

Report Card

# Semester in Democracy

<b>Dates</b>	May 11th to June 26th
<b>Location</b>	Online
<b>Teachers</b>	Shauna Sylvester, Executive Director, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue Dr. Daniel Savas

SFU's Semester in Dialogue, Democracy the Next Frontier was a full-time, hands-on learning experience where 21 university students, all from different programs and life experiences, came together for seven weeks to examine the institutions, culture and practice of democracy in Canada. Based on an independent program evaluation with the students, the following report card outlines the program's success.

## Key Sources of Learning:

- ✓ Hosting, conversing and connecting with diverse range of esteemed guest speakers
- ✓ Empowering youth focused projects independently led by students
- ✓ Hands-on assignments and workshops
- ✓ Personalized feedback from instructors, peers, subject experts and practitioners



100% of students indicated coordinating a politician/public servant to speak to their class as the most valuable component to their learning

## Growth Outcomes

■ Before  
■ After

### Increased confidence in ability to influence government

*Ordinary citizens can influence government if they are willing to make an effort*



### Made politics more relatable and personable for students

*Elected officials care what ordinary people think*



### Fostered more positive view on politicians and Canada's democracy

*Trust in civil servants*



### Generated deeper understanding of complex reality of Canada's democracy

*Strong level of knowledge of strategies to strengthen democracy*



### Expanded understanding and willingness to participate in democratic engagement

*Strong understanding of their role in democracy in Canada*



*Strong understanding of democratic engagement*



### Yielded increased value in local politics and community involvement

*Strong sense of belonging to province*



*If have a concern in community, know who to contact*



### Imparted transferrable skills

*How to write a candidate issue brief*



*Learning in an online environment*



*Online public presentations*



*Dialogue*



*Research*



See the extended report for a full list of transferrable skills learned in SID.

"Before the program I was a little bit intimidated by the idea of democracy because I felt like I didn't really understand what it was. However, as the course went on I felt like I watched myself progress in my comfort with talking about democracy and politics and talking to the leaders and experts."