A total of 123 freshman and 164 seniors provided responses in this section of the NSSE survey for a total of 287 comments in response to the question: "Think about the experiences you may have had with local, campus, state, national, or global issues. What about these experiences has been most meaningful to you?" Of those comments, 76 comments were not included in the analysis as they did not pertain to the question asked leaving 211 remaining comments to be analyzed.

	Comment Retained	Comment Removed	Total
Freshman	86	37	123
Senior	125	39	164
Total	211	76	287

The 211 comments were then analyzed and coded into various categories intended to organize and capture the spirit of each comment. Codes were created after first reviewing the comments and identifying themes. Comments ranged in length and depth from one word covering one topic to multiple sentences offering a range of experiences and ideas. The following table provides each coding category and sample comments.

Experience Category	
Community	"Regardless of the issue it was very encouraging to see your peers take charge on an issue that has had some impact on a local community. It is great to see how people come together to either discuss or find some type of resolution." "The most meaningful piece to me has just been becoming connected to the world I live in and actually being aware and able to influence the community I live in."
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	"I have learned so much about diversity in my time here, and it has helped me tremendously in both social and work environments." "Working towards desegregating our campus and making sure everyone feels included!"
Engagement	"Through my professional fraternity, we do a lot of philanthropy events which go towards good causes and it's nice to do things for people in need." "The most meaningful experience to me that deals with state issues was volunteering at the Veteran's home. I got to interact with amazing individuals who love having visitors. It truly was a great experience."
Expression	"What has been most meaningful is that everyone has the freedom to express how they actually feel. I feel like we're provided a space where we can give our opinions without being judged." "The ability to have a respectful debate with my peers about these issues is important because it allows you to build confidence and debate skills while learning how others feel about an issue."
Growth	"The community i have gained from these experiences have helped make the transition to college manageable. Being apart of something beyond myself has helped me better myself and reevaluate the choices i make everyday." "Being able to make an impact on a community less well off than my own."

Experience Category, continued

Issue	*"For me anything that has to do with the environment or wildlife is meaningful to me."* *"My most meaningful experience has been attending marches and rallies (for gun safety, women's rights, reproductive rights, etc.) in town for the past few years. I love being a part of a group that is fighting for equality for all."*
Knowledge	*"It has made me realize a lot about the general college community. I've learned how generally uninformed most students are, and see how easily swayed they are by what they hear."* *"The ability to work with other students on things that are important. Drawing from other's enthusiasm and passion for different issues. Learning the other side of the debate."*
Voting	*"The emphasis on the importance of voting in the fall was very encouraging, as there are quite a bit of people my age who don't really pay attention to politics and may have needed that extra push to go out and vote."* *"I noticed the bulk of social issues awareness was around the time of the election. From that, I was made aware of the importance of voting."*
None	*"I am not really interested in these kinds of issues, therefore I don't have any experiences with them."* *"I personally have never had many experiences with campus, local, state, national, or global issues."*

Perception (related to campus experiences)

Positive	*"it means the most to me to be able to feel safe on campus with my political ideas, which i do"* *"I attended a leadership program that allowed me to build friendships and get involved not just on campus but also in the community. We were able to develop many skills that can help us in many aspects as well as get more involved."*
Negative	*"I am don't believe that people are inherently good anymore."* *"I can't say I have. The campus is very liberal and if you don't agree with them, you are wrong, you must be an awful person, and are trolled on social media."*

Experience Setting

Curricular	*"I did a psychology study on Racial microaggressions which I found really interesting and wasn't aware it happened as much as it. I realized it was happening in my everyday life."* *"I would say the most meaningful issue for me was working with my professor to get the tobacco 21 law based in the Normal area. Our class worked extremely hard to get this passed for the betterment of the younger generations and seeing this pass while still here was amazing to me!"*
Co-curricular	*"Previously working as a Resident Assistant and working in residence halls' student governments provided me with the most meaningful opportunities to have discussions and create changes related to this topic."* *"Working for WZND, I report on campus issues on a weekly basis. This has given me a good understanding of what is happening in our community"*

