

Those who go and those who don't: Effect of WC Attendance

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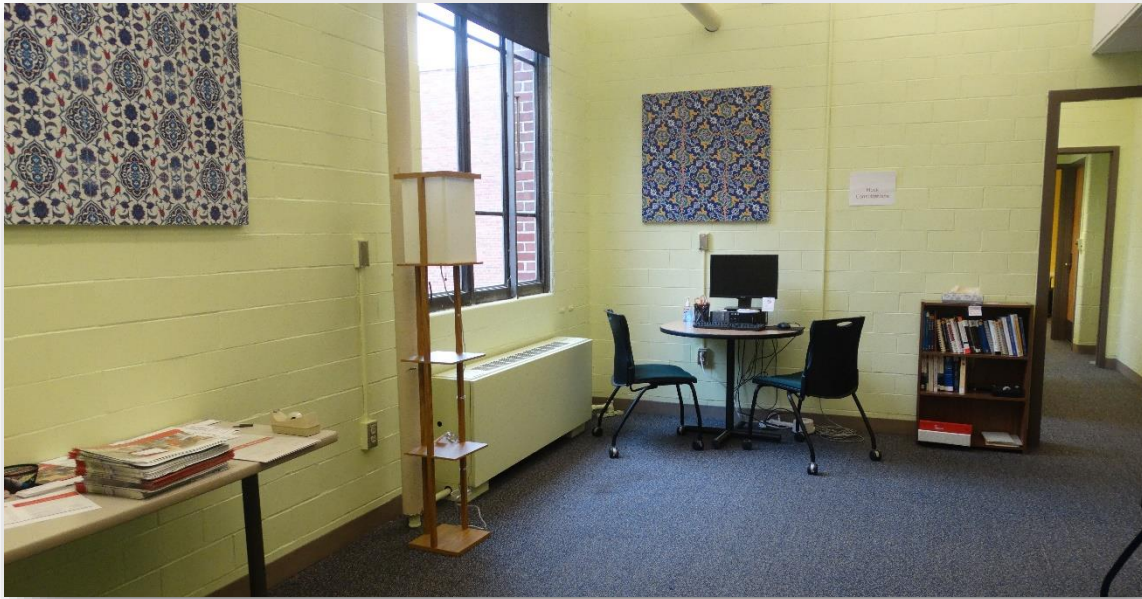
Writing Center Missions: What are Writing Centers?



Talk Outline

- Introduction
- Method
- Results: BCC/OSU perception data (general findings)
- Results: OSU STEM student findings
- Discussion

Structure of Writing Centers



The Ohio State University



Bristol Community College WC
& Subject Tutoring

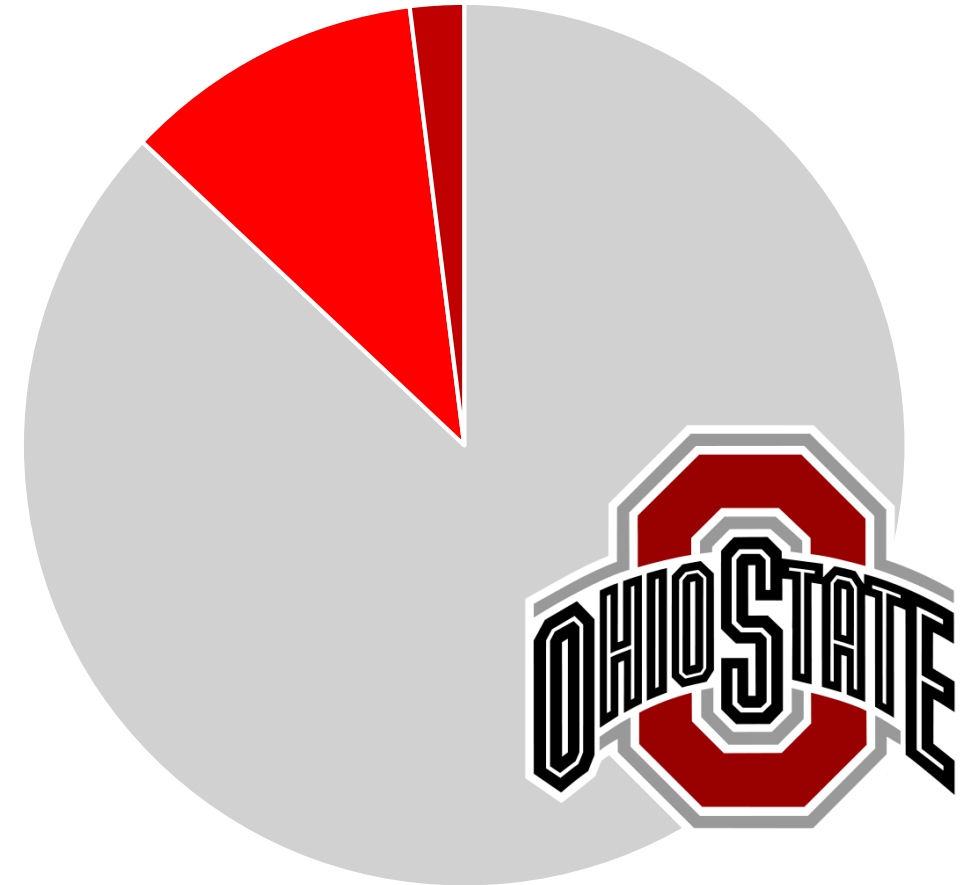
Potential for WCs as data Repositories

- Writing Centers already collect A LOT of data about their populations
- Writing Centers claim universal use
- Non-attendees of Writing Centers are an under-studied population
- We lack robust research on WC impact on learning

