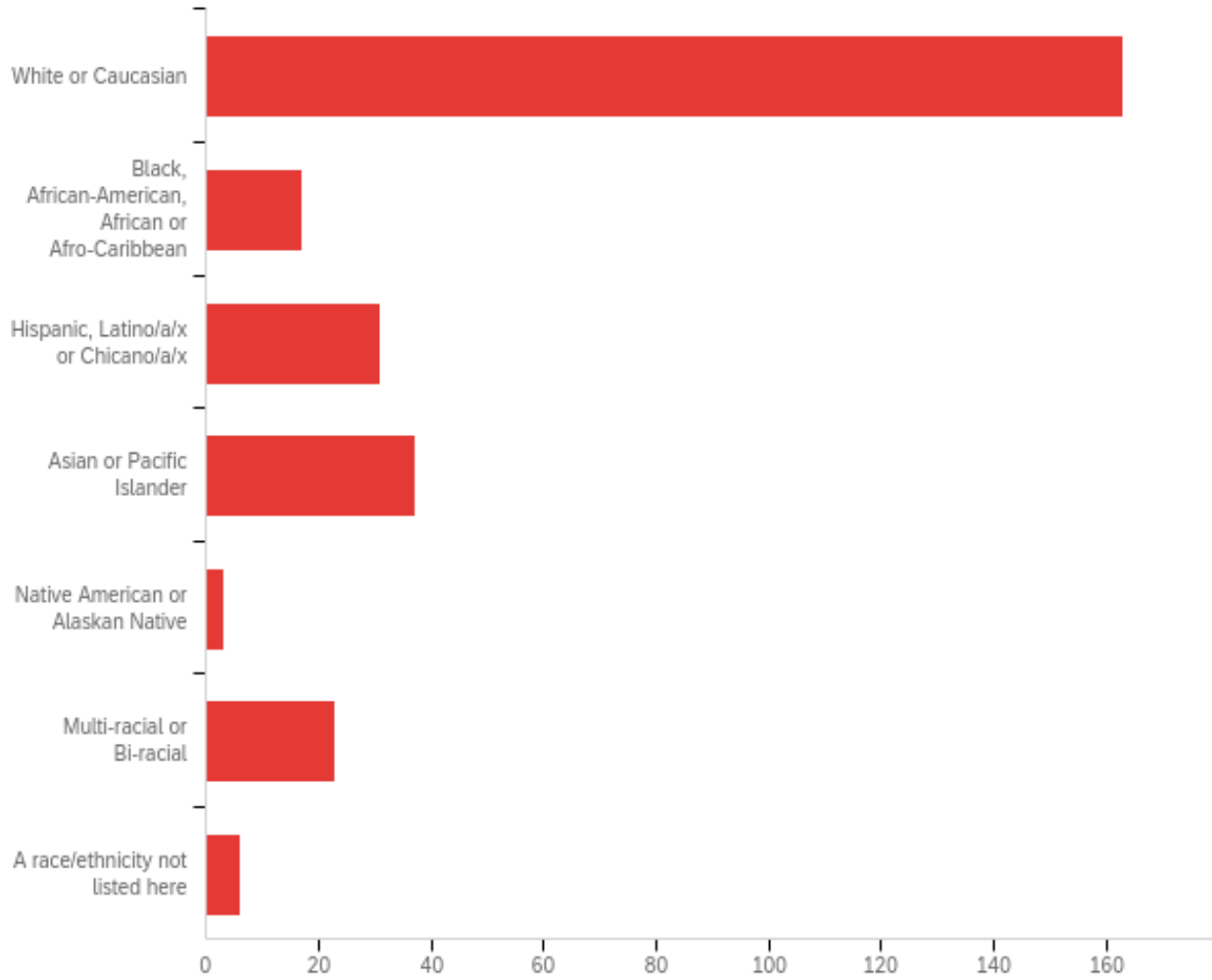
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Male	44.25%	100
2	Female	50.88%	115
3	Non-binary / third gender	4.42%	10
4	Prefer not to say	0.44%	1
	Total	100%	226

