



VIETABROADER STUDY ABROAD CONFERENCE •————• 2012 •————• Ho Chi Minh City REPORT

Orientation Day - July 15, 2012

Conference Day - July 21, 2012

About



VietAbroad is a *student-run, non-profit* organization that empowers Vietnamese youth to contribute to the sustainable development of Vietnam. VietAbroad was founded in 2004 and current VietAbroad members are attending 50+ colleges and working for 20+ companies in the U.S. We organize educational and professional programs to equip Vietnamese youth with knowledge and a support network for their academic as well as professional developments.

VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference, the flagship program of VietAbroad Organization, was initiated in 2005. The conference seeks to provide Vietnamese students with training and guidance to encourage them to study abroad, primarily in the United States. The event includes a seminar in the morning, which provides attendees with general information on U.S. education, and a school fair in the afternoon, where students can ascertain school facts and scholarship programs through representatives of more than 80 top U.S. schools. This year, the conference was held on July 21, 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City and July 22, 2012 in Hanoi.



Foreword

Nguyen Thi Ky Binh

Conference Chair 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City

On behalf of the VietAbroad Conference Staff



We are pleased to announce the publication of this report on VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City. The conference has come a long way since its first inception in 2005, adding on new features every year. This year has marked a complete transformation of the conference in various ways, and we sincerely hope that you have enjoyed the experience with us.

We would like to take this opportunity to dedicate a special appreciation firstly to all of our attendees, for you are the single most critical reason why we are here today. We would also like to thank our sponsors, our partners and our friends, for your tremendous support have made this event possible. Our commitment to cater to the needs of our attendees today and to empower the Vietnamese youth tomorrow, without you all, would not have taken us this far.

We trust that you will find this report informative and enjoyable. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this year's conference and suggestions for the coming years. And once again, thank you very much for your interest in VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference.



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Agenda



Orientation Day - July 15, 2012

07:00 - 08:00 Check-in

08:00 - 08:15 Opening Remarks

08:15 - 08:30 Why US?

08:30 - 08:45 Liberal Arts Colleges vs. National Universities

08:45 - 10:55 How to apply

08:45 - 09:00 Academic Achievements and Awards

09:00 - 09:20 Standardized Tests

09:20 - 09:30 Break

09:30 - 09:40 Q&A

09:40 - 10:05 Recommendation Letters & Extracurricular Activities

10:05 - 10:40 Essays and Supplemental Materials

10:40 - 10:55 Interviews and Timeline

10:55 - 11:05 Break

11:05 - 11:25 Financial Aid Policy and Forms

11:25 - 11:35 Q&A

11:35 - 11:45 Closing Remarks

Conference Day - July 21, 2012

07:00 – 12:30 Morning Session

07:00 – 08:00 Check-in

08:00 – 08:20 Opening Ceremony

08:20 – 08:30 Break

08:30 – 11:05 Information Sessions

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
08:30 - 09:15	School Selection	Experience Sharing	Essays
09:15 - 09:25	Break	Break	Break
09:25 - 10:10	Experience Sharing	Essays	School Selection
10:10 - 10:20	Break	Break	Break
10:20 - 11:05	Essays	School Selection	Experience Sharing

11:05 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 11:55 Student Life

11:55 - 12:10 Sponsor School's Quizzes

12:10 - 12:20 Raffles

12:20 - 12:30 Closing Ceremony

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 18:00 Afternoon Sessions

Main Hall

14:00 - 18:00 School Fair

Small Room 1

14:10 - 15:10 Drexel University Info Session

15:20 - 16:20 Kansas State University Info Session

16:30 - 17:30 Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Info Session

Small Room 2

14:10 - 15:00 High Schools

15:10 - 16:10 Community Colleges

16:20 - 16:50 Mock Classrooms

17:00 - 17:30 Gap Year Talk

Background & Highlights



In the past few years, the need for information on studying abroad, especially in the United States, has continued to surge. Consequently, an array of platforms such as online databases, online communities, school fairs and conferences to provide basic information on the admission process to US institutions has emerged. **VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference** was a part of that collective effort to empower the Vietnamese youth. Over the years we have perceived the challenges in meeting **the expectations of both groups: those who come to us without a clear direction** with regard to studying abroad, **and those with extensive understanding** of the topic. Thus, we resolved to maintain the **Orientation Day** to serve the first group of students.

However, as technology grows, information on studying abroad becomes just a click away from our attendees. This renders any other sources obsolete. Our students now **demand significantly more** than what the traditional conference could deliver: General and basic information has taken a backseat to **real and instructive insights**, together with **better networking opportunities** with guest speakers and **more interactions** among the attendees.

Every year we strive to maximize our performance and thus, in such pretext the VietAbroad Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City has set out to become a **transformational experience** to our attendees with **a far more personal touch**. Below are the 5 most distinctive highlights of our conference this year:

Highlights of the **VietAbroad** Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City:

1. *Room Rotation Model*
2. *Essay Analysis Section*
3. *Mock Classroom & Gap Year Talk*
4. *Post O-Day Quiz & Pre-Conference Quiz*
5. *Booklet*

Room Rotation Model



The Room Rotation Model is the hallmark of the conference this year and also the backbone of the conference. All attendees were divided into three groups of roughly 70 students each. With the exception of the Student Life Panel which occurred last, between 8:30 A.M. and 11:15 A.M. on the Conference Day, each of these three groups rotated between three rooms and took turn to listen to the School Selection Panel, the Application Experience Sharing Panel and the Essay Analysis Section. The guest speakers in these panels and section would thus, present their talk in three sessions to three different groups of audience.

The original objective of the Room Rotation Model was simple: By breaking attendees down into smaller groups, we hoped to **enhance the focus of students** in the talks and to **ensure the quality of content delivery** by guest speakers. With a smaller setting, students would feel **more comfortable interacting** with guest speakers and with one another.

As a result, the majority of students commented that the new format of the Conference greatly enhanced the efficiency of the Conference.

- **93%** of the participants said that the Room Rotation model **increased their concentration**.
- **80%** agreed that it helped create **interactions between them and the guest speakers**.
- Overall, **93%** of the attendees found this new format **effective**.
- **90%** expressed their **fondness** for the model.

“I was particularly impressed by the interaction between guest speakers and participants. Although each panel still adhered to their main purpose of sharing information, the new seating arrangement helped me feel more confident and comfortable to discuss with my mentors.”

“The idea of dividing participants into small groups and alternating them among three different rooms is brilliant. It has helped save lots of time, considering the large number of attendees on the Conference Day.”

“The division of participants into small groups offered us more opportunities to socialize with and befriend new faces as well as share and learn interesting viewpoints or invaluable experiences from them. Thus, it assisted me in honing my communication skills and teamwork ability.”

“The new model is a significant breakthrough. It should be maintained for next year.”

“The group division and room rotation model brought about a decrease in the number of students in each panel so that participants could pay more attention to the guest speakers and acquire better vision. Moreover, the room alternation and the moving process played an essential role in making attendees much more active and energetic compared to having to stay in their seats for 4 and a half hours.”

Essay Analysis Section



The Essay Analysis Section was entailed as part of the three major components of the Room Rotation Model (School Selection, Application Experience Sharing and Essay Analysis). The major highlight of this section is its distinctive **group discussion format**. Each of the three aforementioned groups was to be divided once again into even **smaller groups of 6 to 8 students each** and to be led by a guest speaker acting as a discussion leader.

The **presentation of materials** in the Essay Section was also transformed this year. There was no longer a panel tossing out vague advice and insights. Instead, each discussion group was **introduced to two essays**, one representing the concept of “pointlessness” and the other of “vagueness” as the two most common mistakes in essay writing for Vietnamese high school students. The group was then guided by their discussion leaders to identify such mistakes in the essays and to suggest approaches to refine the writing. The group was also shown an improved version of the “vagueness” essay to compare and contrast between the original and the improved versions.

The **group discussion format** was conceived to **maximize the amount and quality of communication between guest speakers and attendees**, as well as **the interaction among attendees**. The **introduction of sample essays** made advice and insights on this topic a lot more **vivid and comprehensible** to the students.

Adopting the new model for the Essay Analysis section, we have received enthusiastic feedback:

- **95%** said that it increased the opportunity for **interactions between participants and guest speakers**, **68%** of which gave the **highest ratings**.
- **90%** stated that the small participants-to-guestspeakers ratio clearly improved their **focus on the information presented**.
- **Two thirds** of all participants commented that the new model increased the level of **interaction among participants**.
- Overall, **89%** found the new model of the Essay Section **effective**.
- **88%** expressed their **interest in the format**.

The Individual Application Assistance (IAA) Program was placed as a component of the Essay Analysis Section this year. The IAA Program paired thirty most capable attendees with regard to essay writing with five essay mentors divided equally into three sessions per the Room Rotation Model. A mentor would then correct and offer personal comments on the two optional essays that each student submitted during the application process to the conference. While last year's IAA **attendee: mentor ratio** was 4:1, this year we worked hard to bring this proportion down to **2:1**. This ratio ensured the **best personal attention** our IAA candidates could expect from the experience.

Thanks to the small ratio, most of the IAA participants stated that they greatly benefited from the personalized attention and the thoughtful advice of the mentors. All of the IAA participants (**100%**) were impressed by the **quality and depth of the session**.

“The number from 6 to 8 students per group in the Essay Analysis Section is ideal for interactions among participants. My discussion leader was very friendly and his comments and analysis were very interesting and convincing. The discussion became even exciting, as other members of the group contributed insightful and creative ideas. This was one of the best parts of the conference.”

“The small number of participants within a group helped me take in the information more effectively, and everyone had the opportunity to voice out his personal opinion.”

“I am very thankful to my IAA mentor, for she has given me a whole new perspective on my essay. I was taught how to correct my grammatical mistakes, wrong word choices, or lack of transitions. Thanks to her, not only was I able to perceive my own problems, but I also found my strengths, which I would be able to take full advantage of, and employ in later essays.”

Mock Classroom & Gap Year Talk



The thirty-minute **Mock Classroom** was added to VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference 2012 as a new feature of the afternoon events. It served the purpose of **helping participants grasp the feel of a typical lesson at American colleges**. This year, Mock Classroom welcomed Mr. Truong Pham Hoai Chung (Williams '09, Yola Academic Director) as the instructor, who brought to the audience the topic of Law of Supplies and Demands in Economics. In addition to the graphs and statistics in the slide show, he also came up with many questions related to the lecture in order to engage the participants similar to what American professors usually do in their classrooms.

Gap Year Talk is another innovation among the afternoon events of VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City. The talk was designed as a panel discussion in which the guest speakers **shared** with the audience **their personal stories and experiences**, as well as **advice on how to prepare for the college application process during their gap years**. Gap Year remains as a new term to most of the Vietnamese, although more and more students are taking this step in order to be better prepared for U.S. colleges. The panelists spent thirty minutes explaining the pros and cons of not going straight to colleges and digging into how to exploit the opportunities available during the gap year.

Post O-Day Quiz & Pre-Conference Quiz



This year's attendees were recommended to try out our two quizzes: The Post O-Day Quiz and the Pre-Conference Quiz. Both quizzes were conducted online and were sent to attendees between the time of the Orientation Day and the Main Conference Day.

The Post O-Day Quiz was comprised of twenty multiple-choice questions to be completed by each attendee in ten minutes. It tested students on the information presented on the Orientation Day. Alongside with this quiz, the detailed O-Day Materials, which covered all the points mentioned on the Orientation Day, were compiled and sent to attendees to assist them with recalling facts from the Orientation Day. Both the **O-Day Materials and the O-Day Quiz** aimed to **re-expose** the attendees to the information presented on the Orientation Day.

The **Pre-Conference Quiz** was to be completed by a group of five to eight attendees. The quiz included three open-ended questions on the three main topics of the Conference Day: School Selection, Application Experience Sharing and Essay Analysis. For each question, each group was allowed 75-150 words to convey their ideas regarding the inquired topic. The **Pre-Conference Quiz** was developed to get attendees to start brainstorming about topics to be covered on the Conference Day as a form of **pre-exposure** to materials as well as to **facilitate networking** between attendees before the Conference Day.

- For **participants of the Orientation Day**, approximately 90% said that the **O-Day Materials (93%)** and the **Post O-Day Quiz (89%)** helped reinforce their Orientation Day experience.
- For those who **attended the Main Conference Day but not the Orientation Day**, the great majority, when asked, pointed out the usefulness of the **O-Day Materials (96%)** and the **Post O-Day Quiz (81%)** in helping them review their knowledge on studying abroad.
- As an indicator to the attendees' enthusiasm toward the Pre-Conference Quiz, 90% of all groups (30/33) **sent in their responses** for the quiz.

“Through discussion about the Pre-Conference Quiz, everyone in my group get to know each other better, and talked with each other more naturally during the Essay Analysis Section.”

“I really enjoyed the time my group spent discussing the Pre-Conference Quiz together, since I was able to learn something new, as well as prepare myself for the Conference Day.”

Booklet



The VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City also marked a complete transformation of the conference’s booklet. For the first time, the booklet for our Main Conference Day was more than just a collection of guest speakers’ profiles. The booklet this year encompasses a handful of new elements such as **email addresses of guest speakers** to facilitate networking between students and their mentors; **compelling advice from guest speakers** to **add more personality** to each panel; and, most captivating of all, the **recap section** which **summarizes the content of each panel** in one to three pages.

The Conference booklet received unprecedented praise from all the attendees:

- **The guest speaker profiles and introduction section** received positive ratings from more than **80%** of the participants.
- **90%** of the attendees expressed their fondness for the **Recap** section.
- **89%** gave positive ratings for the **Bonus section**, as well as the **Quotes and Advice section**.
- **86%** indicated their satisfaction for the **design and outline** of the booklet.

“The booklet looked remarkably well-designed and impressive.”

“I am truly grateful to the Organizing Team for compiling such an innovative and informative booklet. The booklet sums up critical points of discussion in each panel and presents them in a very captivating way. There is no doubt that I will consult this booklet not only on the Conference Day but also afterwards.”

“The booklet is excellent. :) I especially love the idea that it contains email addresses of the majority of guest speakers this year.”

We would like to dedicate all of these breakthroughs to the participants, whose demands greatly motivate us to perfect the quality of our conference. With their expectations as our top priority, we tried to take the feedback from previous years very seriously so that we could improve on our weaknesses and maximize our strengths in the organization of VietAbroad Conference. We also placed heavy emphasis on the perspective of our attendees whenever we developed our plans, as we wanted to make the best conference experience possible. To us VietAbroad the students are always the central focus of our activities.

Executive Summary

School Selection



Dang Phung Dung, Babson College '15 (moderator)

Doan Nguyen Duy Anh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) '16 (panelist)

Nguyen Son Tung, University of Richmond '16 (panelist)

Tran Ngo Hoang Linh, Bryn Mawr College '16 (panelist)

Hoang Ngoc Ton Nu Nguyet Minh, Cornell College '16 (panelist)

The School Selection panel discussed at length the most critical factors that Vietnamese students should take into consideration while compiling their school list for application. Mr. Doan Nguyen Duy Anh opened the panel by stressing the importance of school selection in the application process, especially when there are more than 3000 colleges in the United States while students have to narrow down their list to only around 20 schools. He suggested that students should start with *preparing a list of criteria* to consider during their school search in order of priority, then evaluating these criteria with respect to their own circumstances to single out the *most suitable schools*.

The question of how students could categorize their schools as *dream, match or safety schools* set the panel in motion. Mr. Nguyen Son Tung responded by highlighting the reference role of SAT and GPA ranges of each college. In addition, he commented on the need to make comparison with the profiles of other successful applicants in the previous years from the same background. Mr. Son Tung pointed to one interesting note that *college admission officers always expect higher from international students* than they often do with American applicants.

Ms. Dang Phung Dung expressed concerns about *the ideal number of schools to apply to*, as from her personal experience it was very difficult to apply to many schools under time constraint. With seventeen liberal arts colleges and national universities on her school list, Ms. Hoang Ngoc Ton Nu Nguyet Minh believed that *the more schools students apply to, the more likely they are to obtain an admission offer*. This insight was immediately supported by a simple statistical demonstration by Mr. Son Tung. Ms. Tran Ngo Hoang Linh stated that adding new items to one's school list means less time devotion to the application package as well as extra expenses to send SAT, TOEFL scores and other materials. Therefore, *time and financial constraints* are often the most major concerns to students in determining how many schools they should give a shot at.