Attendance of those Surveyed



- Never
- Monthly
- Once a semester
- Weekly



- Never
- Once a Semester
- Monthly

Method- Data collection styles

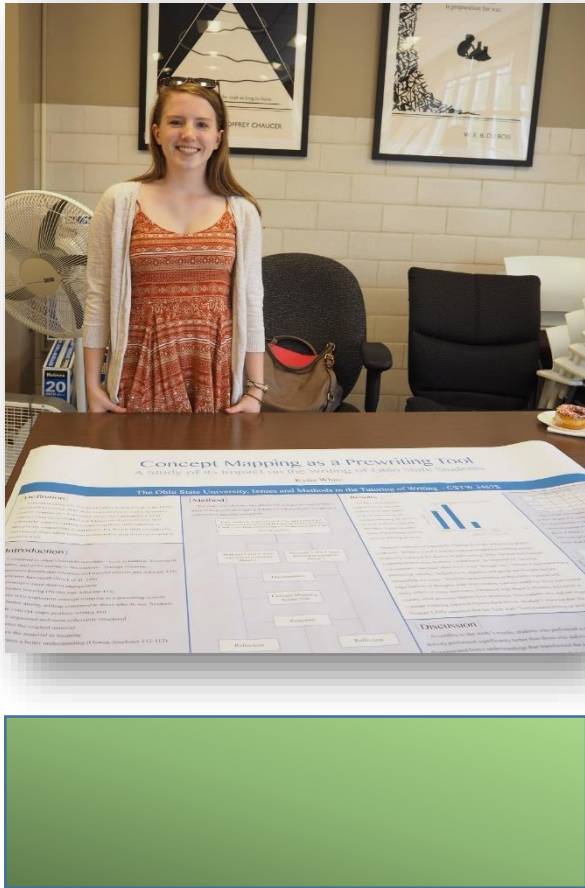
Writing Center Exit Survey

- Passive Collection (easier)
- 18% response rate of attending; 2.5% of total population
- More bias
- Less student engagement potential
- Targeted findings