# Does your family currently own a home?



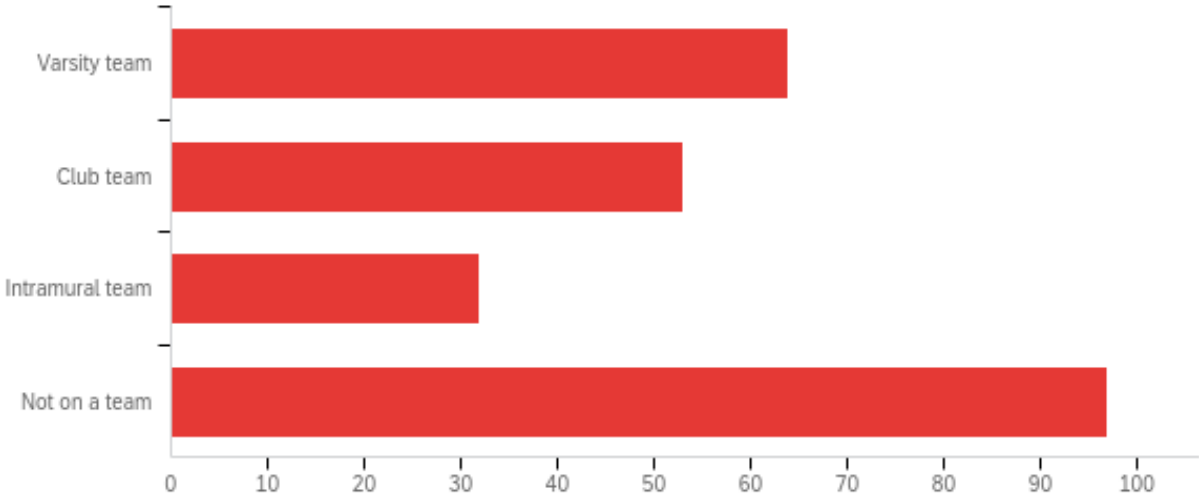
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	86.28%	195
2	No, my family rents a home	4.87%	11
4	No, my family rents an apartment or condo	7.08%	16
5	I'm not sure	1.77%	4
	Total	100%	226

**What racial or ethnic background do you most identify with? Click all that apply.**



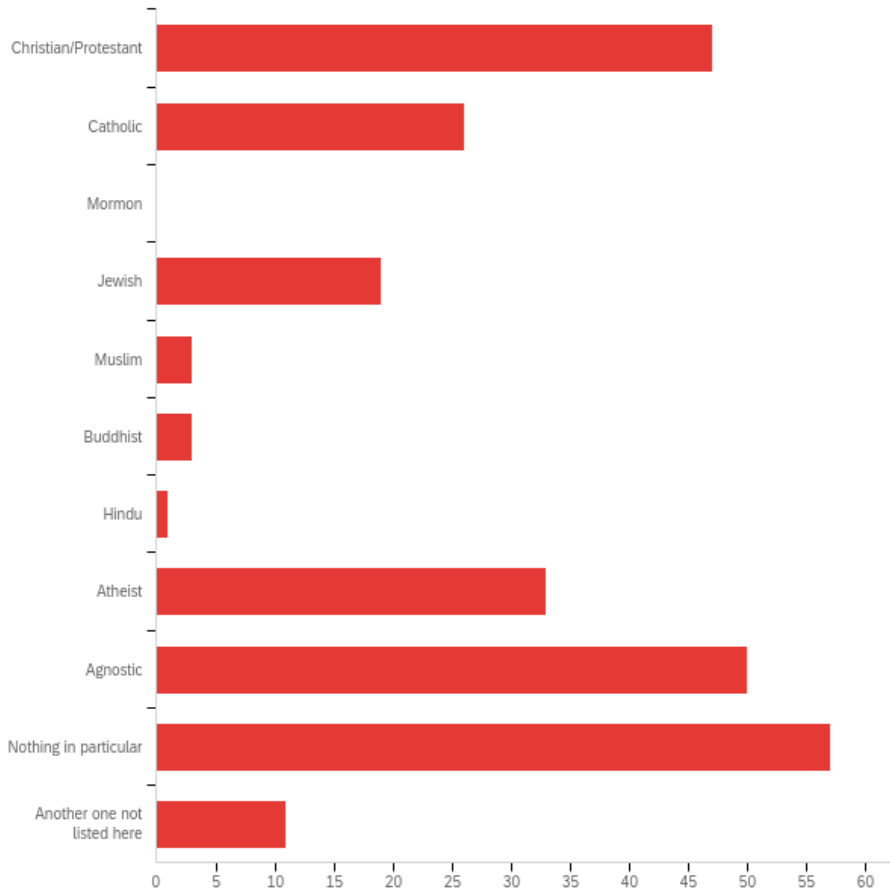
#	Answer	%	Count
1	White or Caucasian	58.21%	163
2	Black, African-American, African or Afro-Caribbean	6.07%	17
3	Hispanic, Latino/a/x or Chicano/a/x	11.07%	31
4	Asian or Pacific Islander	13.21%	37
5	Native American or Alaskan Native	1.07%	3
6	Multi-racial or Bi-racial	8.21%	23
7	A race/ethnicity not listed here	2.14%	6
	Total	100%	280