When it comes to the *size* of school, Ms. Hoang Linh recommended a *close-knit community* with 1000 to 5000 students where students could greatly benefit from the *close attention* and tremendous support from the professors as well as the administrative staff. In contrast, Mr. Duy Anh cited some significant advantages of big national universities such as the remarkable *variety of courses and research resources*, the *diverse student body* and the *peer pressure* to push students in their academic performance. He was particularly thrilled at the *freedom* that students at these universities enjoy in their lifestyles.



When inquired about other factors to consider in the school selection process, Mr. Son Tung offered an insight from a personal experience with a class he took at the National University of Singapore. Mr. Son Tung then moved on to draw attention to the *student: professor ratio*, as he trusts that it dictates the academic experience for each individual in any particular class. Adding on to Mr. Son Tung's remark, Ms. Nguyet Minh mentioned that students should make an effort to check out the course catalog and resources pertinent to their subjects of interest.

All the guest speakers agreed that *financial assistance* is usually deemed as one of the most important factors in the school selection process. Mr. Son Tung shared some deep insights on this matter by suggesting some helpful sources for information on financial aid, and by discussing what students could take away from these statistics. He also noted that although many schools claim rather limited funds for international students, there are still distinctive interpretations of such vague statement: *Some colleges still offer very generous financial aid*

packages but only to a few international students; while others provide much less significant packages but to a lot more international candidates.

As regards the role of geographical location in school selection, Ms. Nguyet Minh commented it is of utmost importance that students select areas best fit for their health conditions. Moreover, from his comparison between the settings of Princeton and MIT, Mr. Duy Anh expressed his strong preference for *big cities* with a wide range of *recreational options*, a fair degree of *cultural blending* and bright *job prospects*. The atmosphere in the panel quickly became heated as Ms. Nguyet Minh professed her satisfaction with various benefits of *rural areas* like the *fresh atmosphere*, a greater *security* and a *friendly neighborhood*; while Ms. Hoang Linh eagerly recommended the *suburbs* as ideal college towns for students who want the best of both worlds.

Ms. Phung Dung then set the stage for discussion by evaluating the correlation between a school's location and its students' job prospects. Ms. Nguyet Minh assured the audience that many colleges in rural areas are doing their best to *maximize the chance of employment for their students*. Prospective students should also pay attention to the strength of the *alumni network* while considering a school, for it contributes a lot to creating job opportunities, as Mr. Son Tung observed.

When challenged with the question of how students could find out a particular school's personality, Mr. Son Tung cited some books and websites which students can turn to for *reliable information* on the academic and social life at any college. In addition, Mr. Duy Anh pointed to the range of *clubs or organizations* offered at a school as valid indicators of its characteristics. These two guest speakers moved on to portray a more complete picture of *Greek life* by analyzing both the pros and cons of fraternities and sororities in the college experience.

To conclude the panel, each guest speaker shared some final words of wisdom to the participants: The most critical things in the school selection process are to be *open-minded to options*, and to be *honest with one's self so as to find a school that best fits each individual*.

Application Experience Sharing



Pham Truong Nhat Thanh, Macalester College '16 (moderator)

Le Ngoc Duy Thang, Wesleyan University '05 (panelist)

Vo Hoang Minh, Swarthmore College '14 (panelist)

Nguyen Bao Truong Anh, Adelphi University '15 (panelist)

Nguyen Hoang Nam, New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi '15 (panelist)

As its name suggested, The Experience Sharing panel gathered guest speakers from diverse backgrounds to share with the participants their insightful stories and tips on the application process to American colleges.

To set the stage for discussion, Mr. Pham Truong Nhat Thanh posed a question on effective strategies to ace the SAT. In response, Mr. Vo Hoang Minh noted that the SAT requires not as much genius as *hard work* to earn top scores. Students need to identify which part of the test they find most challenging, then work on those shortcomings through *various approaches*. The most critical thing is to stay calm during the test and to *make educated guesses rather than mere conjectures*.

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Nam then elaborated on how to tackle each section of the SAT. He noted that although Math is not so complicated to Vietnamese students, *attentiveness* is key to a maximum score. As regards reading, the most challenging part, Mr. Hoang Nam suggested that students should learn to *identify the most common types of questions*. In addition, each examinee should attempt different approaches to the extracts so as to develop a system that works best for himself. Mr. Hoang Nam then eagerly shared his experience on each occasion he took the test to prove that practice makes perfect for writing. As a side note, Ms. Truong Anh illustrated how made-up examples could become more persuasive if handled correctly.

Then it was the panel's turn to scrutinize the role of *extracurricular activities (ECAs)* in the application package. Ms. Truong Anh corrected the misconception that the definition of ECAs is limited to only community service work. The term, she added, extends to cover *all the activities outside of the classroom that contribute to a candidate's personal growth*.

Considering the varieties of ECA options currently available to Vietnamese students, Mr. Nhat Thanh expressed his concerns regarding how students should decide which activities to participate in. Mr. Le Ngoc Duy Thang offered his point of view as an experienced assistant to the admission staff at Wesleyan University: ECAs serve as a valid indicator of a student's *maturity*, thus this particular component receives a fair amount of consideration from the admission staff when evaluating applications. Accordingly, *students should only select activities that best reflect their personalities and passions*.

Also on the choice of ECAs, Mr. Duy Thang stressed the need for *quality rather than quantity*. Mr. Hoang Minh attested to this insight by sharing his personal experience devoting himself to the Aikido and scientific clubs throughout his entire high-school career. The panelists concurred with each other that it is not the range of activities but the *degree of commitment* and *the impact* these activities have on the students that are of primary concern to the admission committee. Having extensive experience in establishing his own ECA organizations, Mr. Nhat Thanh offered some basic guidelines for students to found their own clubs.



The panel moved on to discuss how students could best present their ECAs to the admission committee. Mr. Hoang Nam advised that students could group their activities into *different categories* such as arts, community service or sports. They could also arrange these activities in order of *personal significance*. Ms. Truong Anh then offered the attendees a handful of compelling tips to polish the presentation of their activities on the application, including the wording of such content. While listing out his ECAs, the candidate should focus on *elaborating his personal contributions* to those activities instead of simply describing his everyday tasks. In addition, Mr. Duy Thang drew attention to the presentation of facts and figures rather than words, especially with regard to accomplishments.

Mr. Nhat Thanh then introduced the concept of *packaging one's self* through the creation of a "theme" for the application. From the perspective of a former assistant to the admission staff, Mr. Duy Thang confirmed the benefits for applicants to package themselves well. However, he also remarked that *such effort should reflect only genuine passions and authentic thoughts*.

As the panel progressed, Mr. Hoang Nam and Ms. Truong Anh shifted to contemplate the *Why essay*. The essay topic gives the impression that through this essay, the admission

committee expects to identify factors that have prompted students to apply to their institution. Nevertheless, for this particular essay, *applicants are strongly advised to highlight their 'fit' with the school rather than merely listing out its strong points.*

The panel moved on to discuss the role of the *interview* in the application process. To begin with, Mr. Duy Thang introduced the two most common types of interview: the informative interview and the evaluative interview. No matter what kind of interview offered, *it is of paramount importance that the applicant leave the interviewer with a strong, personal and positive impression.*

The panelists then offered a handful of tips to ease this daunting process for the applicants: Ms. Truong Anh suggested that students could do some *basic research* in advance on the interviewer's background and profession so as to come up with some meaningful questions *personalized* for the interviewer. Mr. Hoang Minh added to the discussion by recommending a couple of *mock interviews* beforehand. In addition, Mr. Hoang Nam urged students to do a thorough research on each school and *acquaint themselves with the defining traits of the school* before coming to the interview. Mr. Hoang Minh and Mr. Duy Thang then brought the discussion to an end by encouraging the participants to be mentally prepared for different scenarios at an interview.

In the end, it was the turn of each guest speaker to send some final pieces of advice to participants. Despite the time constraints, the panel hoped to provide the attendees with a detailed picture of the application process to American higher institutions.

Student Life



Tran Ba Khoi Nguyen, Duke University '15 (moderator)

Vo Thi Minh An, Mount Holyoke College '12 (panelist)

Le Lan Chi, Wesleyan University '13 (panelist)

Andrew Eisenhart, representative of Drexel University (panelist)

Nguyen Thu Huong, representative of Kansas State University (panelist)

Greet Provoost, representative of the University of Mississippi (panelist)

The Student Life Panel provided insightful perspectives on the academic and social life of college students in the United States.

Ms. Vo Thi Minh An initiated the discussion with a detailed recount of her *research process for the graduation thesis*. She pointed to the *small size* of her school as a major advantage to foster close connection with her professors. Consequently, it allows a more supportive approach to her research preparations. Ms. Minh An moved on to elaborate on the typical procedure to complete a thesis. The process typically involves forming a general idea of the subject, consulting with a professor advisor, conducting surveys as well as gathering materials and resources eclectically to prepare for the writing process.

The panel then shifted its focus to the *liberality of college social life*. Ms. Le Lan Chi cited an intriguing example of her friends participating in a mass demonstration on Wall Street to illustrate how supportive her school is of its students' viewpoints and aspirations. Mr. Tran Ba Khoi Nguyen followed suit with another account of a demonstration at Duke. He remarked that regardless of their social standing, students are strongly advised to have the courage of their convictions.

It was Ms. Greet Provoost's turn to deepen students' understanding of *Greek Life*, a distinctive aspect of American culture. Better known as *fraternities* and *sororities*, Greek Life provides an opportunity to connect with a certain group of peers who share the same interests

or concerns. Ms. Provoost related her own observations at the University of Mississippi to highlight the impact of Greek Life on the college experience. She also assured students that they are under no obligation to join these communities against their will.

When inquired about the *living conditions* of international students at American colleges, Ms. Nguyen Thu Huong gave a detailed description of the room and board facilities on offer at Kansas State University. In addition, she noted that a research conducted by her institution demonstrated that *living in dormitories with friends will significantly boost students' academic performance and social interaction*, compared to living off-campus on one's own. Ms. Le Lan Chi added to the discussion with a captivating insight on the program housing at Wesleyan University. She gave two vivid accounts: one of a unique episode in the Film House on the night of the Oscar Academy Awards Ceremony, another of an experience in the Cooking House during the Vietnamese New Year Holiday.



With regard to the significance of the school location on student life, Mr. Andrew Eisenhart introduced the attendees to the major advantages of living and studying in cosmopolitan areas such as Philadelphia. Not only will students have a chance to expose themselves to the rich *culture and historical values* of the city, they will also benefit from the extensive public transportation system. Additionally, he highlighted the *intercollegiate connections* available to students in bigger cities.

As a closing note to the panel, Ms. Minh An shared with the audience three meaningful words of wisdom: *dare, open, and passion*. With these three words, she hoped to inspire students to make the best out of their college experiences.

Despite the time constraints, the panel has served its purpose of introducing the attendees to the challenging, yet fascinating college student life in America.

Demographics of Delegates

Attendees

	Total	Admitted	Admission Rate	Yield Rate
Applicants	2545	236	9.3%	94.5% (223/236)
IAA Applicants	139	30	21.6%	100%

Geographical Location		High Schools		Age (at the time of the conference)	
Ho Chi Minh City	82%	Pho Thong Nang Khieu	32%	15 or younger	3%
Bien Hoa	8%	Le Hong Phong	20%	16	43%
Vung Tau	5%	Tran Dai Nghia	12%	17	49%
Others (Can Tho, Da Nang, Ha Noi, Thailand, Singapore, UK, USA)	5%	Luong The Vinh	7%	18 or older	5%
		Others	29%		
Total	100%	Total	100%	Total	100%

Breakdown by attendees' geographical locations, high schools and age

Guest Speakers

Number of guest speakers: **44**

Institutions represented by guest speakers:

US Consulate General, Harvard University, MIT, Williams College, Swarthmore College, Duke University, Mount Holyoke College, Hamilton College, Tufts University, Wesleyan University, NYU Abu Dhabi, Washington & Lee University, Georgetown University, Babson College, Bentley University, Bard College, Bryn Mawr College, Cornell College, Bates College, Drexel University, University of Richmond, Macalester College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Boston College, Franklin & Marshall College, Texas Christian University, UT Dallas, Adelphi University, University of Mississippi, Kansas State University, UC Berkeley, Westtown School, Rabun Gap -Nacoochee School, Grand Valley State University, Northern Virginia Community College, Lane Community College, and Shoreline Community College.

School Fair

Number of Institutions represented: **85** colleges and universities, **6** high schools

Number of School Representatives: **125**

Please refer to this link for the complete list of schools:

<http://vietabroad.org/portal/Programs/VietAbroad-Conference/VietAbroad-Conference-2012/School-Fair-List>



Performance Evaluation

61 out of 110 Orientation Day attendees filled out our online survey form for the Orientation Day. **123 out of 223** Main Conference Day attendees responded to our online survey form for the Conference Day.

The grading system includes: **1 (very bad), 2 (bad), 3 (okay), 4 (good), 5 (very good)**.

We were very grateful that more than half of the participants took effort to fill in our post-conference survey, as well as gave us detailed written comments and feedbacks. Thanks to them, we could evaluate our performance this year, as well as keep perfecting our future conferences. The selfless effort of the participants, who are under no obligation to help VietAbroad, is an **indicator to their keen interest in the event, and to the impact we have made on them.**

Info-Sessions

Nearly **70%** of the Conference Day's participants attended one of the info-sessions. Among them:

- **87%** praised the helpfulness of the **content and materials** presented in the info-sessions. **46%** gave the **highest grade of 5**.
- **92%** gave the score of either **4 or 5** when asked to evaluate the **helpfulness of the organizing team**. Impressively, **68%** gave the maximum score of **5**.
- **88%** gave either **4 or 5** when commented on the **helpfulness of Conference-related information** in the info-session.
- Almost all of the participants (**96%**) gave praises and positive comments on **the quality of guest speakers** of the info-sessions. **61%** gave the highest score possible.
- Nearly all of the participants (**97%**) expressed **great enthusiasm** in attending the Conference after having attended one of the info-sessions.

Staff and Communication with Students

Pre-Conference

- Many students expressed their satisfaction as they communicated with the organizing team, especially **through email** yachcm.info@vietabroader.org (**67%** gave the highest grade of 5), and **through Facebook** (**84%** gave the score of either 4 or 5).
- **89%** of those who have contacted the organizing team praised its **responsiveness**, and **92%** said that the answers were very **helpful**.

“Before the Conference Day, there were several occasions when I contacted with the Organizing Team via email, and I realized that my questions were always met with swift and sufficient answers although the Organizing Team appeared to be very busy. The Organizing Team also called me directly to answer my inquiries, and I really appreciated their responsiveness and attentiveness to my needs.”

“I found the Organizing Team to be very responsive. Whenever I or my friends posted a question on Facebook, we received the response within minutes.”

“All the announcements, notifications, or responses to my questions made by the Organizing Team were very friendly, enthusiastic, and humorous. Such is why I always felt excited every time I received an email from the team, even if I did not know what it was about yet.”

Orientation Day & Conference Day



- An astounding number of participants (**94%**) praised the **professionalism** and the **attentiveness** of the Organizing Team.
- Also, **92%** said that they enjoyed the staff's and the volunteers' **friendly assistance** during the Conference.

“The working manner of the Organizing Staff was very professional, considerate and friendly. The staff even went as far as coming down to the ground lobby and providing us with clear instructions on how to get to the Lavender Room.”

“The check-in process was very simple, quick and extremely professional.”

“I was impressed by how on-track the program was. Amazing!”

“The Organizing Team's commitment was clearly reflected in the effort they made to update participants with places for lunch near the venue as well as email and call us even when the conference was over.”

“Enthusiastic, friendly, and positive were how I would describe the Organizing Team and the volunteers' work ethics. Although everyone was overloaded and was sweating really hard, they still managed to do their tasks, always with a smile on the face. They tried to make the Conference a great experience for all of us participants, and I am very grateful for what they did.”