Surveying General Population

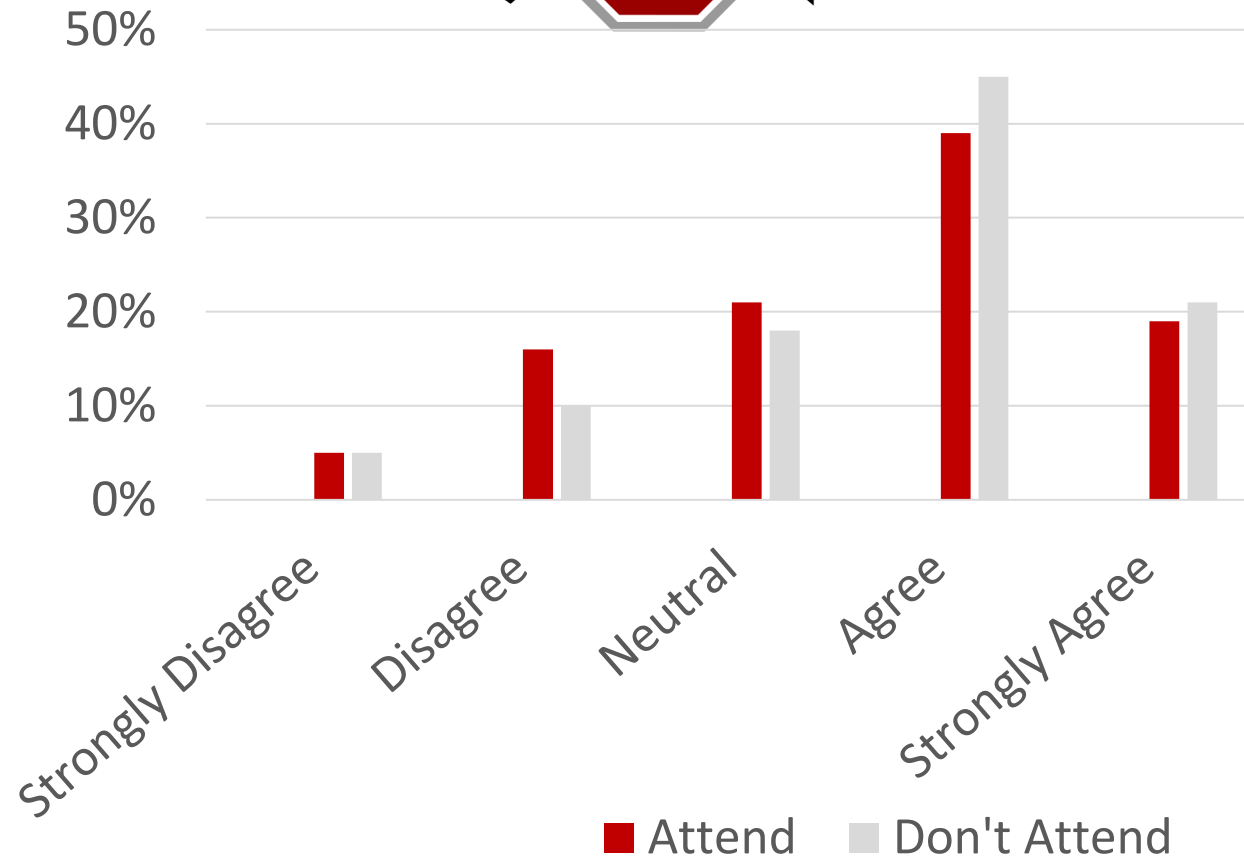
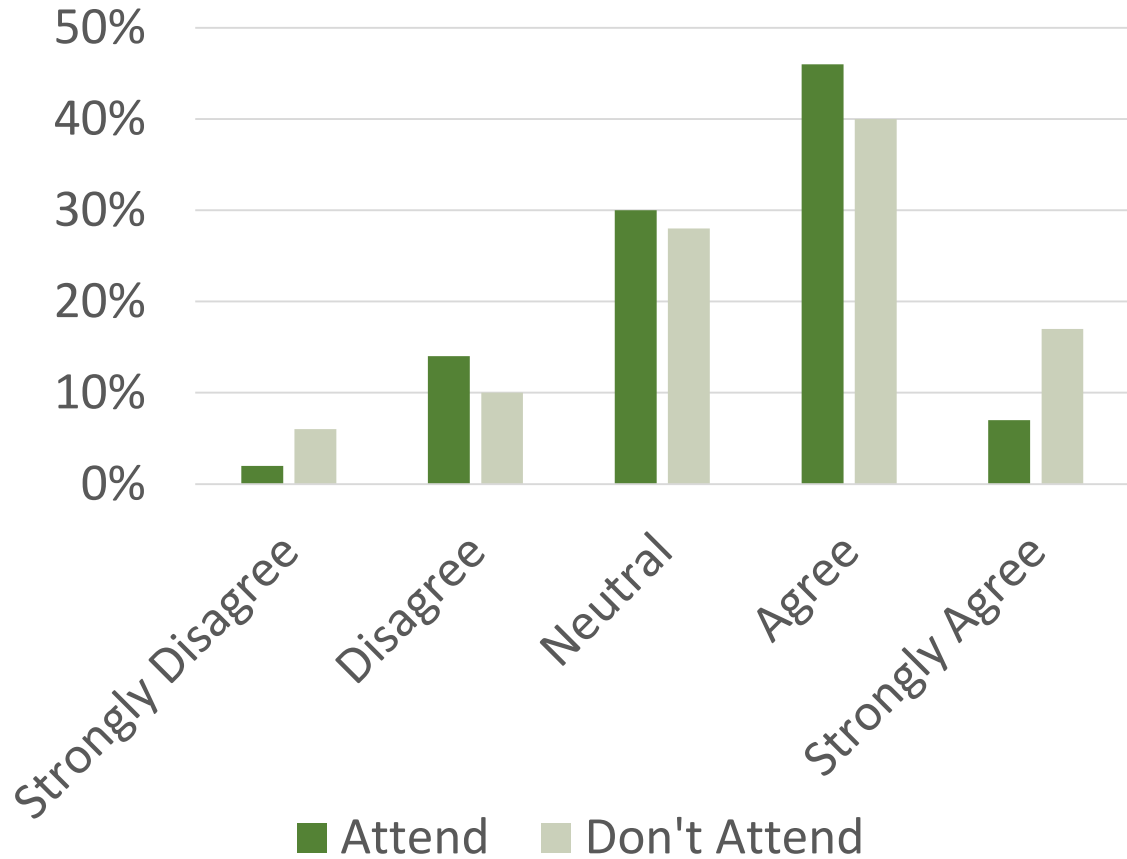
- Active Collection
- 2% of total population, skew undergraduate
- Less bias
- More student engagement potential
- Broader findings