Are you on an athletic team here at Bowdoin? Click all that apply.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Varsity team	26.02%	64
2	Club team	21.54%	53
3	Intramural team	13.01%	32
4	Not on a team	39.43%	97
	Total	100%	246

**religion1 - What is your current religion, if any? Click all that apply.**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Christian/Protestant	18.80%	47
2	Catholic	10.40%	26
3	Mormon	0.00%	0
4	Jewish	7.60%	19
5	Muslim	1.20%	3
6	Buddhist	1.20%	3
7	Hindu	0.40%	1
8	Atheist	13.20%	33
9	Agnostic	20.00%	50
10	Nothing in particular	22.80%	57
11	Another one not listed here	4.40%	11
	Total	100%	250



**And just this last question: What is your major? Click on more than one of the below if you are a double-major or a coordinate major.**

[This question was asked of juniors and seniors.]

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Africana Studies	1.19%	2
2	Anthropology	1.79%	3
3	Art History	0.60%	1
4	Asian Studies	1.79%	3
5	Biochemistry	2.38%	4
6	Biology	4.76%	8
7	Chemistry	2.38%	4
8	Classics	0.60%	1
9	Computer Science	5.36%	9
10	Digital and Computational Studies	1.79%	3
11	Earth and Oceanographic Science	3.57%	6
12	Economics	7.74%	13
13	Education	1.79%	3
14	English	2.98%	5
15	Environmental Studies	5.36%	9
16	Francophone Studies	2.38%	4
17	Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	1.19%	2
18	German	1.79%	3
19	Government and Legal Studies	20.24%	34
20	Hispanic Studies	2.98%	5
21	History	4.76%	8
22	Italian Studies	0.00%	0
23	Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies	2.38%	4
24	Mathematics	5.36%	9
25	Music	0.60%	1
26	Neuroscience	4.17%	7

27	Philosophy	1.19%	2
28	Physics	2.98%	5
29	Psychology	2.98%	5
30	Religion	0.00%	0
31	Romance Languages and Literatures	0.60%	1
32	Russian	0.00%	0
33	Sociology	1.79%	3
34	Theater and Dance	0.00%	0
35	Visual Arts	0.60%	1
	Total	100%	168

**And just this last question: What are you considering as a major? Click on more than one of the below if you are unsure (i.e. considering a few options) or plan to double-major.**

[This question was asked of first-years and sophomores.]

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Africana Studies	0.40%	1
2	Anthropology	1.20%	3
3	Art History	0.80%	2
4	Asian Studies	1.60%	4
5	Biochemistry	2.40%	6
6	Biology	8.00%	20
7	Chemistry	3.20%	8
8	Classics	0.00%	0
9	Computer Science	2.80%	7
10	Digital and Computational Studies	1.20%	3
11	Earth and Oceanographic Science	2.80%	7
12	Economics	8.00%	20
13	Education	4.00%	10
14	English	3.20%	8
15	Environmental Studies	4.00%	10
16	Francophone Studies	1.20%	3
17	Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	1.60%	4
18	German	1.20%	3
19	Government and Legal Studies	19.20%	48
20	Hispanic Studies	1.60%	4
21	History	5.60%	14
22	Italian Studies	0.40%	1
23	Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies	1.20%	3
24	Mathematics	4.40%	11
25	Music	0.80%	2

26	Neuroscience	5.20%	13
27	Philosophy	4.40%	11
28	Physics	1.20%	3
29	Psychology	4.80%	12
30	Religion	0.00%	0
31	Romance Languages and Literatures	0.00%	0
32	Russian	0.40%	1
33	Sociology	1.60%	4
34	Theater and Dance	1.20%	3
35	Visual Arts	0.40%	1
	Total	100%	250