Facebook Event Page



facebook Search for people, places and things

VietAbroad Conference HCMC 2012
Public Event · By VietAbroad

Saturday, July 21, 2012 7:00am until 6:00pm

Grand Hotel, 8 Đồng Khởi, Quận 1, TP. HCM

Hội thảo Du Học Chuyển Đuốc VietAbroad (VietAbroad Conference) là một hoạt động của tổ chức VietAbroad được tổ chức hàng năm nhằm cung cấp thông tin hoàn toàn miễn phí về du học Mỹ bậc đại học. Hội thảo được tổ chức bởi học sinh vì học sinh, và hoàn toàn vì mục đích phi lợi nhuận. Các thành viên trong Ban Tổ Chức Hội thảo không ai khác ngoài những học sinh đã tham gia Hội thảo VietAbroad các năm trước, làm việc vì sứ mệnh chuyển ngọn đuốc kiến thức và đam mê cho các thế hệ đi sau. Hãy tham gia cùng ...See More

Posts View Declines (2 unread)

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question

Going (640)

- **Interaction with organizing team:** Almost **79%** gave positive responses (4 or 5).
- **Info regarding studying-abroad & Conference:** **86%** evaluated from 4 to 5, and **40%** gave the highest score.
- **Interaction with peers:** The responses were positive (**71%** gave 4 or 5).
- **Willingness to share the Facebook Page of VietAbroad:** **97%** said they would recommend the page to their friends.

“The Facebook Event Page of the Conference was very helpful, since there was always someone to answer my questions immediately when I posted them on Facebook. Through my interactions with the Organizing Team, I could clearly feel their enthusiasm and commitment for the Conference, as well as their patience to answer all the questions by the students, even when they were repetitive or irrelevant.”

“There were a lot of original status updates, posts, as well as contests that helped stir up the atmosphere on Facebook.”

Venue



89% of the attendees expressed their preference for the venue of this year's conference (Both the Orientation Day and the Conference Day took place at Grand Hotel).

“The venue was very well-organized and the logical management greatly enhanced the success of the conference.”

“Grand Hotel was an ideal location for the Conference. The settings were very decent and suitable for both the Orientation Day and the Conference Day.”

“The venue was strikingly elegant. Also, since Grand Hotel was at the central area, I could find it easily, and didn't have to travel far to find a reasonably priced restaurant.”

Orientation Day

Topics

- The average percentage of participants that rated the **content** at either **4 or 5 across all Orientation Day's topics** was **88%**.
- Most notably, **75%** of the participants gave the “**Essays and Supplementary Materials**” section the **highest grade - 5**.
- More than **60%** of the participants gave the maximum grades for the “**Liberal Arts Colleges vs. National Universities**” section and the “**Recommendation Letters and Extracurricular Activities**” section as well.

“The information presented on O-Day was very valuable and indispensable to students without much understanding of studying abroad like me.”

Presentation of Guest Speakers



- Regarding the presentation skills of guest speakers, very positive feedback was recorded as well: An average **89%** of all participants evaluated the **overall performance of the guest speakers across all topics** at either **4 or 5**, and over **55%** gave the highest grade - 5, for each section.
- The highlights were the “**Recommendation Letters and Extracurricular Activities**” section and the “**Essays and Supplementary Materials**” section, which received the highest praise by **67%** and **79%** of the participants, respectively.

Participants were also asked to evaluate the performance of each individual guest speaker on a scale from 1 (very boring, uninteresting) to 10 (very exciting, insightful).

- The guest speakers were regarded very highly, as there were no recorded scores of 3 or below, and most of the scores were in the range between 8 and 10.
- Our five most impressive guest speakers were evaluated between 8 to 10 by 65% or more of all the participants. They are **Nguyen Vu Phuc Thu** (Duke University '16), **Doan Nguyen Duy Anh** (MIT '16), **Dang Phung Dung** (Babson College '15), **Tran Ba Khoi Nguyen** (Duke University '15), and **Le Tan Viet** (Texas Christian University '15), and they were graded from 8 to 10 by **91%, 84%, 72%, 67%, and 65%** of all the participants, respectively.

“The guest speakers amazed me with their knowledge of studying abroad as well as their dedication and enthusiasm.”

“I could tell the careful preparation of the guest speakers behind the O-Day. This proves that they took their work very seriously. And with such professionalism, I felt that our enthusiasm for studying abroad was well respected and that the guest speakers truly want to help us.”

“The guest speakers were very down-to-earth, engaging and friendly. Their presentations were superb with many compelling phrases and captivating illustrations.”

Supporting Materials

- **Orientation Booklet:** The **majority** of the participants who have attended the Orientation Day gave the **highest praise** for the booklet, and **86%** of the participants rated the **content** and **outline** of booklet as either “good” or “very good.”
- **Orientation Day’s Materials & Quiz:** Already presented in the “Background & Highlights” section of the report.

“Thanks to the smart design of the booklet, I could look up terms and take notes quickly and easily.”

Orientation Day with respect to the Conference Day

- **87%** of the participants who had attended the **Orientation Day** believed that it **helped them significantly** to understand the information presented during the **Conference Day**.
- Of all the participants who had attended the Orientation Day, **82%** commented that the **information** presented on that day **did not overlap** with that on the Conference Day.
- Of all the participants who **have not attended the Orientation Day**, none of them (**0%**) find the information presented **Conference Day to be hard or very hard**.

“The O-Day has provided me with the most basic information on studying abroad. This prepared me well for the C-Day and for my future application process.”

Conference Day

Content & Presentation of Guest Speakers

School Selection



- The School Selection Panel is one of the most acclaimed parts of the Conference Day, with more than **95%** of the participants graded the **content** to be either good or very good.
- **97%** were pleased with **how the panel presented** the information.
- Among them, **66%** gave the **highest ratings** for **content** and **73%** for the **delivery** of content.

“The School Selection panel was full of laughers. I could clearly feel the enthusiasm and dedication from all of you!”

“I liked the School Selection panel best as the guest speakers provided a considerable number of aspects that I had never considered, together with humorous and interesting examples. After the discussion, I felt much more confident, knowledgeable and ready to choose schools for me and my sister.”

Application Experience Sharing

- **81%** of the participants considered the **content** of the Application Experience Sharing panel to be very helpful for them.
- **87%** expressed their satisfaction for the guest speakers’ **presentation skills**.
- More than **50%** of the participants gave the **highest ratings for both elements**.

“My confidence was greatly boosted and I felt strongly encouraged by the Experience Sharing Panel to follow my dream of studying abroad. I admire the guest speakers who have overcome so many difficulties and obstacles between them and their US destination - They have proved to me that success is within reach, and all I had to do now was try as much as I can.”

Essay Analysis & IAA



- Overall, **85%** of all participants praised the **content and materials presented** in the Essay Analysis Section.
- **98%, 80%, and 94%** of the participants praised the **presentation skills**, the **approachability**, and **flexibility** of the guest speakers, respectively.
- Regarding the IAA section, most of the attended participants gave the highest possible grades for the content and representation. **85%** gave positive feedback regarding the **approachability** and **flexibility** of the IAA mentors.

“The content of this section was based on specific standards and criteria for a good essay, which I enjoyed very much. The discussion was very beneficial for me.”

“What I absolutely loved from my discussion leader was her flexibility and depth of knowledge. Furthermore, listening to her insightful observations and straightforward remarks made me realize how swiftly time went by.”

“I really liked how my discussion leader effortlessly broke the ice in the group and encouraged each individual to present his or her personal opinion and defend his or her position.”

“I greatly appreciate how my IAA mentor pointed out specific flaws and gave great advice for my essay. Furthermore, he patiently listened to my lengthy inquiries and answer all of them sufficiently and convincingly.”

Student Life

- **60%** of the participants gave positive responses regarding the **content** of the panel.
- **68%** praised the **presentation skills** of the guest speakers.

“I was impressed by the diverse perspectives presented by the Student Life panel - I feel motivated by the various choices of social and academic life available to me when I successfully get into a U.S. college.”

Guest Speakers



- Participants were asked to evaluate the performance of each individual guest speaker on a scale from 1 (very boring, uninteresting) to 10 (very exciting, insightful). All of the guest speakers received very positive ratings from the participants. Most impressively, **Nguyen Son Tung** (University of Richmond ‘16), **Doan Nguyen Duy Anh** (MIT ‘16), **Dang Phung Dung** (Babson College ‘15), **Hoang Ngoc Ton Nu Nguyet Minh** (Cornell College ‘16), **Nguyen Bao Truong Anh** (Adelphi University ‘15) received the highest consideration by **88%, 80%, 63%, 62%, and 53%** of the participants, respectively.
- In the Essay Analysis section, on the scale from 1 (very bad) to 5 (very good), all of the guest speakers were rated **4.2** or above. The most notable essay analysts were **Le Tan Viet** (Texas Christian University ‘15), **Pham Thien Phu** (Drexel University ‘16) and **Vo Thi Minh An** (Mount Holyoke College ‘12), whose average ratings were **4.72, 4.68, and 4.66** respectively.

“The guest speakers were very enthusiastic, friendly, and even humorous. They created a vibrant and relaxed atmosphere that made it easy and comfortable for us to absorb new information.”

“I was deeply touched by the selfless enthusiasm of the guest speakers. People always said “there’s no such thing as a free lunch” yet the conference was such a vivid counterexample. Everyone was very comfortable and willing to share all their hard-earned experiences to my generation.”

Supporting Materials

- **Conference Day’s Booklet:** Already presented in the “Background & Highlights” section of the report.
- **Essay Section Summary:**
 - *Essay Section Summary is a handout distributed to participants of the General Essay Analysis Section at the end of the session, capturing the main points of the discussion. The Summary eliminated the possibility of missing out any essential information, and saved the participants from having to take notes.*
 - **90%** of all the participants in the General Essay Analysis Section mentioned the **helpfulness** of the Summary in helping them review the information received during the session.
- **Pre-Conference Quiz:** Already presented in the “Background & Highlights” section of the report.

“The supplemental materials on the Conference Day are incredibly helpful and comprehensive, providing answers to almost all of my inquiries after the Conference. In addition, other extra parts as well as words of advice by senior members of VietAbroad offered a wealth of useful and reliable information.”

“The booklet sums up the key points of discussion in each panel and presents them in a very eye-catching way. There is no doubt that I will consult this booklet not only on the Conference Day but also afterwards.”

General Evaluation



Orientation Day

- **97%** of the participants noted that the Orientation Day was very **helpful**, as it helped them prepare for the upcoming application process of U.S. colleges.
- **88%** of the participants were pleased because the whole event **ran smoothly** and there were no significant technical problems.
- **96%** considered the Orientation Day as a **great success**, and **64%** gave it the highest score - the grade of 5.

“All of the presenters were very professional and punctual, and the content was very useful as well. Four hours passed by without the slightest sign of boredom.”

“After having attended the Orientation Day, I become significantly more well-informed on the application process to U.S. college. The Orientation Day has carried out its function flawlessly.”

Main Conference Day

- **84%** of the attendees praised the conference’s **smooth running and precise timing**.
- **86%** professed their awe and appreciation for both the **volume and depth of the insights** shared at the conference.
- Additionally, **91%** of the participants acknowledged that they felt **more confident and better prepared** for the application process.
- **98%** affirmed the conference's **professionalism**.

- And **96%** revealed great **enthusiasm** for the conference.
- Most remarkably, among the **41 students** who **have attended** the VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference **for more than a year**, including the one in 2012, **39 (95%)** were pleased with the **substantial improvement** of the conference over the years.
- And among this group, **26** attendees said this year's conference was '**much better**' than those of the past years.

“Both the Organizing Team and volunteers worked effectively, especially in dividing attendees flexibly into groups and differentiating them by the wristbands.”

“It was such a nice surprise that after the conference I became more optimistic about the challenging journey ahead.”

“VietAbroad Conference this year has made a great number of distinctive improvements in professionalism, such as in-door gifts, group division, booklet designs, etc. All of our calls and emails were satisfactorily answered with adequate information and reasonable consideration. The room rotation model stood out as the most significant feature of the program. Not having to choose among different parts, participants derived considerable pleasure from listening to a wealth of precise information.”

“Although there are minor drawbacks, this is the best conference I have ever attended.”

“After the conference last year, all I felt towards the speakers was the thought “I wish I could be like them.” However, the conference this year gave me such a different experience, as I felt like I could ask for much more help from the staff, as well as the guest speakers (they're so helpful!), or befriend these awesome people, and even aspire to outperform them (“I want to be better than them”). Without a shadow of doubt, the conference profoundly transformed my perception of my own abilities. THANKS A MILLION TIMES FOR SUCH CHANGE YOU GUYS MADE!!!”



Our People

Conference Chair

Nguyen Thi Ky Binh *Hamilton College '16*

Fundraising Team

Mai Ky Duyen *Foreign Trade University '15*

Nguyen Thi Tam *Ohio Wesleyan University '14*

Tran Tuyet Anh *Clarkson University '15*

Public Relations Team

Lam Tran Nhat Uyen *Saigon South International School '12*

Nguyen Le Phuong Khanh *Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology '13*

Program Team

Nguyen Cat Quynh Anh *Tran Dai Nghia High School '12*

Doan Nguyen Duy Anh *Massachusetts Institute of Technology '16*

Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao *Cornell College '15*

Tran Thi Bao Tran *High School for the Gifted '12*

Do Nguyen Thuy Hoang *Holy Spirit High School '14*

Logistics Team

Nguyen Vi Khang *Brandeis University '15*

Diem Anh Thu *Franklin and Marshall College '16*

Nguyen Anh Huy *Franklin and Marshall College '16*

Nguyen Thi Mai Thy *Le Hong Phong High School '13*

Delegate Relations Team

Nguyen Gia Ngoc *Hanoi-Amsterdam High School '10*

Le Tan Viet *Texas Christian University '15*

Tran Minh Dieu Lam *High School for the Gifted '13*

Pham Dinh Hai Long *Saigon South International School '13*

Nguyen Quang Thinh *Binghamton University '16*

We would like to dedicate a special appreciation to the following members of the VietAbroad Executive Team for their tremendous support in the organizing process of the Conference:

Trinh Duc Minh

Harvard University '14

Co-President

Ha Duy

St. Olaf College '15

Co-President

Pham Anh Thu

Mount Holyoke College '15

Head of Funding, Fundraising Team of 2012 Conference

Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong

Quinnipiac University '13

Head of Communications, PR Team of 2012 Conference

Nguyen Vu Phuc Thu

Duke University '16

Head of VietAbroad Forum, Designer for 2012 Conference

Do Danh Viet

FPT University '15

IT Associate, IT Support for 2012 Conference



This report was prepared by the Organizing Staff of the VietAbroad Study Abroad Conference 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City.

In addition, we would also like to thank the following friends for lending us their generous support in putting together this report:

Hoang Ngoc Ton Nu Nguyet Minh, *Cornell College '16*

Dang Thai Thi Thanh Thao, *Bates College '16*

Vu Nguyen Hoan My, *Bui Thi Xuan High School '12*

Le Van Hong Chan, *Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology '12*

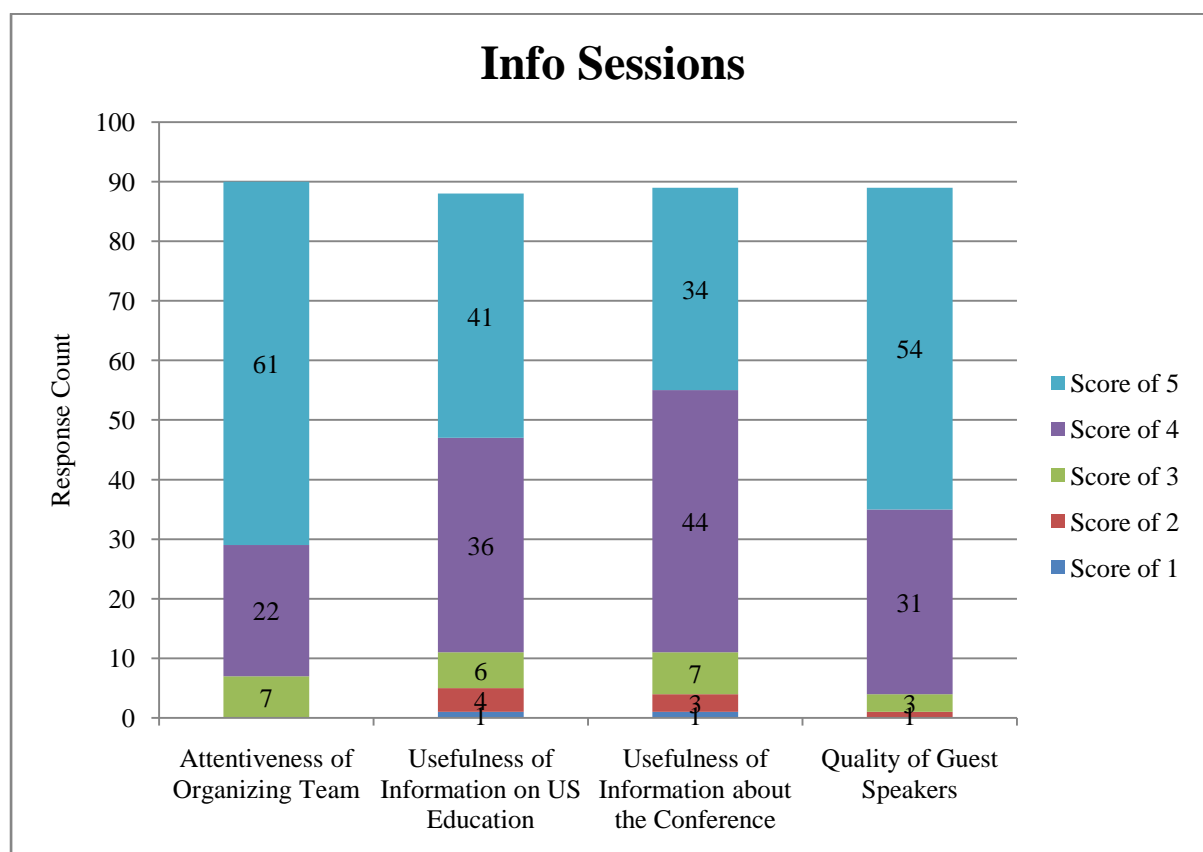
Appendix

61 out of 110 Orientation Day attendees filled out our online survey form for the Orientation Day. **123 out of 223** Main Conference Day attendees responded to our online survey form for the Conference Day.