Method: class embedded survey work

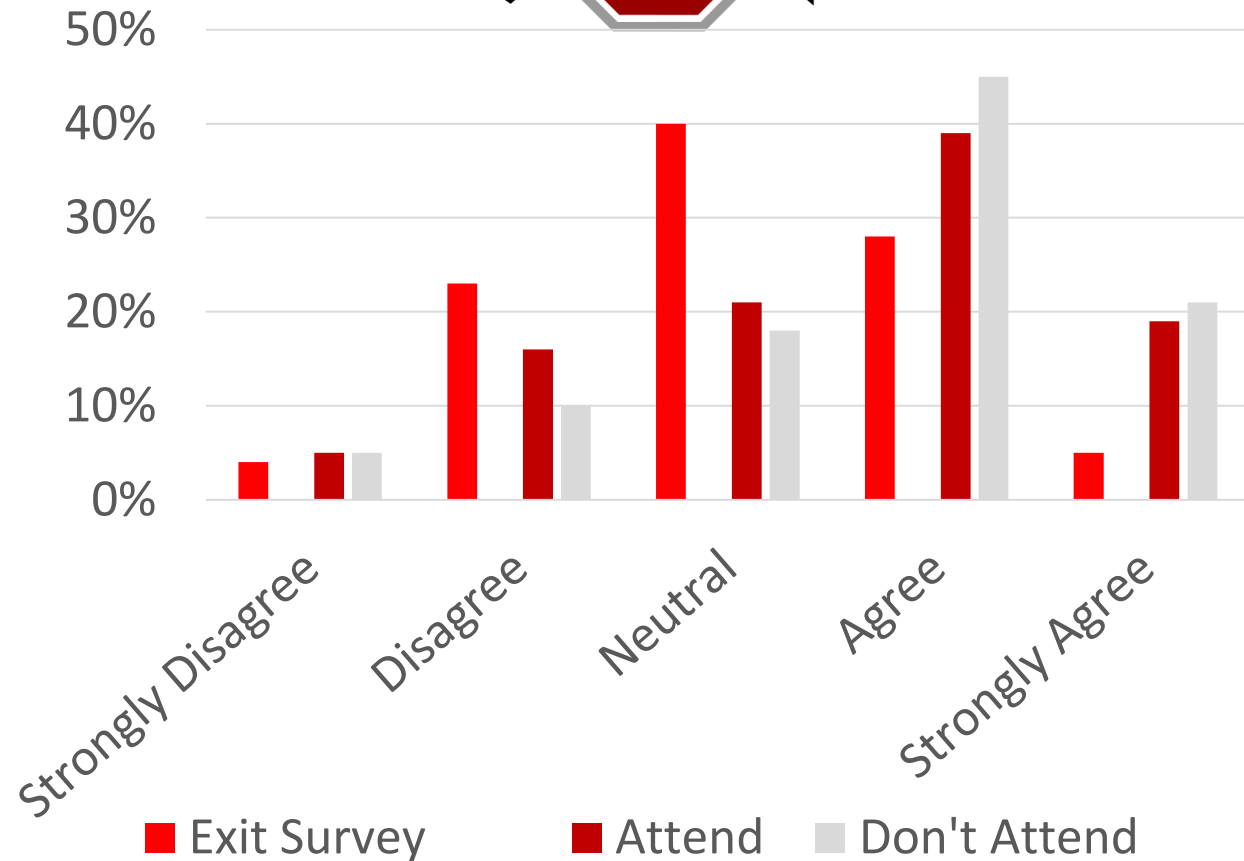
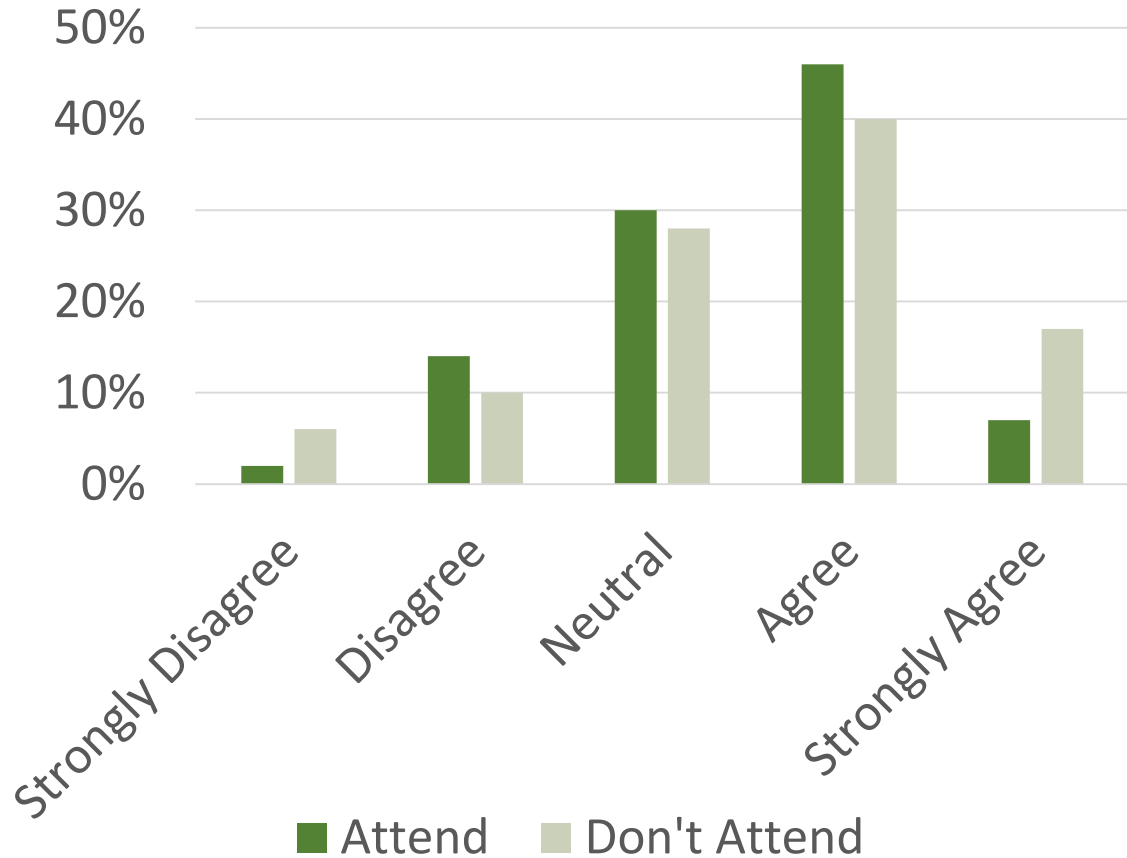


