Members of the 2016 freshman class are thinking a lot about politics. They are eager to get involved and share their views, but are also looking for support as they try to navigate their new environment.

With a divisive political climate, freshmen are expressing their views...

80% | 87%
Think global climate change should be a federal priority

YES MEANS YES

87% | 90%
Agree that sexual activity without explicit, affirmative consent is considered sexual assault

68% | 80%
Believe the federal government should have stricter gun control laws

...And are taking action to promote change.

22% | 27%
Demonstrated for a cause

51% | 56%
Spoke up publicly about a cause

55% | 63%
Helped raise money for a cause or campaign

53% | 53%
Feel it’s important to become a community leader

36% | 45%
Feel it’s important to participate in a community action program

47% | 54%
Feel it’s important to promote racial understanding

49% | 53%
Feel it’s important to influence social values

43% | 53%
Feel it’s important to become a community leader

35% | 47%
Feel like they belong in the field of science

50% | 64%
Derive satisfaction from working on a team that is doing important research

65% | 85%
Anticipate working on a professor’s research project

53% | 71%
Are confident in their ability to understand scientific concepts

...And are applying complex thinking strategies.

63% | 80%
Frequently supported their opinion with a logical argument

49% | 67%
Frequently evaluated the quality or reliability of information

46% | 63%
Frequently analyzed information from multiple sources before drawing a conclusion

And colleges need to be prepared to support students’ mental health concerns as they arrive on campus.

84% | 85%
Felt anxious

51% | 50%
Felt depressed

41% | 41%
Were frequently overwhelmed by all they had to do

47% | 55%
Anticipate seeking personal counseling

Information about students entering college helps enrollment planning, retention efforts, and provides a baseline for understanding college effectiveness. Register for the CIRP Freshman Survey at www.cirpsurveys.org. The 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey findings are available at www.heri.ucla.edu/publications.html.