The grading system includes: **1 (very bad), 2 (bad), 3 (okay), 4 (good), 5 (very good)**.

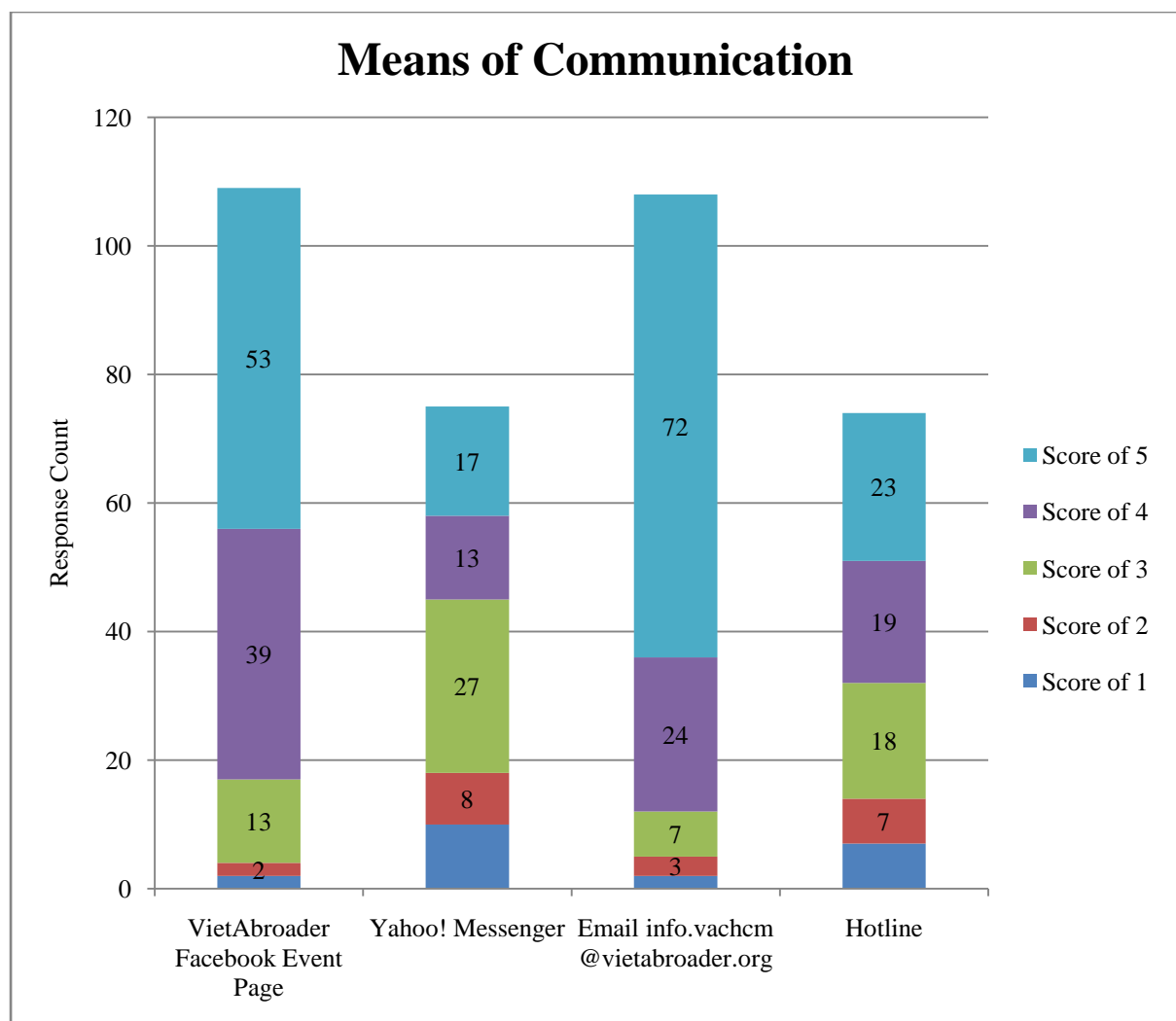
Info Sessions

Info Sessions						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Attentiveness of Organizing Team	0	0	7	22	61	90
Usefulness of Information on US Education	1	4	6	36	41	88
Usefulness of Information about the Conference	1	3	7	44	34	89
Quality of Guest Speakers	0	1	3	31	54	89

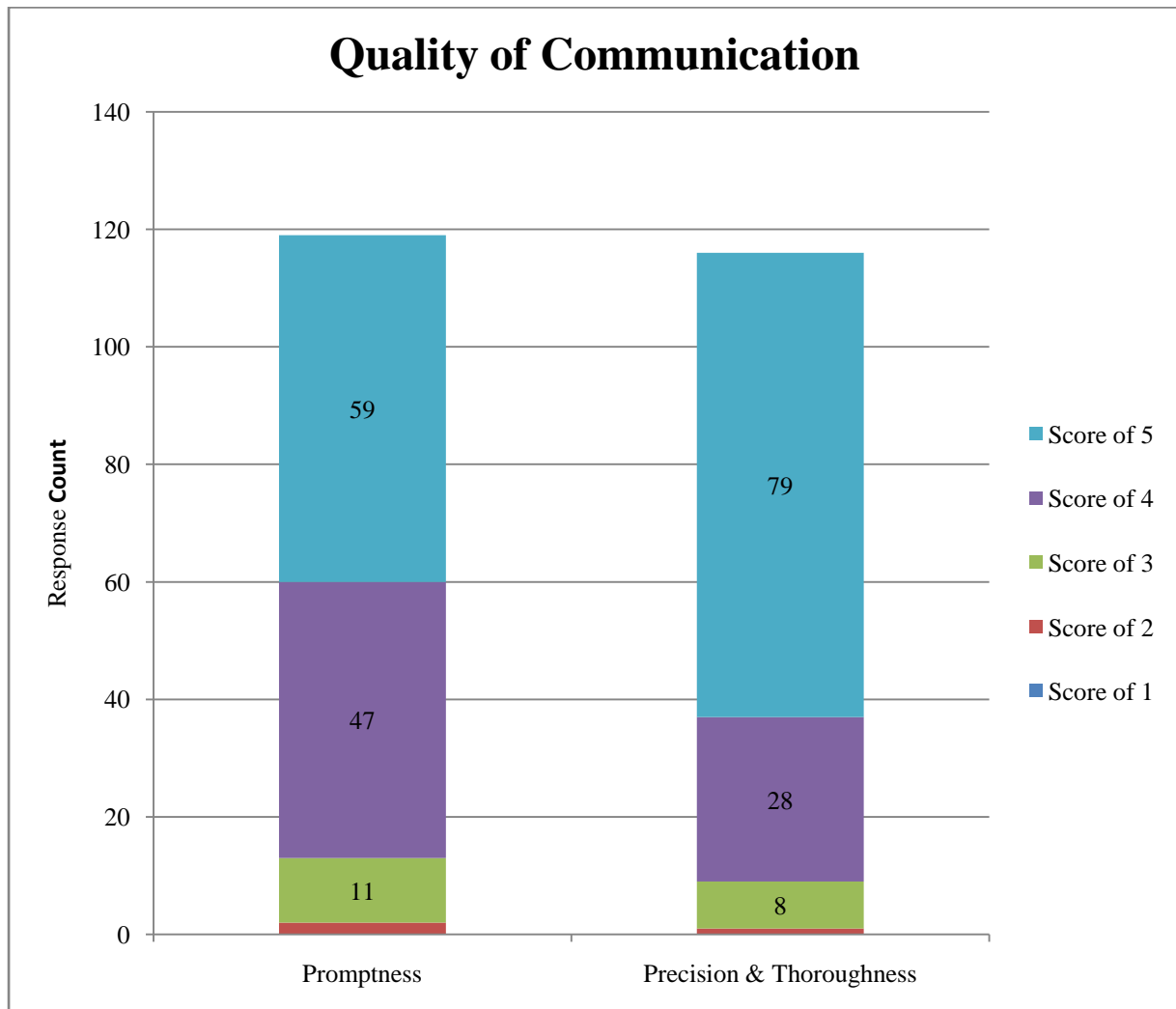


Communication

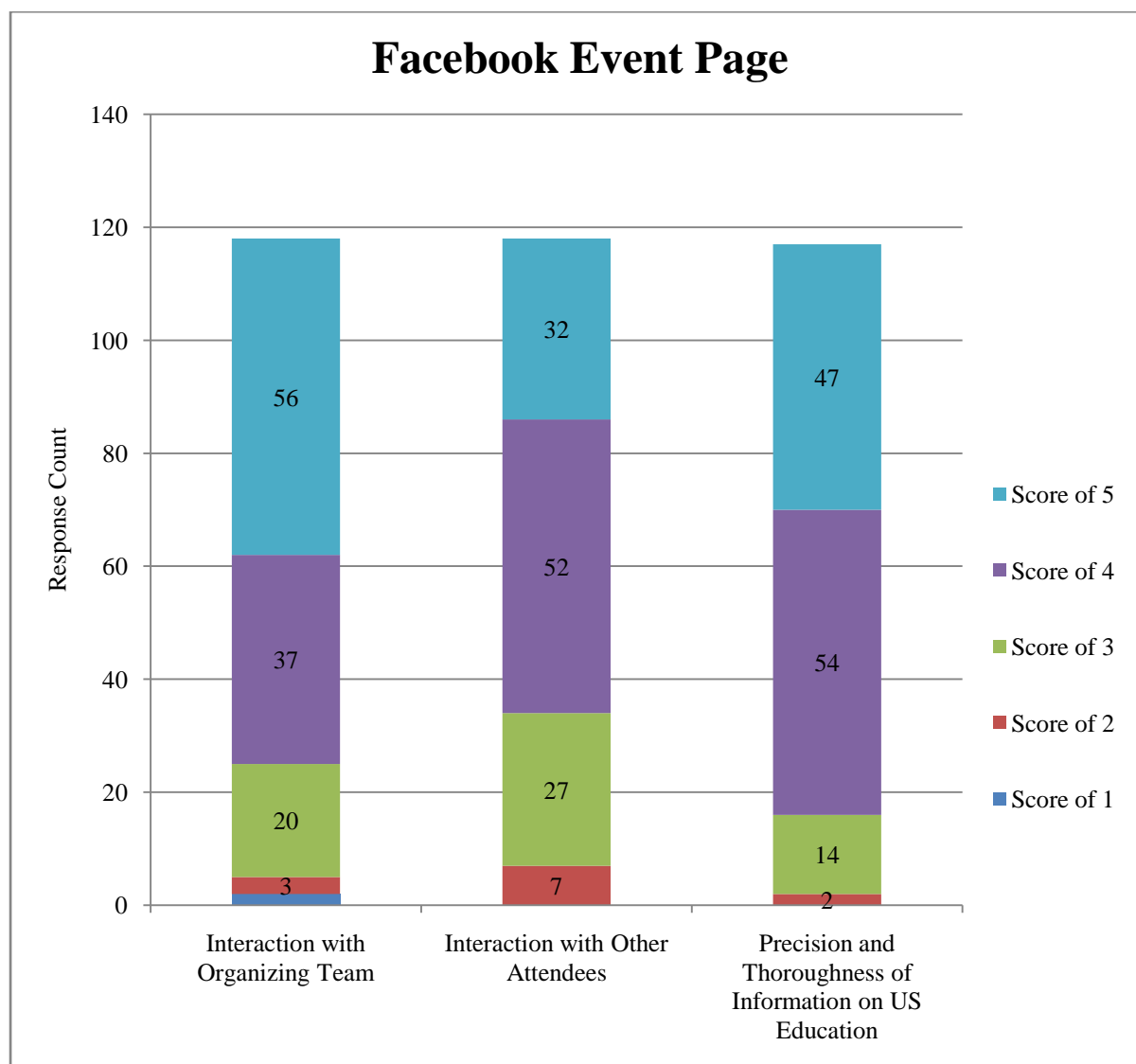
Means of Communication							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
VietAbroad Facebook Event Page		2	2	13	39	53	109
Yahoo! Messenger		10	8	27	13	17	75
Email info.vachcm @vietabroad.org		2	3	7	24	72	108
Hotline		7	7	18	19	23	74



Quality of Communication							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Promptness		0	2	11	47	59	119
Precision & Thoroughness		0	1	8	28	79	116

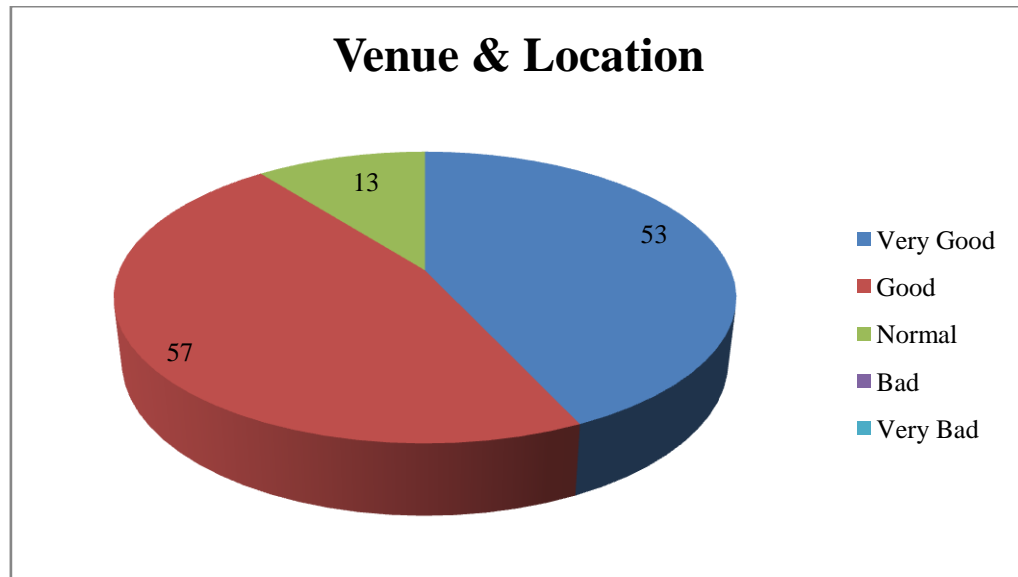


Facebook Event Page						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Interaction with Organizing Team	2	3	20	37	56	118
Interaction with Other Attendees	0	7	27	52	32	118
Precision and Thoroughness of Information on US Education	0	2	14	54	47	117