Giaimo, 2017 "Focusing on the Blind Spots: RAD-based assessment of Students' Perceptions of Community College Writing Centers"

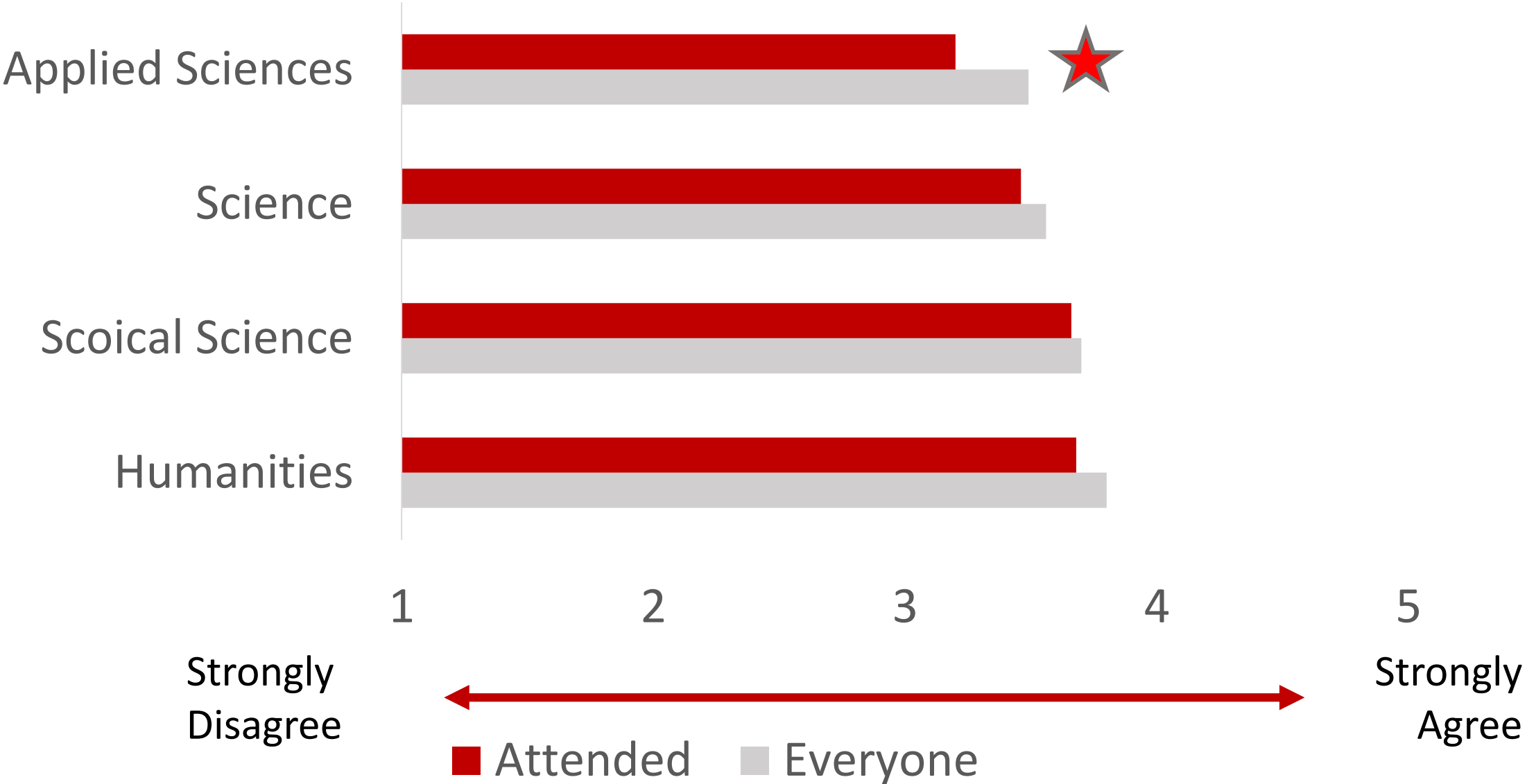
“I consider myself a strong writer...”



