

Second-Year Retreat Evaluations

Below are statements expressing key goals for the retreat. Please rate each of the statements using the following rubric:

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	The retreat has helped me to better understand the meaning(s) of a liberal arts education.	23	42.6%	26	48.1%	5	9.3%	0	
The retreat has helped me develop a clearer sense of my short-term goals.	21	38.9%	31	57.4%	2	3.7%	0	0.0%	54
The retreat has helped me develop a clearer sense of my life goals.	10	18.5%	34	63.0%	10	18.5%	0	0.0%	54
The retreat has helped me develop a clearer sense of how my time at Grinnell College can help me pursue my life goals.	25	46.3%	23	42.6%	6	11.1%	0	0.0%	54
The retreat has helped me better understand the opportunities and resources available to me at Grinnell	19	35.2%	34	63.0%	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	54
The retreat has provided me with the opportunity to connect with my friends.	27	50.0%	24	44.4%	2	3.7%	1	1.9%	54
The retreat has provided me with the opportunity to meet new people	24	44.4%	26	48.1%	4	7.4%	0	0.0%	54

Please rate the usefulness of each of the program sessions:

STATEMENTS	Useful		Somewhat Useful		Not Very Useful		Useless		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Daring by Design (Friday evening)	5	9.3%	22	40.7%	20	37.0%	7	13.0%	54
Ira Strauber's "Liberal Arts and Liberal Lives"	31	57.4%	19	35.2%	4	7.4%	0	0.0%	54
Alumni panel	38	74.5%	8	15.7%	5	9.8%	0	0.0%	51
Charting the Course(s) of my Liberal Lives (Transcript Analysis)	23	44.2%	20	38.5%	8	15.4%	1	1.9%	52
Self-reflection with Steve Langerud	41	77.4%	11	20.8%	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	53
Daring by Design II (Saturday evening)	3	5.6%	12	22.2%	19	35.2%	20	37.0%	54
Challenge and Opportunity (Sunday morning)	27	54.0%	19	38.0%	4	8.0%	0	0.0%	50
Action Plan: Start, Stop, Continue	31	57.4%	21	38.9%	2	3.7%	0	0.0%	54
Free time	48	88.9%	3	5.6%	3	5.6%	0	0.0%	54
Small group discussion	35	67.3%	13	25.0%	3	5.8%	1	1.9%	52

Evaluation of Accommodations:

STATEMENTS	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Location	25	46.3%	24	44.4%	5	9.3%	0	0.0%	54
Facilities	15	27.8%	28	51.9%	10	18.5%	1	1.9%	54
Food	1	1.9%	17	31.5%	26	48.1%	10	18.5%	54
Transportation	24	44.4%	26	48.1%	3	5.6%	1	1.9%	54

STATEMENTS	Yes		No		Maybe		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Knowing what you know now, would you still have chosen to attend?	50	92.6%	0	0.0%	4	7.4%	54
Would you encourage others to attend?	48	88.9%	1	1.9%	5	9.3%	54
Should Grinnell continue to offer a retreat?	54	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	54

Comments:

- * It was a very valuable experience.
- * It was helpful.
- * Students who know what they want to do may find this less helpful.
- * Highly recommended – especially if a student is unsure about what they want to do or needs help limiting options.
- * It was great to get away.
- * Didn't help too much – already had an idea of my direction/goals.

Strengths of the Retreat

- * Time for self-reflection
- * Time to do some self-evaluation – what are my strengths, passions, options
- * Small group discussions
- * Interactions with alumni, faculty and staff
- * Realize that “I am not alone”
- * Time to focus, clarify goals
- * Good “community” experience
- * Better understanding of a liberally educated person

Areas of Improvement

- * More time to interact with faculty and staff
- * More small group discussions
- * Less abstract – more concrete. Students wanted more time to focus on their specific situations.
- * A different motivational speaker – although students found the motivational speaker to be entertaining they didn't think he was very helpful.