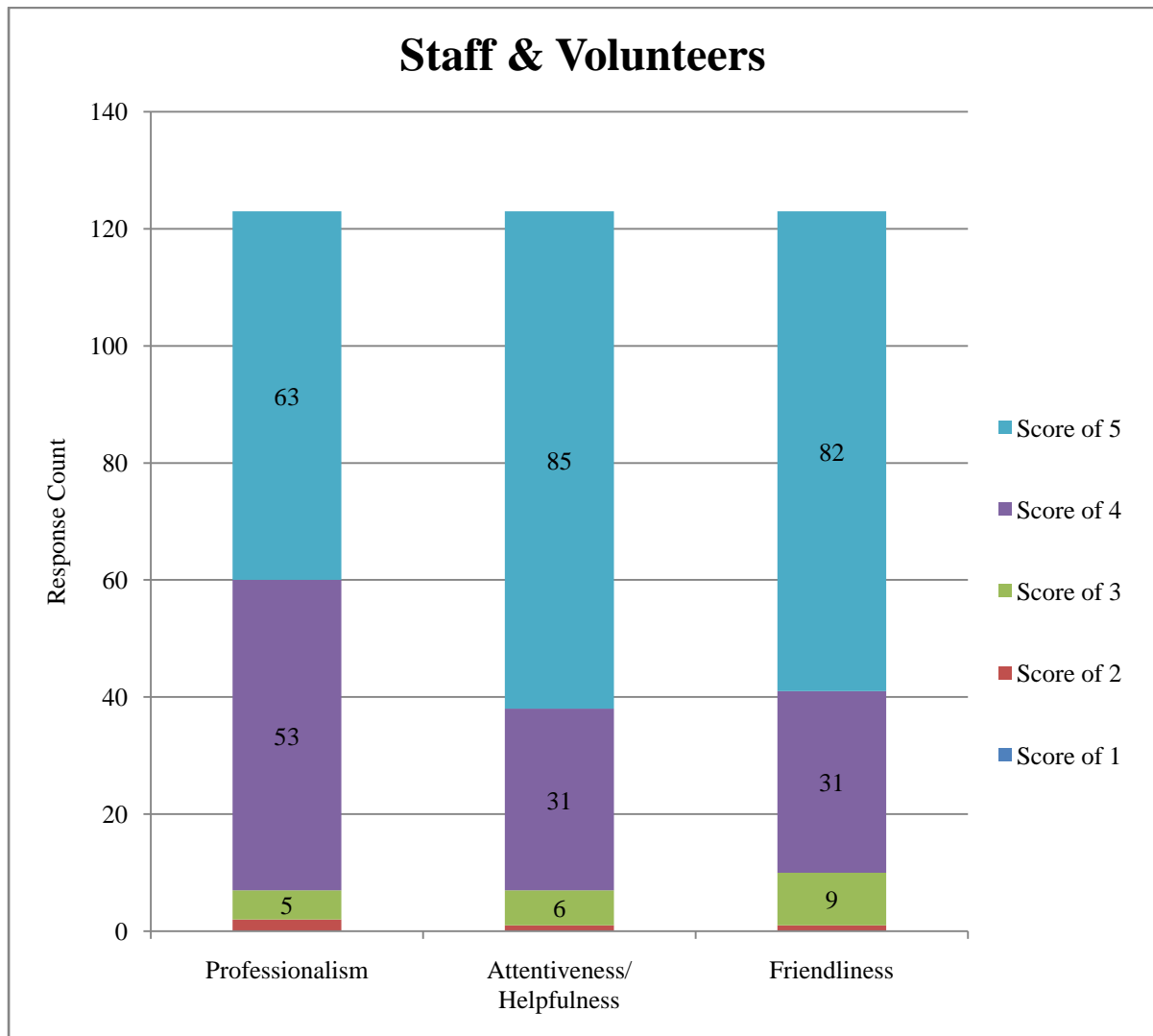
Venue

Venue & Location					
Very Good	Good	Normal	Bad	Very Bad	Response Count
53	57	13	0	0	123



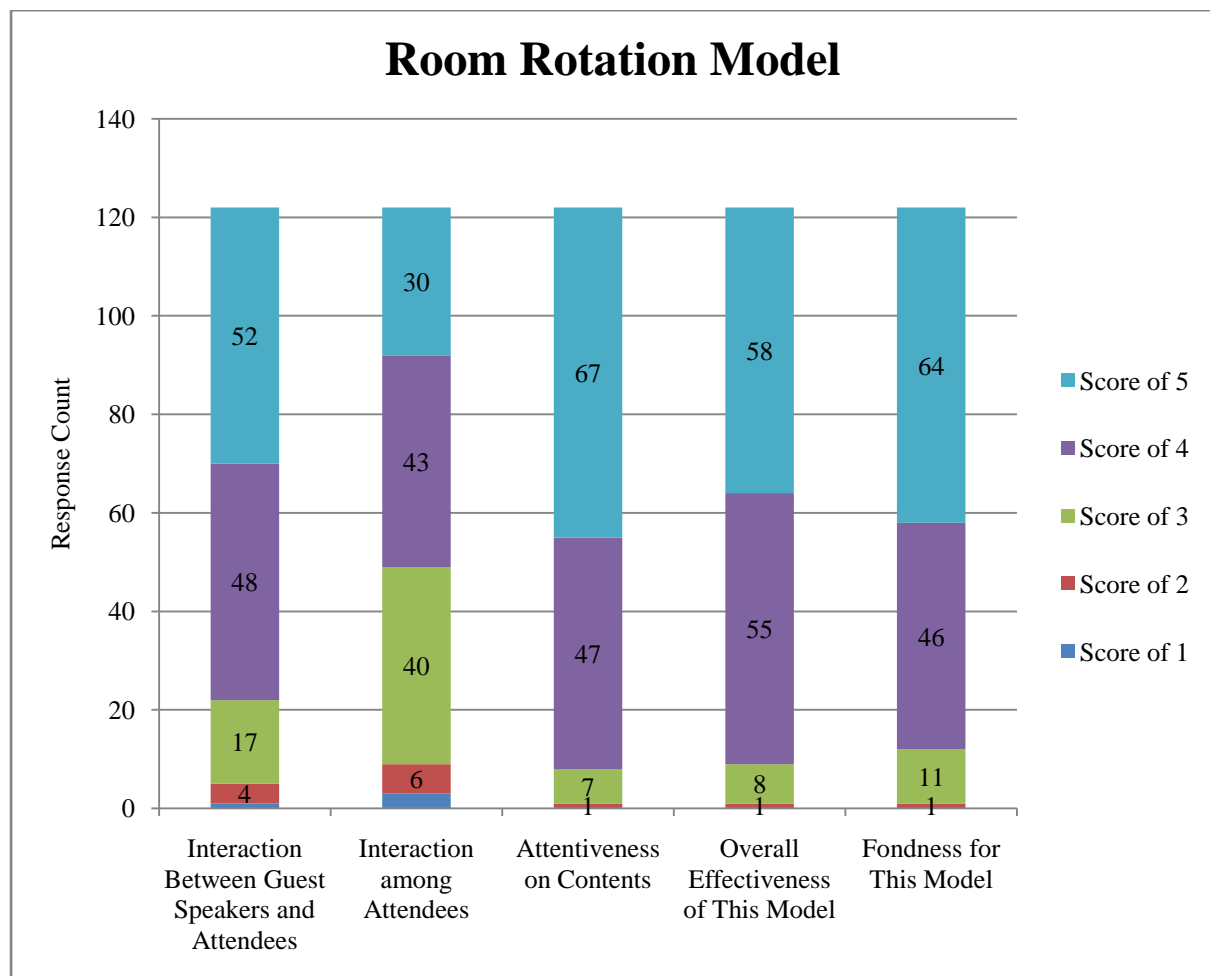
Staff

Staff & Volunteers							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Professionalism		0	2	5	53	63	123
Attentiveness/ Helpfulness		0	1	6	31	85	123
Friendliness		0	1	9	31	82	123

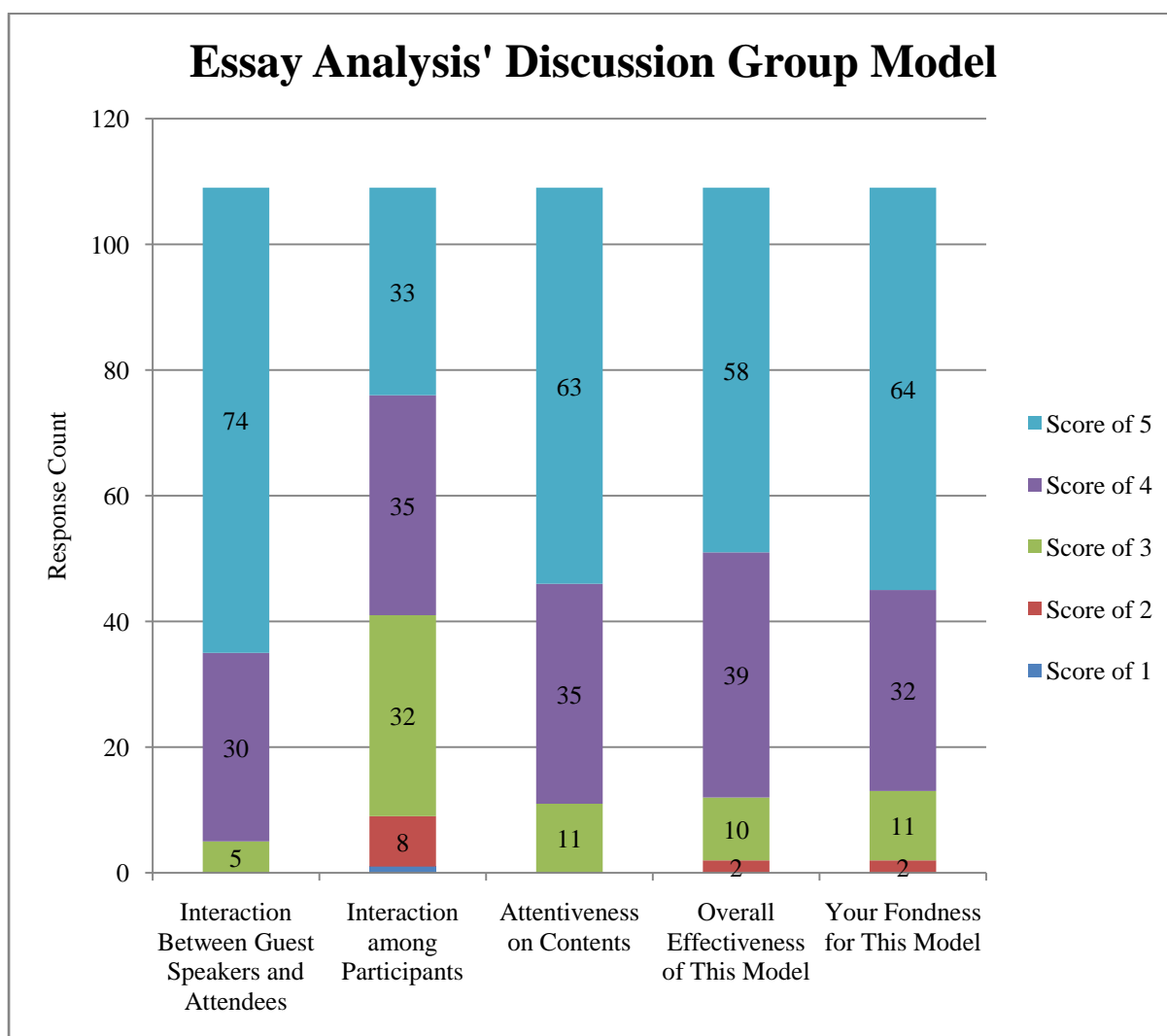


Format of Conference

Room Rotation Model						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Interaction Between Guest Speakers and Attendees	1	4	17	48	52	122
Interaction among Attendees	3	6	40	43	30	122
Attentiveness on Contents	0	1	7	47	67	122
Overall Effectiveness of This Model	0	1	8	55	58	122
Fondness for This Model	0	1	11	46	64	122

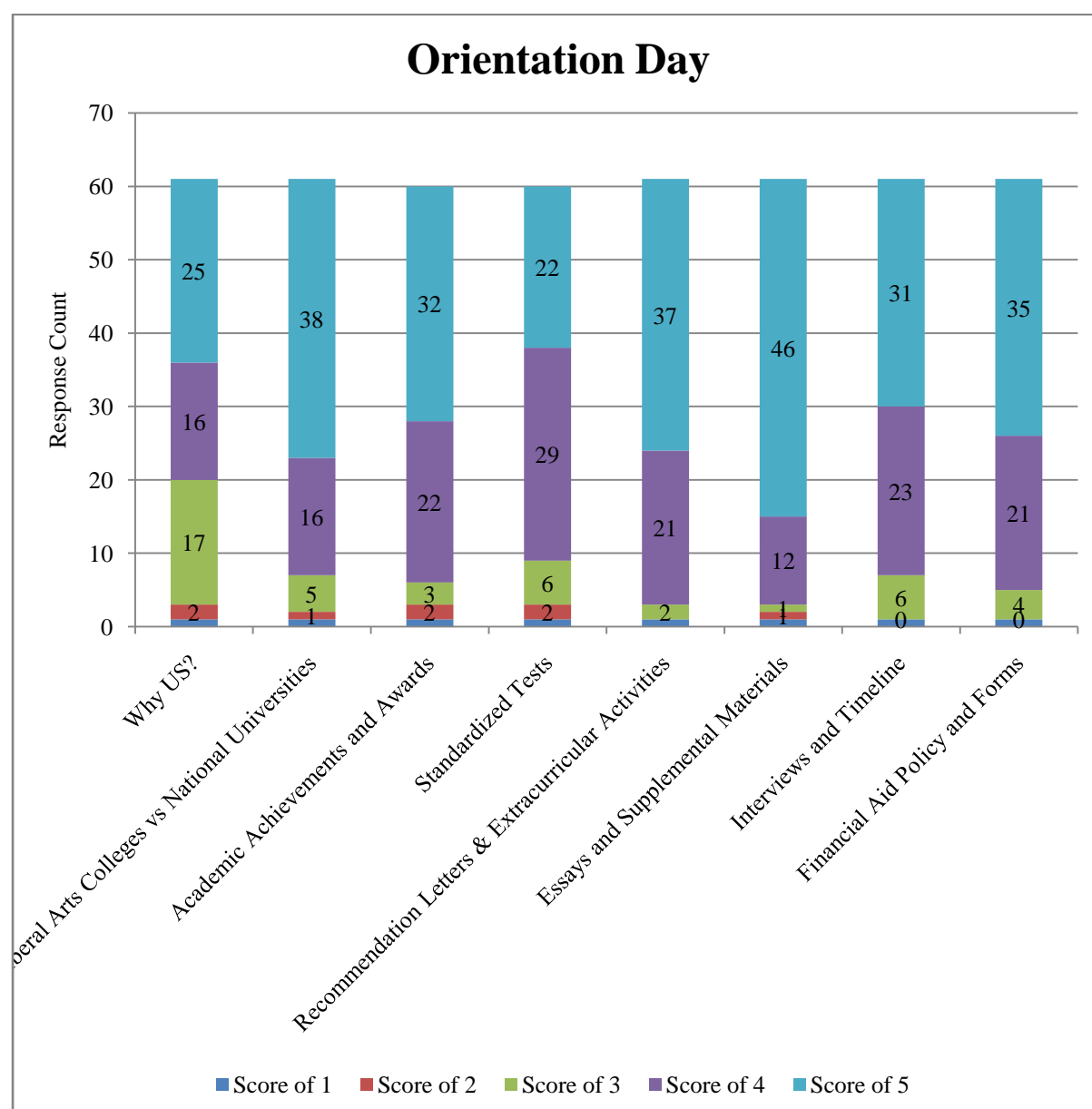


Essay Analysis' Discussion Group Model							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Interaction Between Guest Speakers and Attendees		0	0	5	30	74	109
Interaction among Attendees		1	8	32	35	33	109
Attentiveness on Contents		0	0	11	35	63	109
Overall Effectiveness of This Model		0	2	10	39	58	109
Your Fondness for This Model		0	2	11	32	64	109