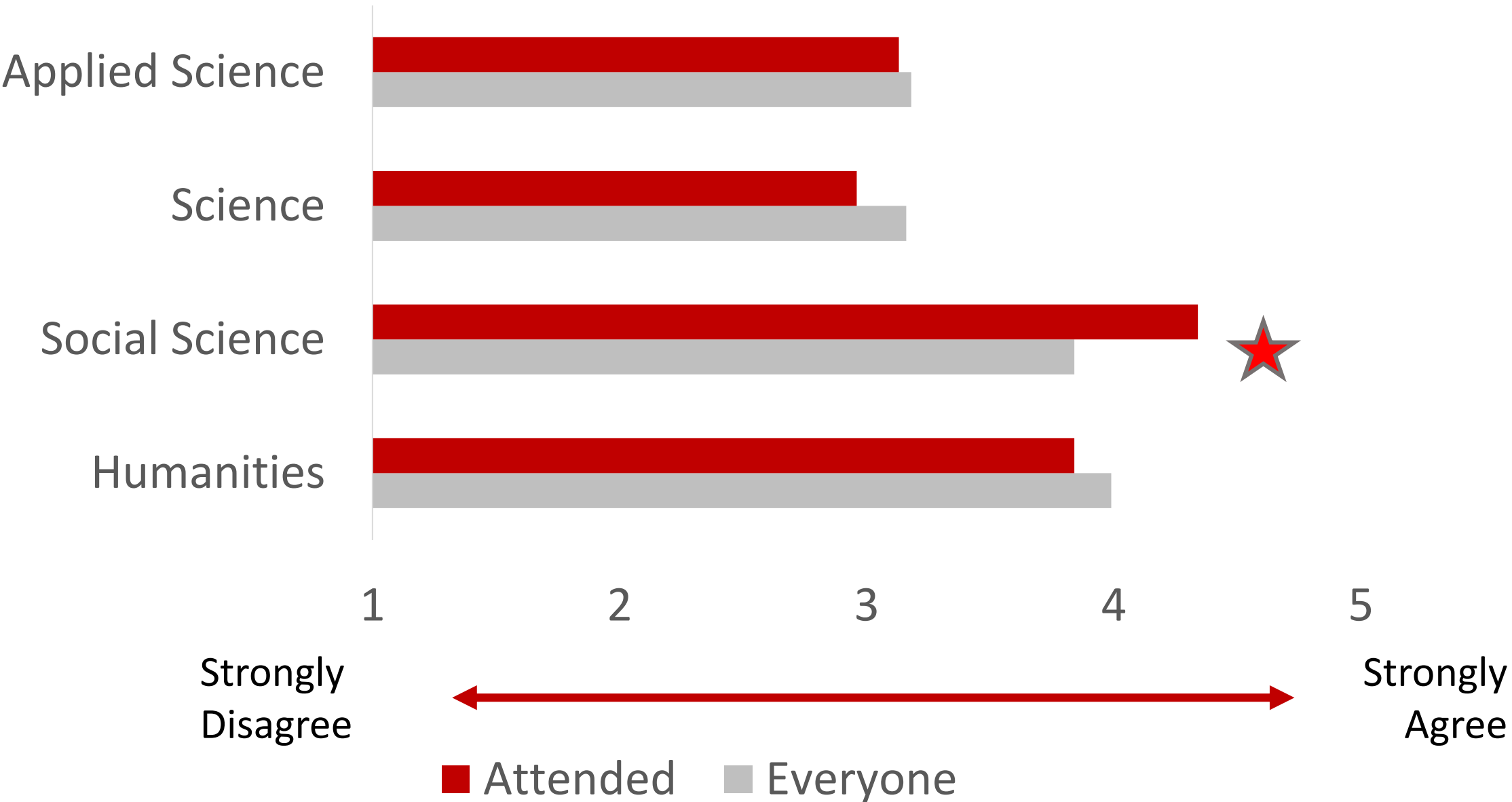
“I consider myself a strong writer...”



