


The report's chief recommendation is that the problems of information overload, confusion about formal politics and uncertainty over ways to achieve social change could be mitigated if students had more opportunities to discuss current issues. It also suggests providing more experiences to stimulate meaningful discussions in various "open" and "authentic" settings—venues not dominated by groups that have political agendas.

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The research is based on 47 focus groups with a total of 386 student participants, conducted by CIRCLE on 12 four-year college and university campuses. These two-hour focus groups were conducted on campuses between October 2006 and July 2007 (pilot focus groups were conducted at the University of Maryland in June 2006). Students also completed a brief survey and received compensation for participation.

Students participating in the survey attended the following campuses: Bowdoin College; Kansas State University; Princeton University; Providence College; Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.; University of California, Berkeley; University of Dayton; University of Maryland; University of Massachusetts, Boston; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; University of New Mexico and Wake Forest University. 

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The San Francisco Chronicle, 1/6/2008
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- ≡ "Service Trumps Politics for Young" by Rebecca Putterman
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