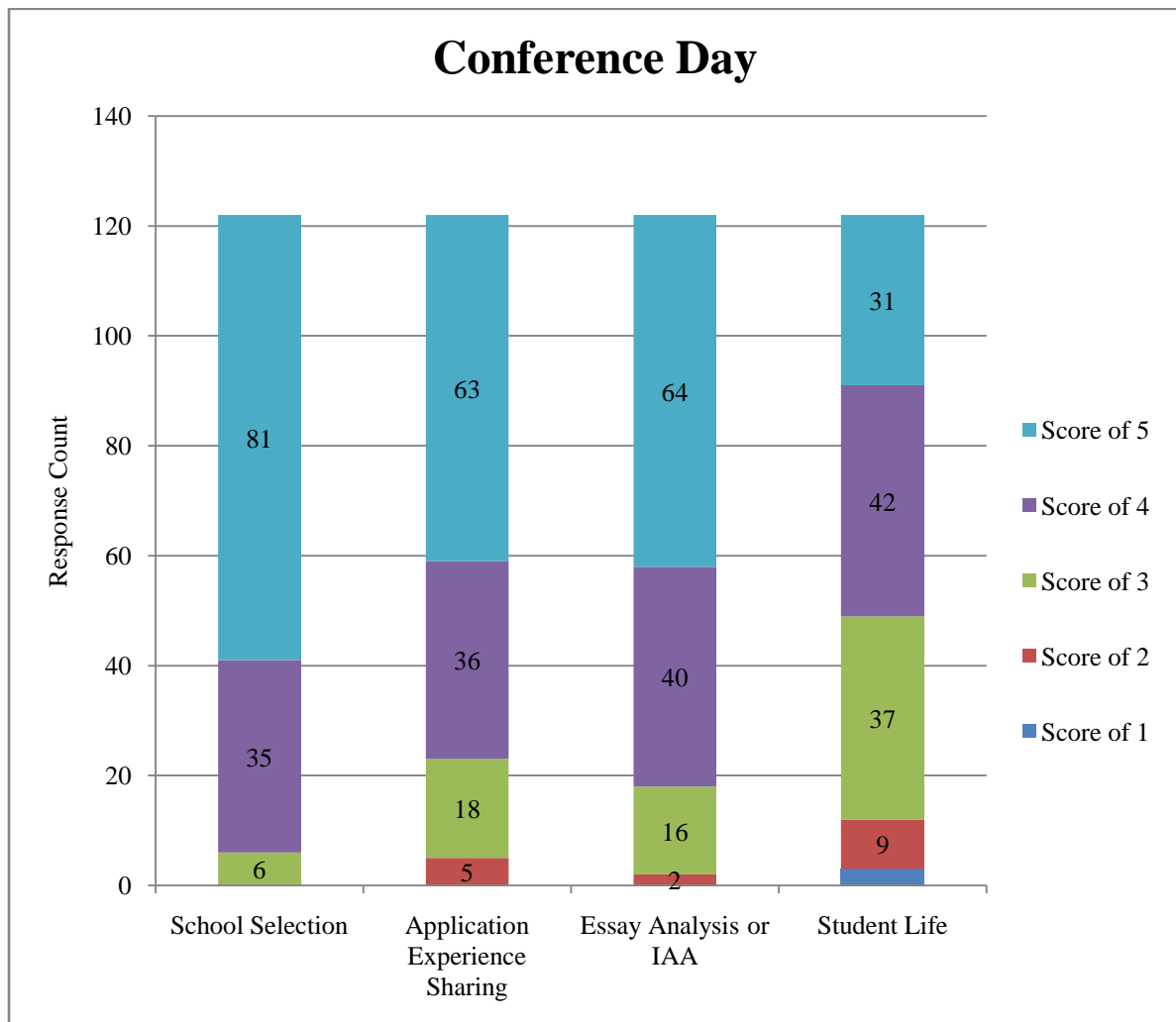


Content of Conference

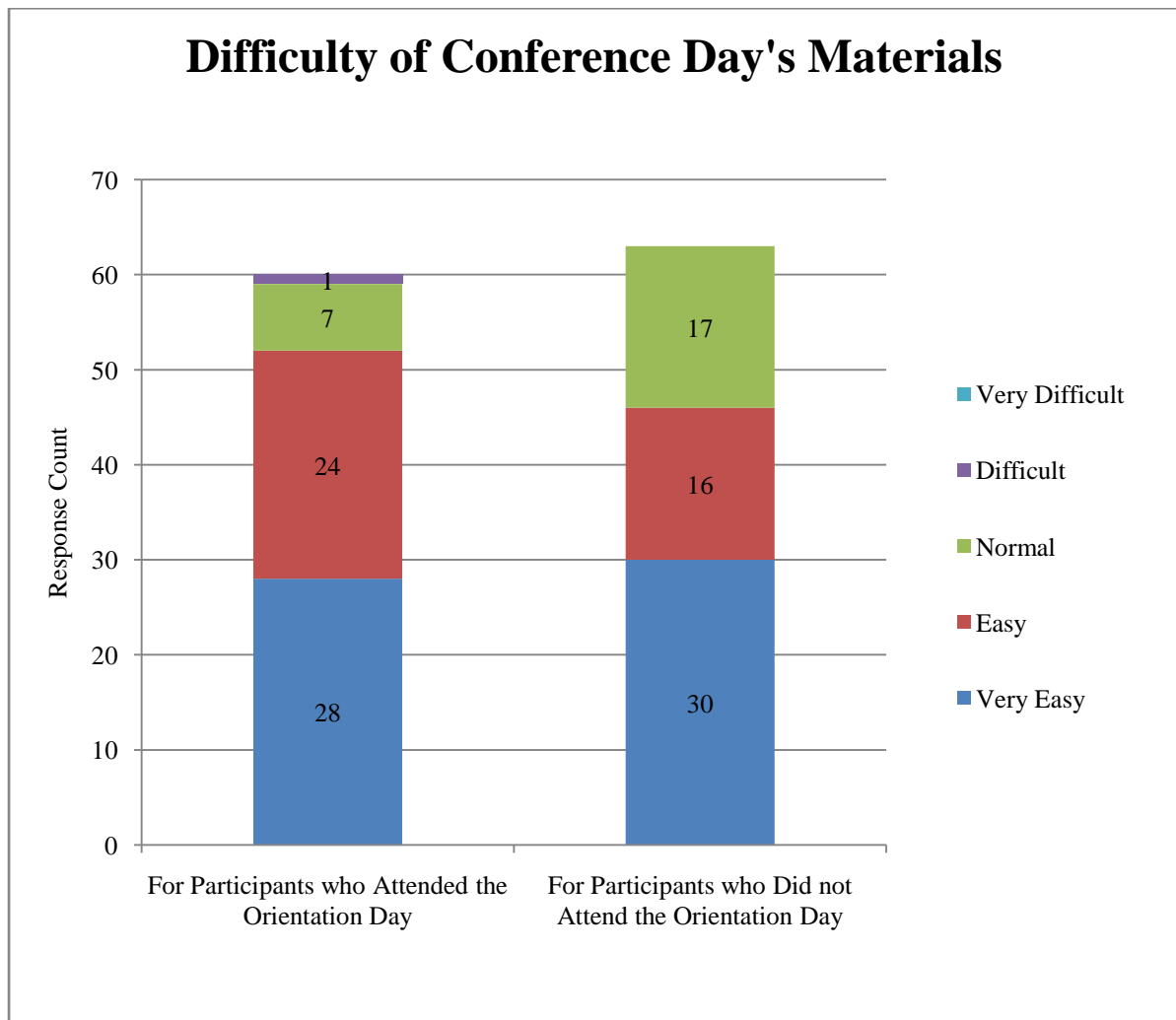
Orientation Day						
	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Why US?	1	2	17	16	25	61
Liberal Arts Colleges vs National Universities	1	1	5	16	38	61
Academic Achievements and Awards	1	2	3	22	32	60
Standardized Tests	1	2	6	29	22	60
Recommendation Letters & Extracurricular Activities	1	0	2	21	37	61
Essays and Supplemental Materials	1	1	1	12	46	61
Interviews and Timeline	1	0	6	23	31	61
Financial Aid Policy and Forms	1	0	4	21	35	61



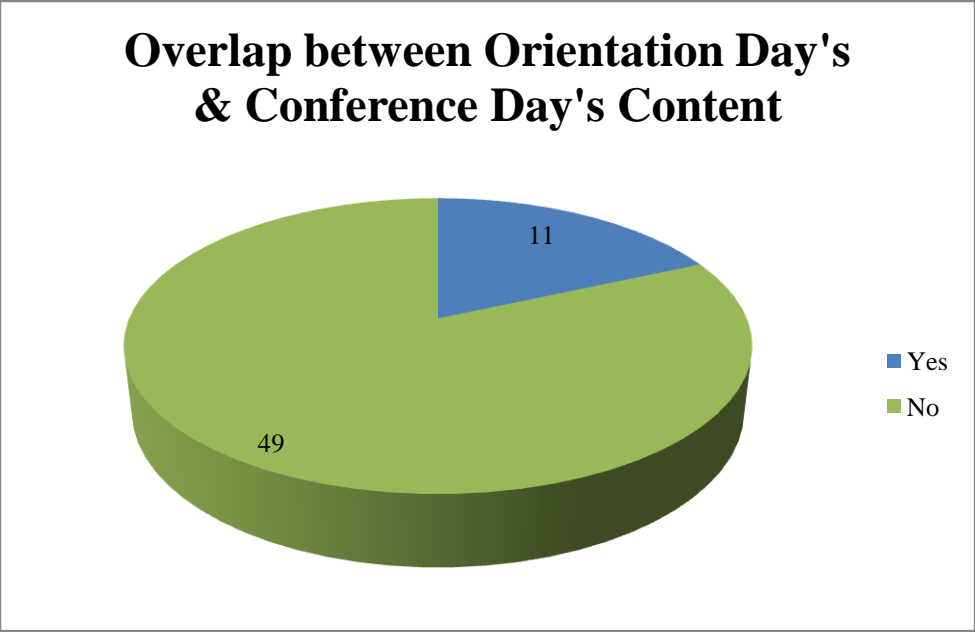
Conference Day							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
School Selection Panel		0	0	6	35	81	122
Application Experience Sharing Panel		0	5	18	36	63	122
Essay Analysis or IAA Section		0	2	16	40	64	122
Student Life Panel		3	9	37	42	31	122



Difficulty of Conference Day's Materials						
	Very Easy	Easy	Normal	Difficult	Very Difficult	Response Count
For Participants who Attended the Orientation Day	28	24	7	1	0	60
For Participants who Did not Attend the Orientation Day	30	16	17	0	0	63

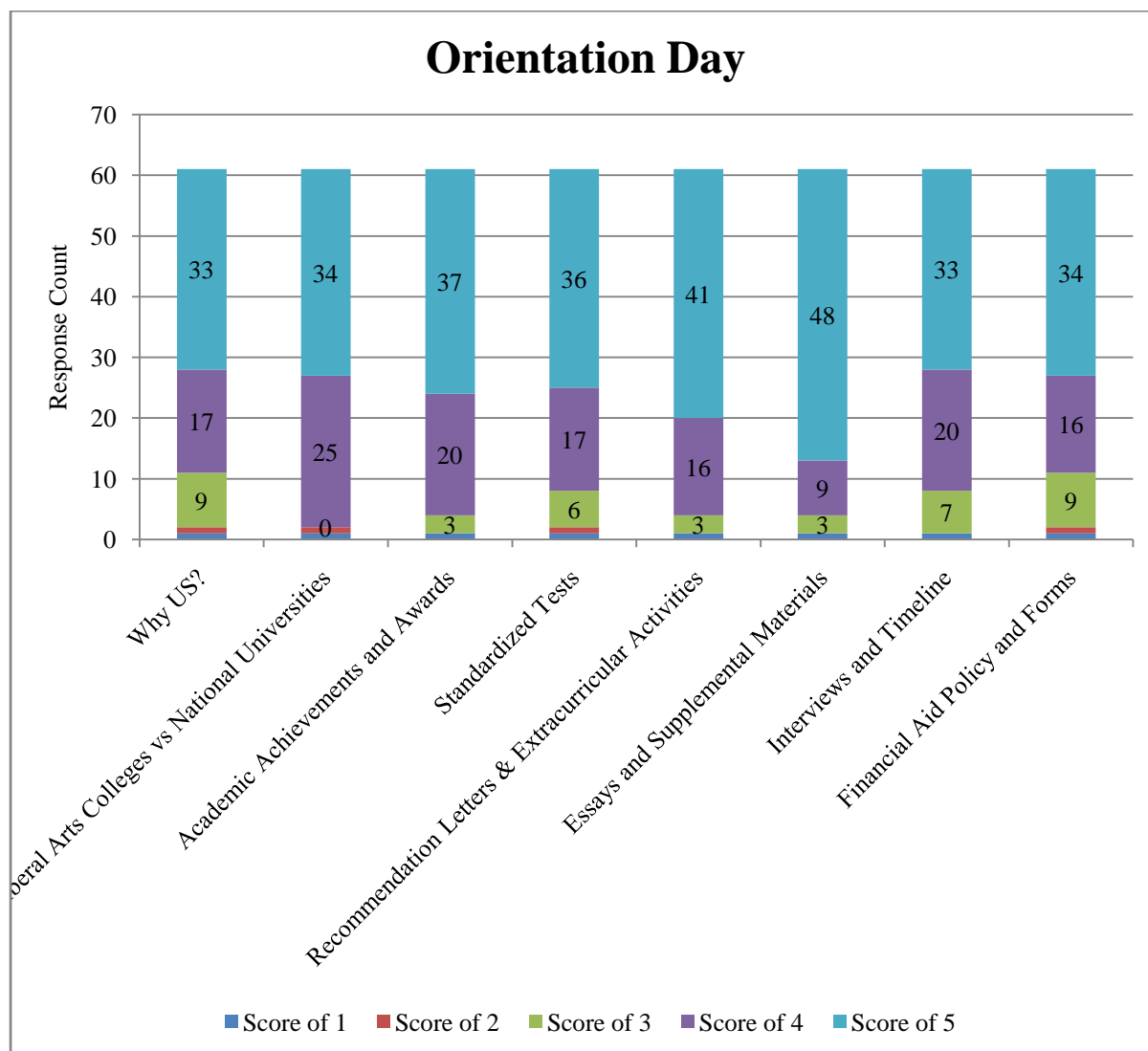


Overlap between Orientation Day's & Conference Day's Content		
Yes	No	Response Count
11	49	60