“I consider myself a strong writer...” by major



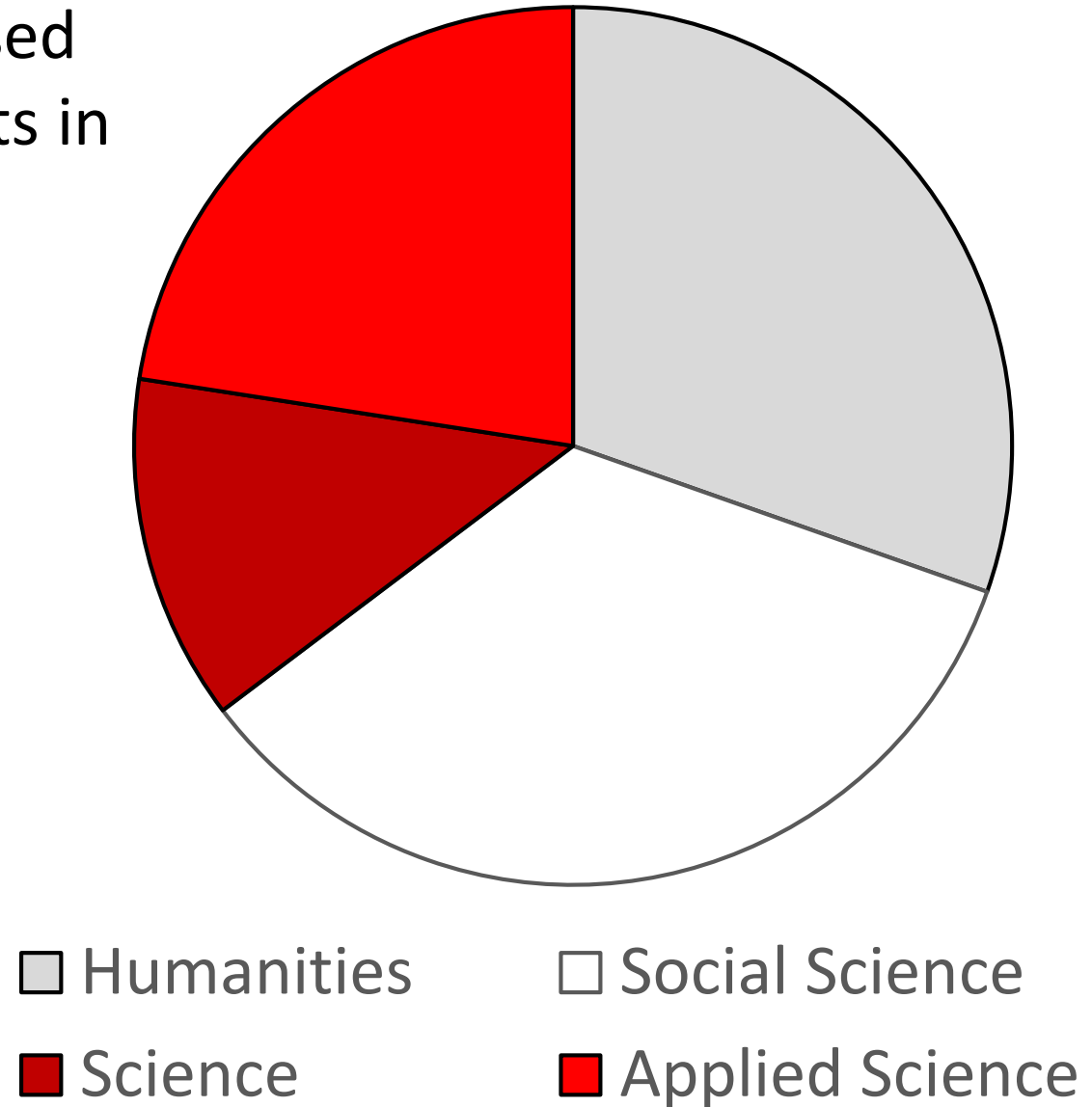
“Writing is important in my major...”