Experience Setting, continued	
Entire campus (both curricular and co-curricular)	*"I think it is wonderful how ISU supports DACA and how a group of people got to go around campus and march supporting DACA."* *"I believe that my time here at Illinois State has helped develop me into a well rounded individual. From growing as an organizational & leadership communication major, to becoming more politically active, and thus becoming more professionally developed, I'm grateful for all of the people who have positively benefited my life from my time here in Normal. This institution does a great job guiding you to the correct path & keeping you on track in order to earn the degree of your desire."*
Personal	*"Coming from a military background I've been close to some issues with the role our armed forces have in the world. Most notable is the ongoing conflict between North and South Korea."* *"I think the experiences that the negative issues have been the most meaningful because it reminds me of how unjust our world is. People who act like discrimination's gone or that it needs to be ignored are the same people guilty of it."*

Comments could have been coded into multiple "Experience Categories" but were only identified to have one code in each of the other groupings. A code of "None" under the "Experience Categories" indicated that the student mentioned they could not recall a specific experience. Codes were only assigned in the "Perception" grouping if the "Experience Setting" involved "curricular," "co-curricular," or "entire campus" experiences to get a sense of how students were perceiving their campus-specific experiences related to civic engagement.

In terms of the frequency of codes, students most identified experiences involving "expression" and "engagement" to be the most meaningful. The table below provides a break-down of how frequently each category was found by year in school. It is interesting to note that both the "engagement," "expression," "growth," and "knowledge" codes were found to have a higher frequency in seniors than freshman. This is likely attributed to the time spent at the institution. Conversely, "diversity, equity, and inclusion," "community," and "none" categories decreased in the senior year compared to the freshman year. This can also likely be attributed to the amount of time and more limited experiences freshman students have had compared to seniors.

Experience Category	Year in School		
	Freshman	**Senior**	**Total**
Community	8	4	**12**
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	14	7	**21**
Engagement	12	39	**51**
Expression	19	32	**51**
Growth	7	16	**23**
Issue	16	17	**33**
Knowledge	11	27	**38**
Voting	7	10	**17**
None	11	5	**16**
Total	**105**	**157**	**262**

Student experience categories were also compared with experience settings to determine where or when meaningful civic engagement discussions or activities were happening for students. Based on the table below, it is important to note that most of these experiences are taking place on the ISU campus (nearly 70 percent). In most instances, about a third of student experiences alluded to the entire campus environment and culture.

Experience Category	Experience Setting				
	Curricular	Co-Curricular	Entire Campus	Personal	Total
Community			7	5	**12**
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	4	5	10	2	**21**
Engagement	11	25	8	7	**51**
Expression	8	3	25	15	**51**
Growth	3	3	7	10	**23**
Issue	2	5	6	20	**33**
Knowledge	16	1	10	11	**38**
Voting		4	7	6	**17**
Total	**44**	**46**	**80**	**76**	**246**

Note: The "None" experience category is removed from this table.

Comments that pertained to experiences within the ISU campus (curricular, co-curricular, or entire campus experience settings) were also coded for their perception. Comments were rated as being either "positive" or "negative." The majority of comments (93 percent) were positive. The table below provides the breakdown of positive versus negative perceptions of ISU's campus as it relates to the various experience categories. Negative comments were found in both freshman and senior level students; however, the most negative comments came from seniors regarding their perceived lack of acceptance for their political views on campus in a variety of settings. In every comment, students expressed that their conservative views were often disregarded or silenced in both classroom and out-of-class discussions and touted ISU's campus as "liberal" and "leftist." The vast majority of students articulating meaningful experiences related to "expression" commented that ISU was open, inclusive, and accepting of different views; however, it is apparent from the offered negative comments that this is not a reality for all students and should be addressed.

Experience Category	Perception		
	Positive	Negative	Total
Community	7		**7**
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	17	2	**19**
Engagement	43	1	**44**
Expression	30	6	**36**
Growth	14	1	**15**
Issue	16		**16**
Knowledge	26	1	**27**
Voting	10	1	**11**
Total	**163**	**12**	**175**

The comments provided in this NSSE Civic Engagement Module from spring 2019 are informative as campus continues to encourage faculty and staff to engage students in meaningful dialogue and encourage respectful discourse. It is evident that experiences that encourage students to dialogue about issues provided meaningful learning experiences for them supporting campus's ongoing efforts to further bolster that important pedagogical practice of deliberation in the classroom. Additionally, the meaningful engagement experiences were also noted by students. Whether through their involvement with a registered student organization or within a class, students were engaging with issues and sometimes experiencing the impacts of those issues firsthand.

Overall, these comments further reiterate the high-impact practice of civic engagement and its importance for student learning and growth.