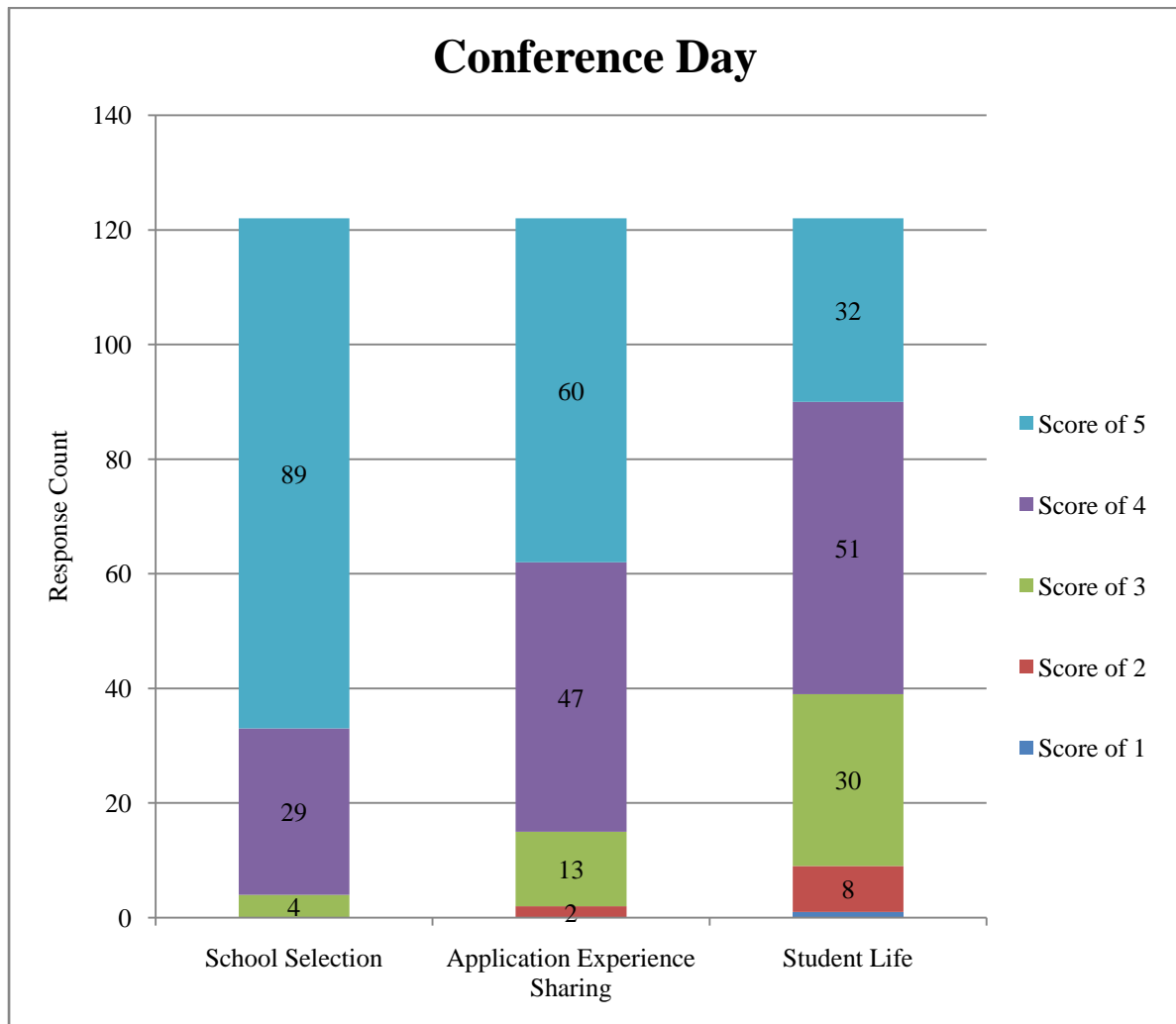


Presentation of Guest Speakers

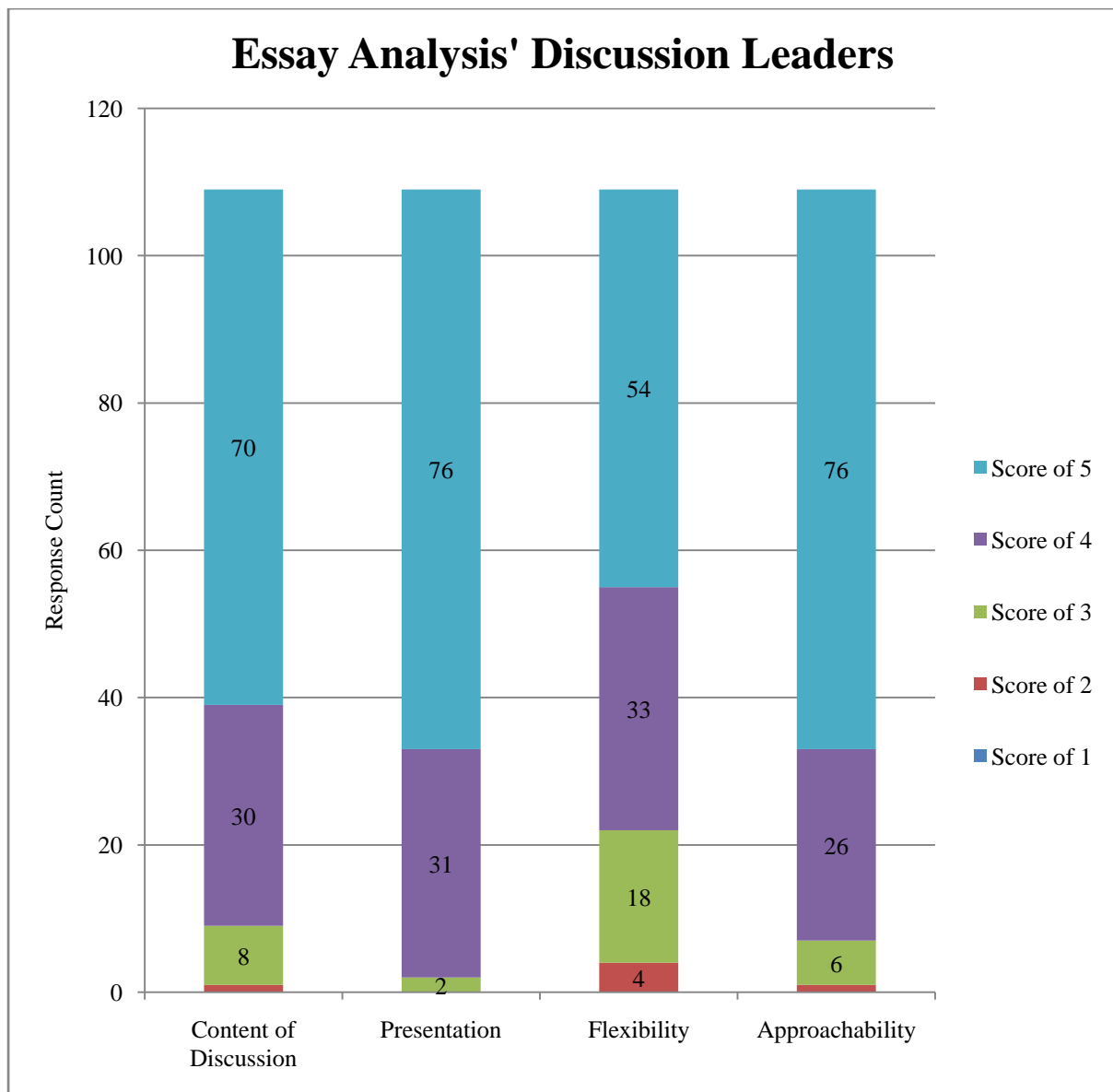
Orientation Day						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Why US?	1	1	9	17	33	61
Liberal Arts Colleges vs National Universities	1	1	0	25	34	61
Academic Achievements and Awards	1	0	3	20	37	61
Standardized Tests	1	1	6	17	36	61
Recommendation Letters & Extracurricular Activities	1	0	3	16	41	61
Essays and Supplemental Materials	1	0	3	9	48	61
Interviews and Timeline	1	0	7	20	33	61
Financial Aid Policy and Forms	1	1	9	16	34	61



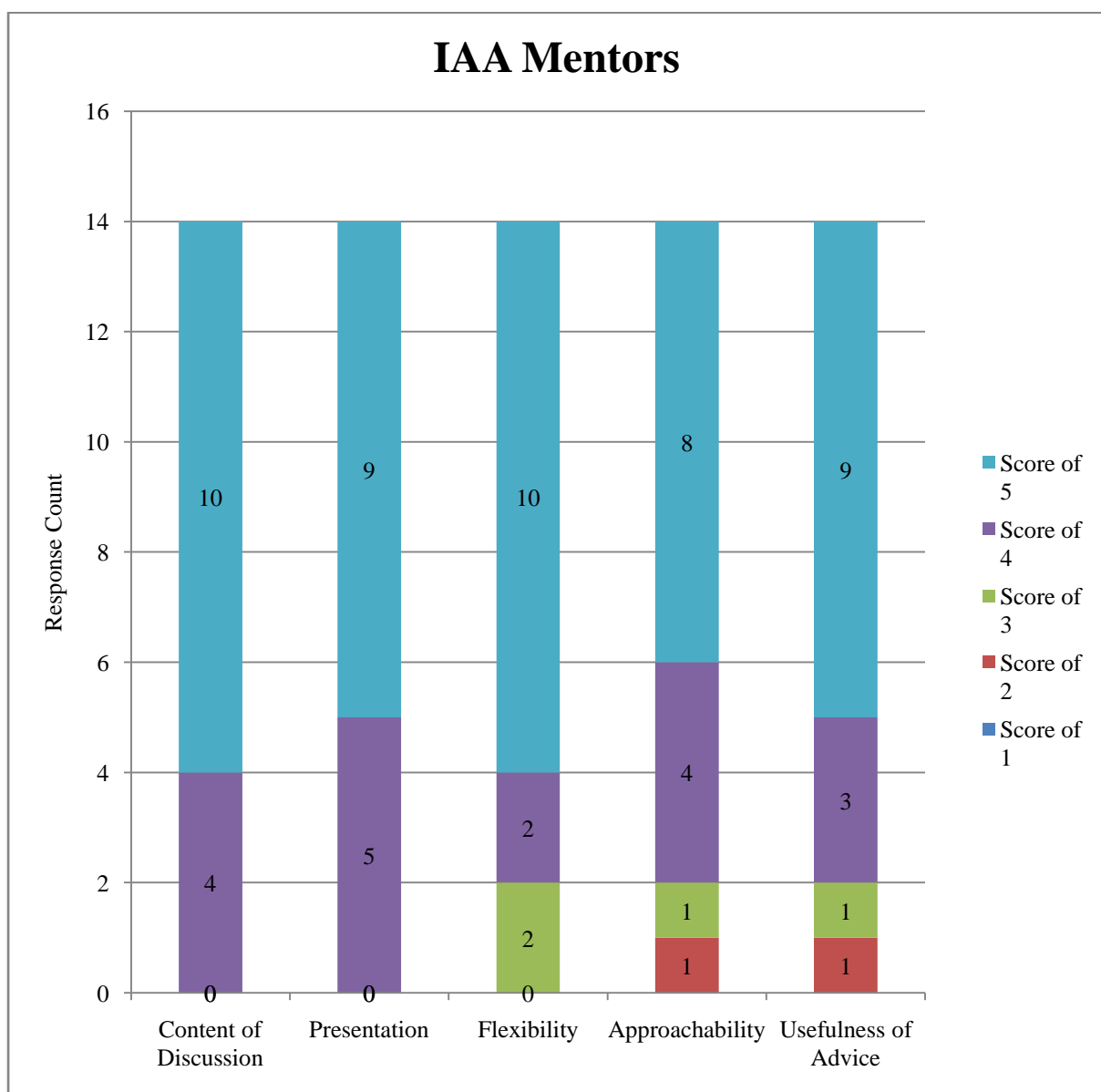
Conference Day						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
School Selection Panel	0	0	4	29	89	122
Application Experience Sharing Panel	0	2	13	47	60	122
Student Life Panel	1	8	30	51	32	122



Essay Analysis' Discussion Leaders						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Content of Discussion	0	1	8	30	70	109
Presentation	0	0	2	31	76	109
Flexibility	0	4	18	33	54	109
Approachability	0	1	6	26	76	109

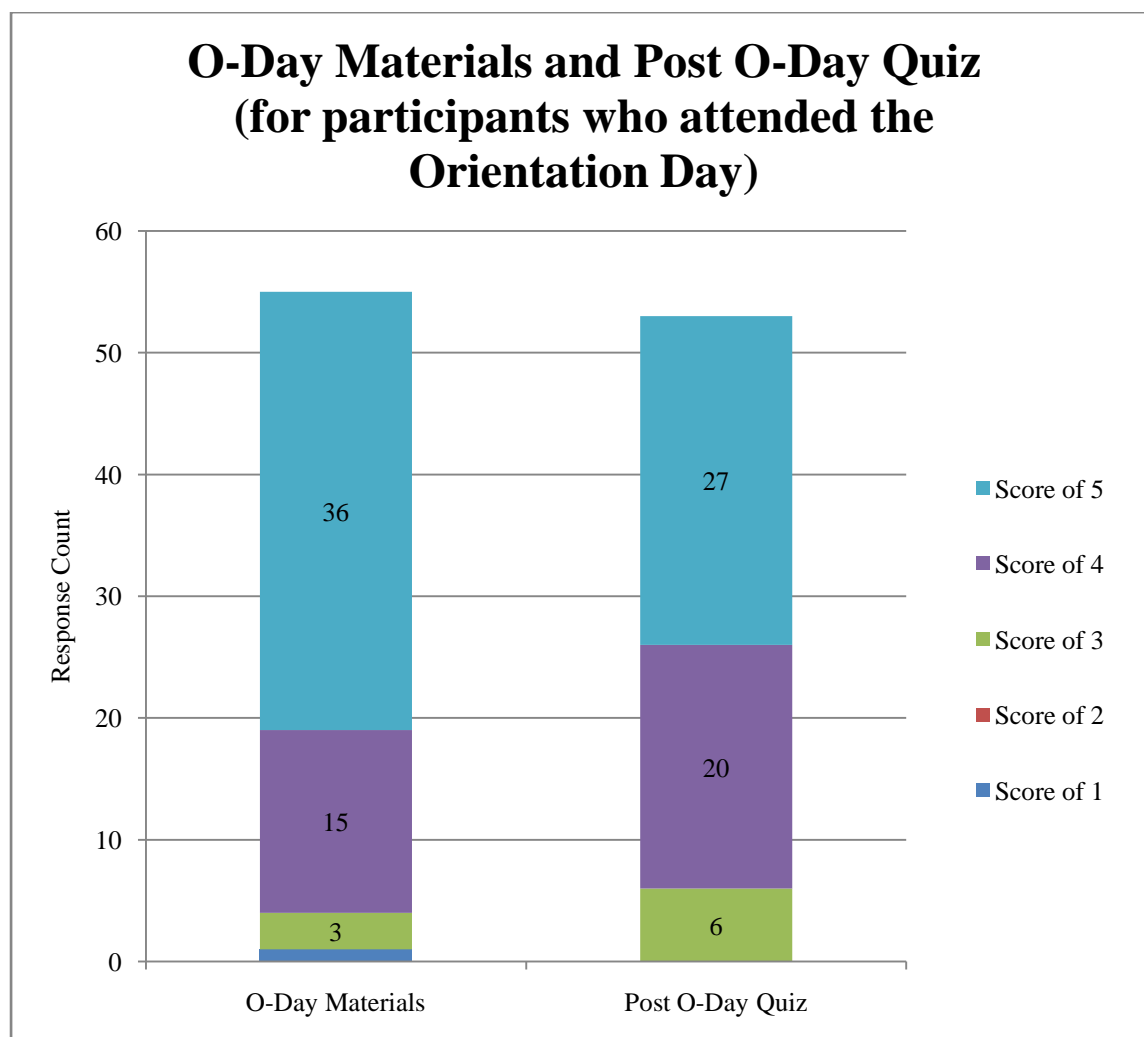


IAA Mentors						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Content of Discussion	0	0	0	4	10	14
Presentation	0	0	0	5	9	14
Flexibility	0	0	2	2	10	14
Approachability	0	1	1	4	8	14
Usefulness of Advice	0	1	1	3	9	14