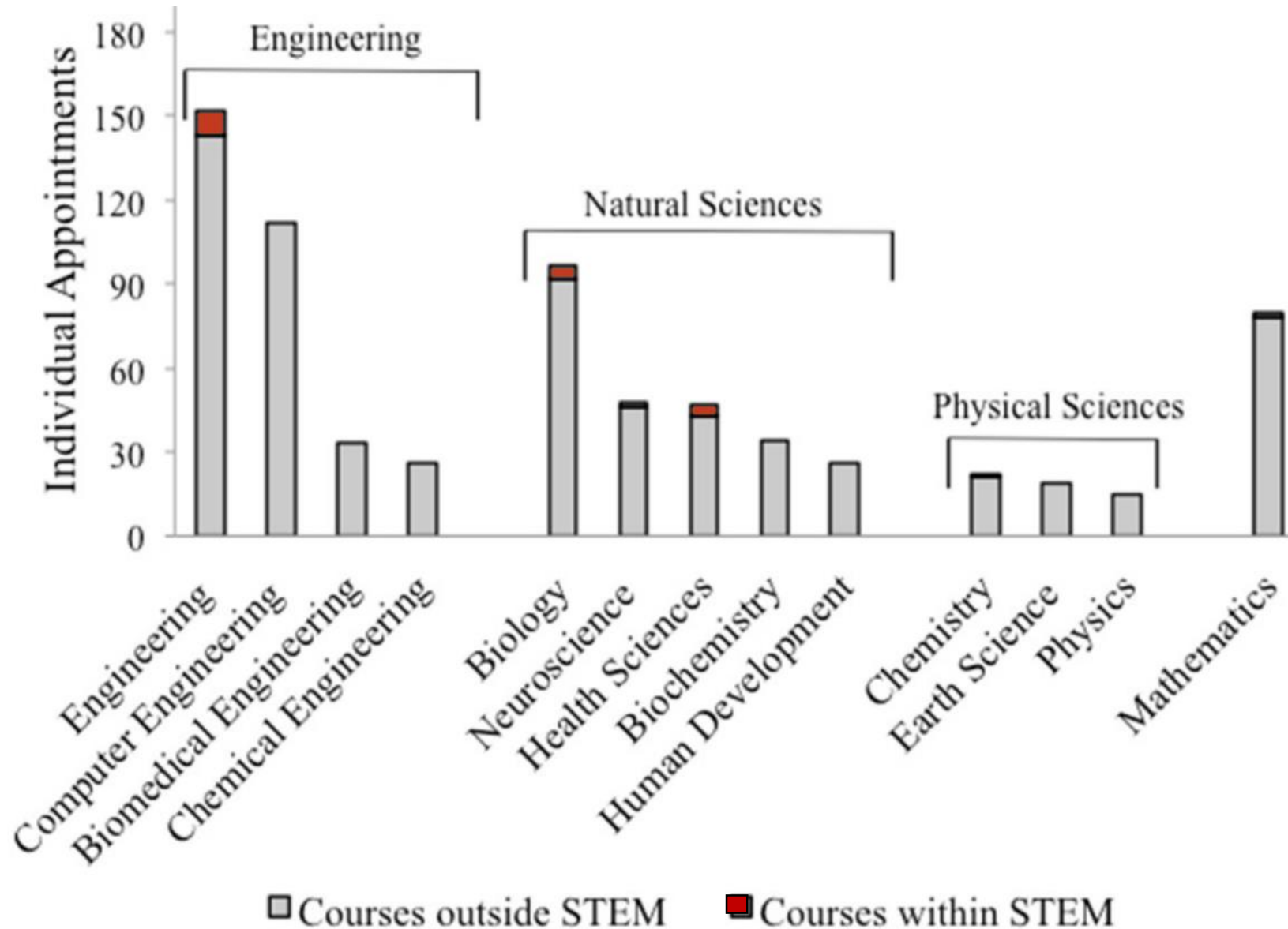
Attendance of STEM majors

WC Online STEM majors comprised 40.9% (859 of 2159 appointments in 2015 - 2016)

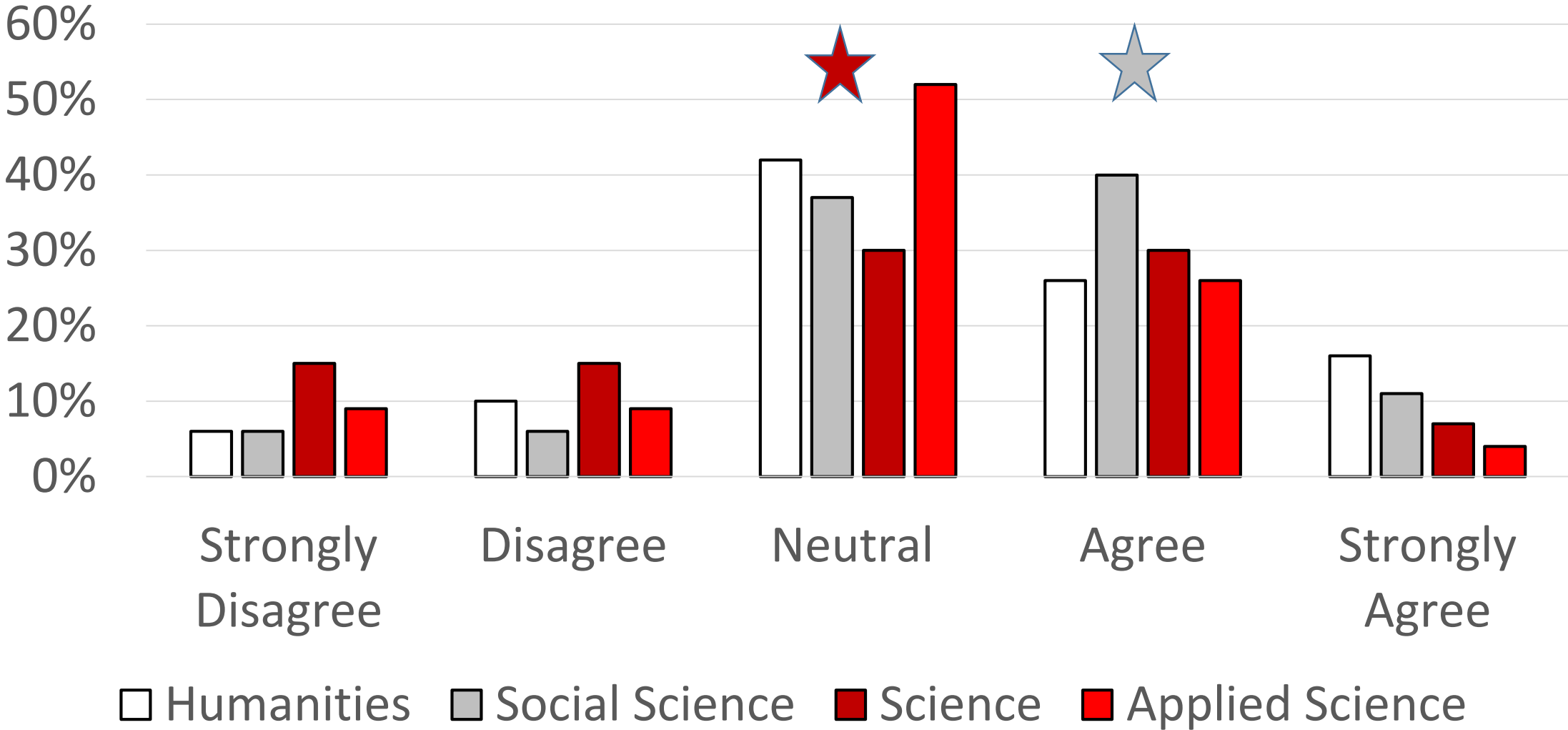
➤ Our survey reflects this trend



STEM student visits by major (2015-2016)



Developed as a writer



Conclusions

- Value of writing varies by discipline
- Writers who report lower confidence are more likely to attend the Writing Center at OSU.
- STEM students are not using the writing center for STEM writing (mostly Gen. Eds.)
- Passively collected data is useful but so is “boots on the ground” surveying.
- Culture of writing at OSU
 - What can we do to change this assumption?



Thank You.

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