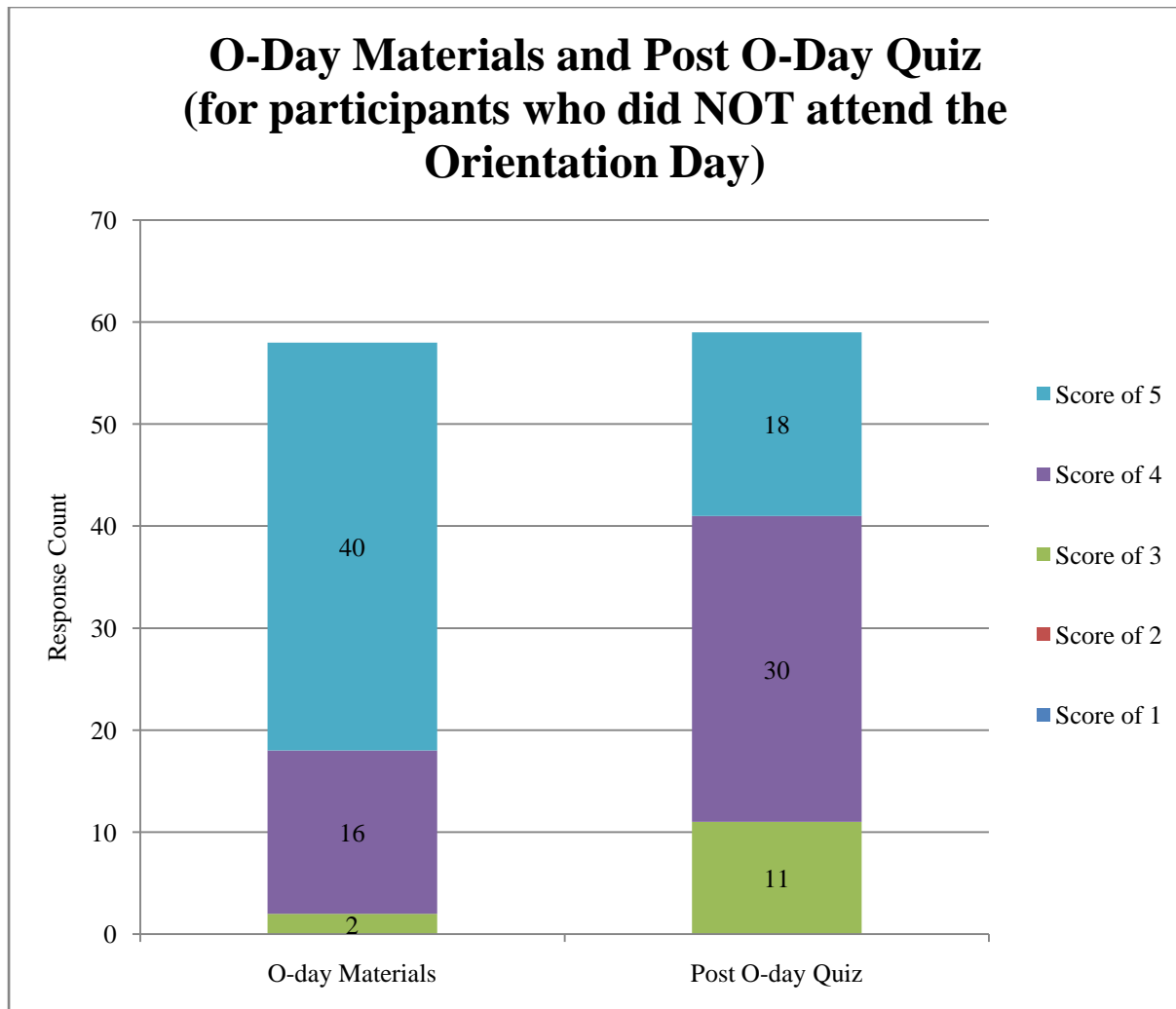


Supporting Materials of Conference

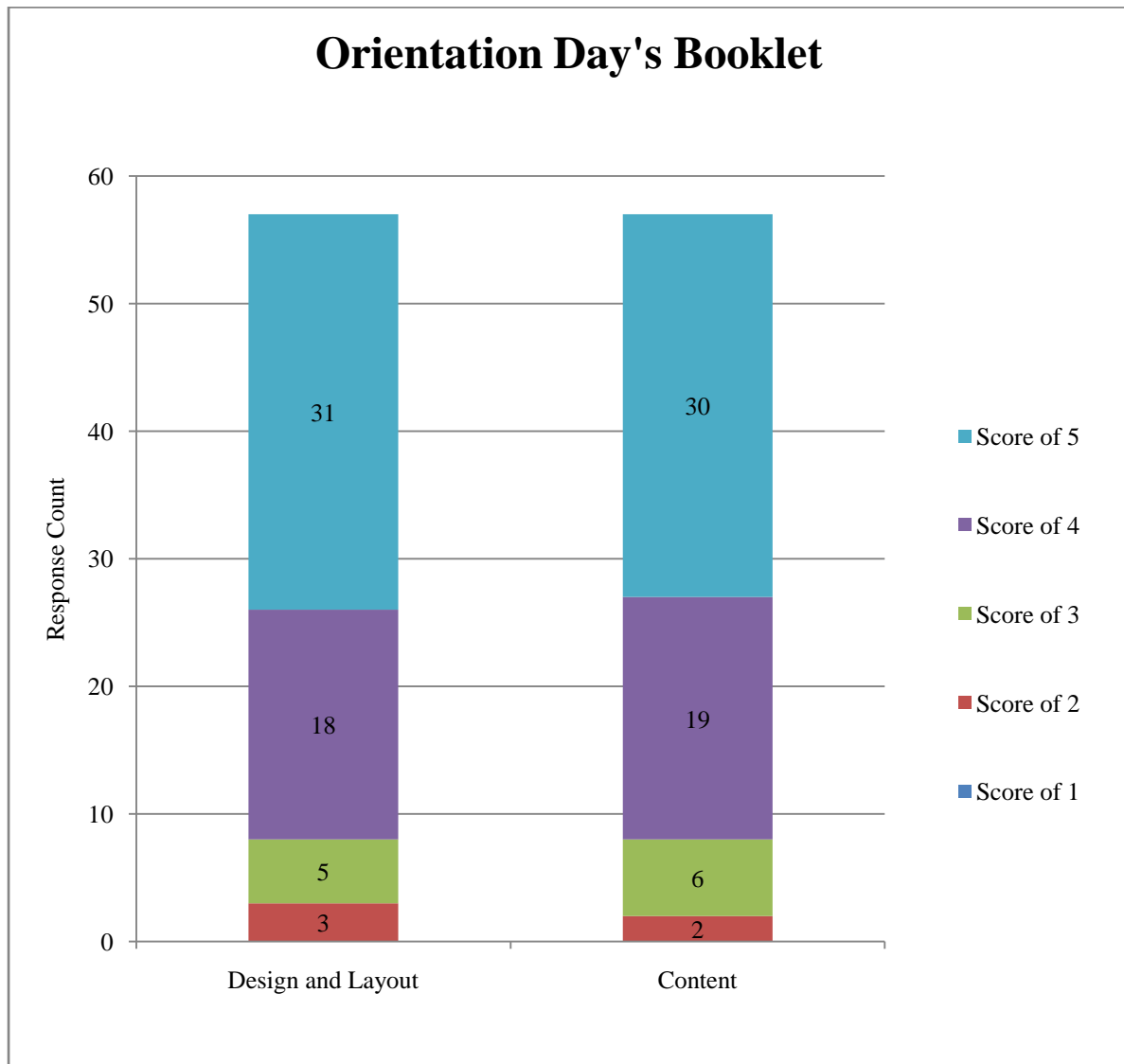
O-Day Materials and Post O-Day Quiz (For Participants who Attended the Orientation Day)						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
O-Day Materials	1	0	3	15	36	55
Post O-Day Quiz	0	0	6	20	27	53



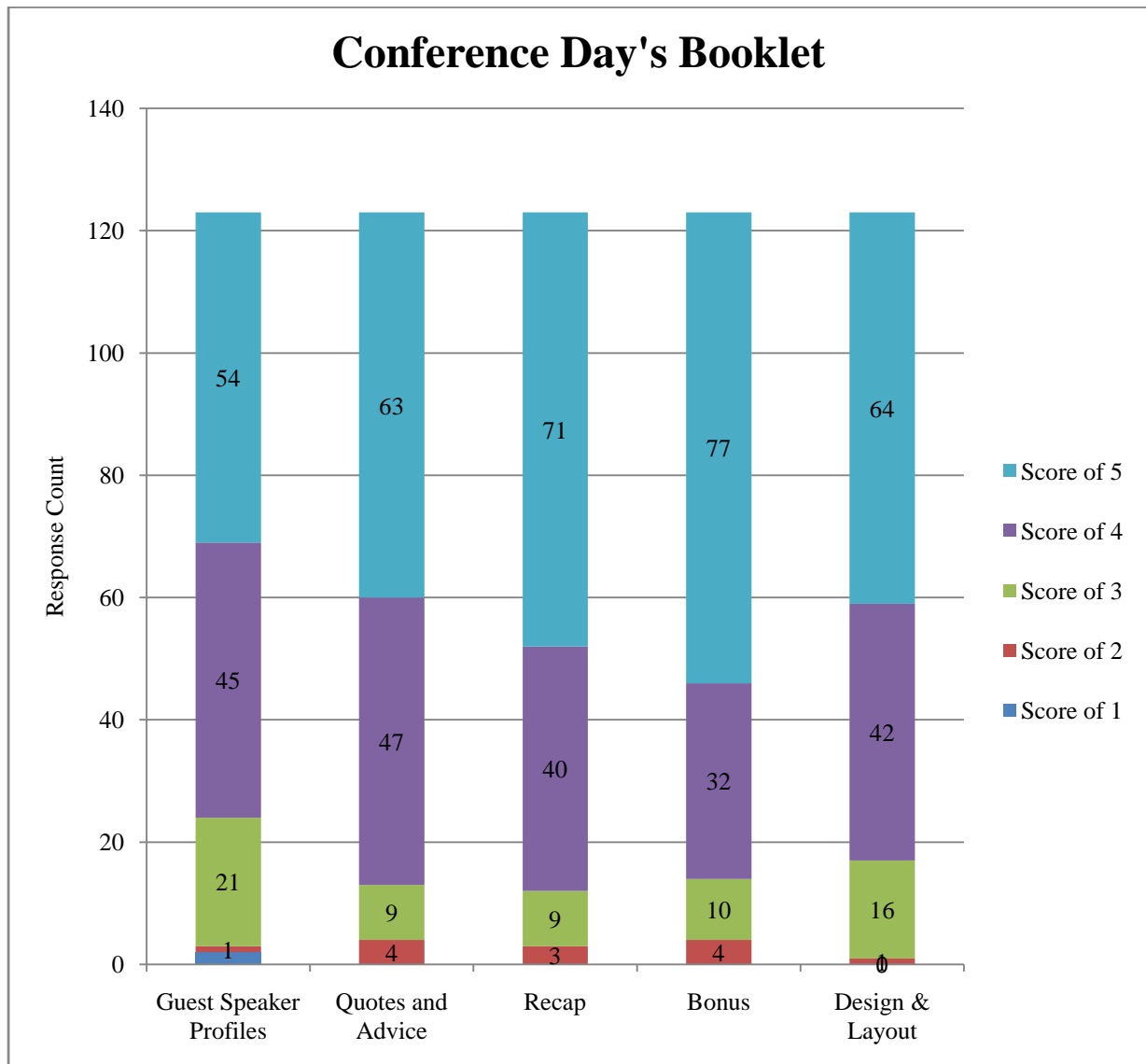
O-Day Materials and Post O-Day Quiz (For Participants Who Did NOT Attend the Orientation Day)						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
O-Day Materials	0	0	2	16	40	58
Post O-Day Quiz	0	0	11	30	18	59



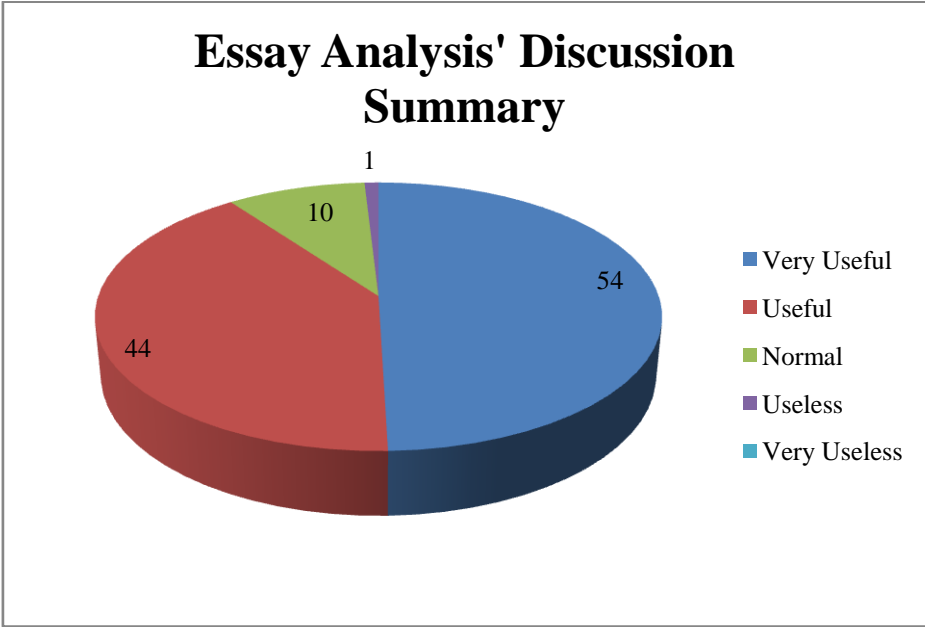
Orientation Day's Booklet							
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count	
Design and Layout	0	3	5	18	31	57	
Content	0	2	6	19	30	57	



Conference Day's Booklet							
	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Guest Speaker Profiles		2	1	21	45	54	123
Quotes and Advice		0	4	9	47	63	123
Recap		0	3	9	40	71	123
Bonus		0	4	10	32	77	123
Design & Layout		0	1	16	42	64	123

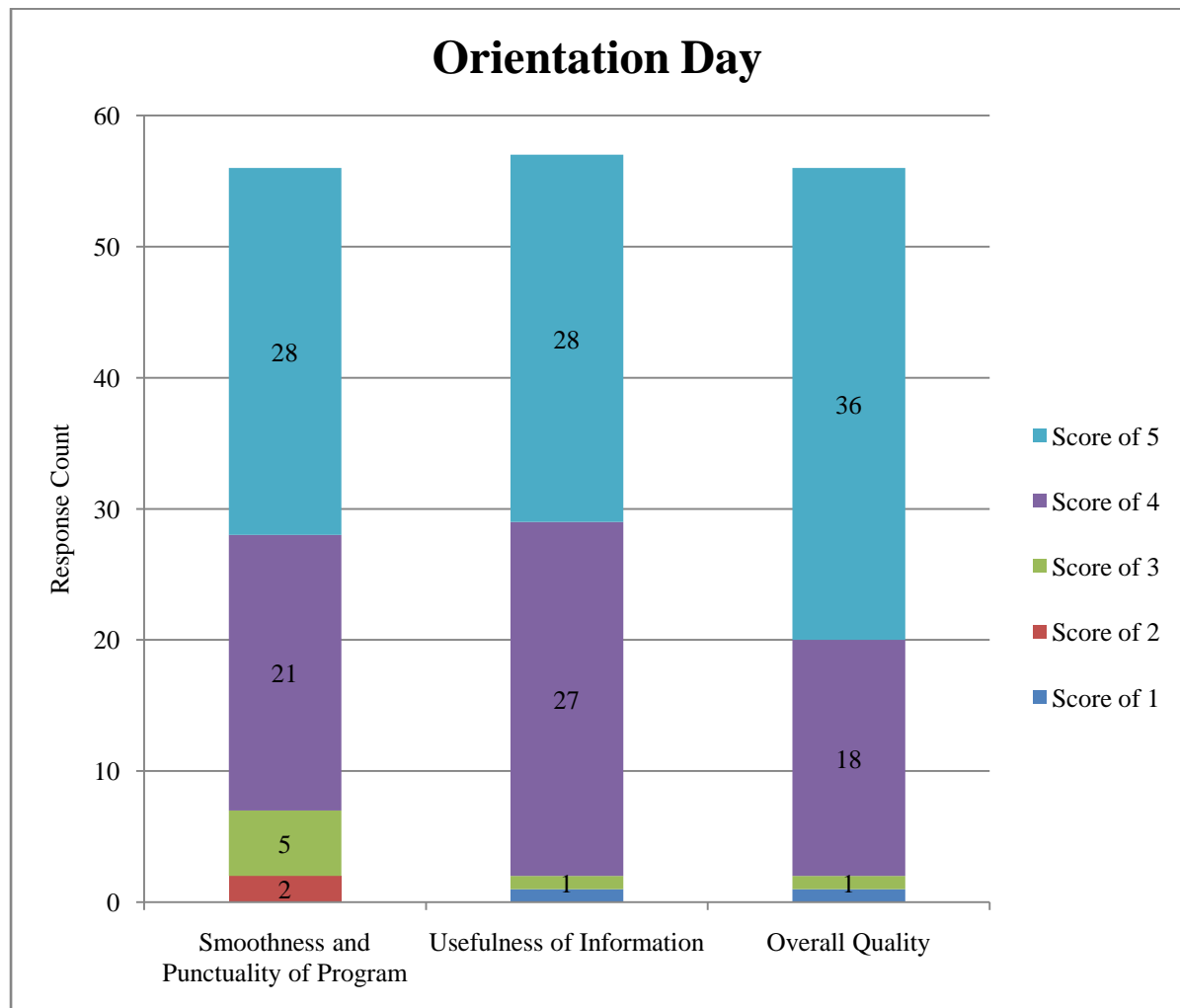


Essay Analysis' Discussion Summary					
Very Useful	Useful	Normal	Useless	Very Useless	Response Count
54	44	10	1	0	109



General Evaluation

Orientation Day						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Smoothness and Punctuality of Program	0	2	5	21	28	56
Usefulness of Information	1	0	1	27	28	57
Overall Quality	1	0	1	18	36	56



Conference Day						
Score	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
Smoothness and Punctuality of Program	0	2	18	52	51	123
Usefulness of Information Provided on the Conference day	0	1	10	36	76	123
Originality of Content Provided on the Conference day	0	4	13	44	62	123
Interaction Between Attendees and Guest Speakers	1	4	22	55	41	123
Interaction among Attendees	1	10	40	49	23	123
Working Attitude of Organizing Team	0	0	2	36	85	123
Overall Professionalism of the Conference	0	0	3	45	75	123
Overall Fondness for the Conference	0	0	5	27	91	123

