

## Prison Education Project 2023-24 Annual Report

The Prison Education Project (PEP) provided academic, life skills, and career development programming in various county juvenile correctional facilities in California. During the 2023-24 period PEP provided programming in 23 county juvenile facilities in the state. During the 6-Week Summer Session 2023, 7-Week Fall Session 2023, and 7-Week Spring Session 2024, PEP used 218 university student volunteers to teach 102 sections of 20 different courses in 18 county juvenile probation departments throughout the state. There were 323 Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) participants in PEP courses during this period. The primary courses that were taught in the facilities were: *Introduction to College*, *Introduction to Soft Skills*, *Career Development*, *Introduction to Financial Literacy*, and *Building Healthy Relationships*. The PEP volunteers were primarily from 10 universities. These volunteers acted as mentors for the in-custody population once they were released from the facilities. We collaborated with the formerly incarcerated students in the Rising Scholars programs at the California Community Colleges and partnered with the formerly incarcerated students in Project Rebound from various California State University campuses. Because our formerly incarcerated college mentors have experienced the same challenges as our SYTF population, they have a greater capacity to empower and inspire this group. Our partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation ensures that our participants can pursue any level of higher education or vocational education for free. Our partnership with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) has been instrumental in PEP’s capacity to bring programming into various county juvenile facilities throughout the state. Once our participants are discharged from custody, they have the opportunity to participate in the 8-week Reintegration Academy, which is sponsored by Pitzer College in the south and UC Davis in the north. The Reintegration Academy immerses participants into vocational education, life skills, and career development modules. Since 2009, we have hosted 15 cohorts of the Reintegration Academy with 410 graduates and a 92% success rate of getting our formerly incarcerated participants enrolled in college and/or gainful employment.

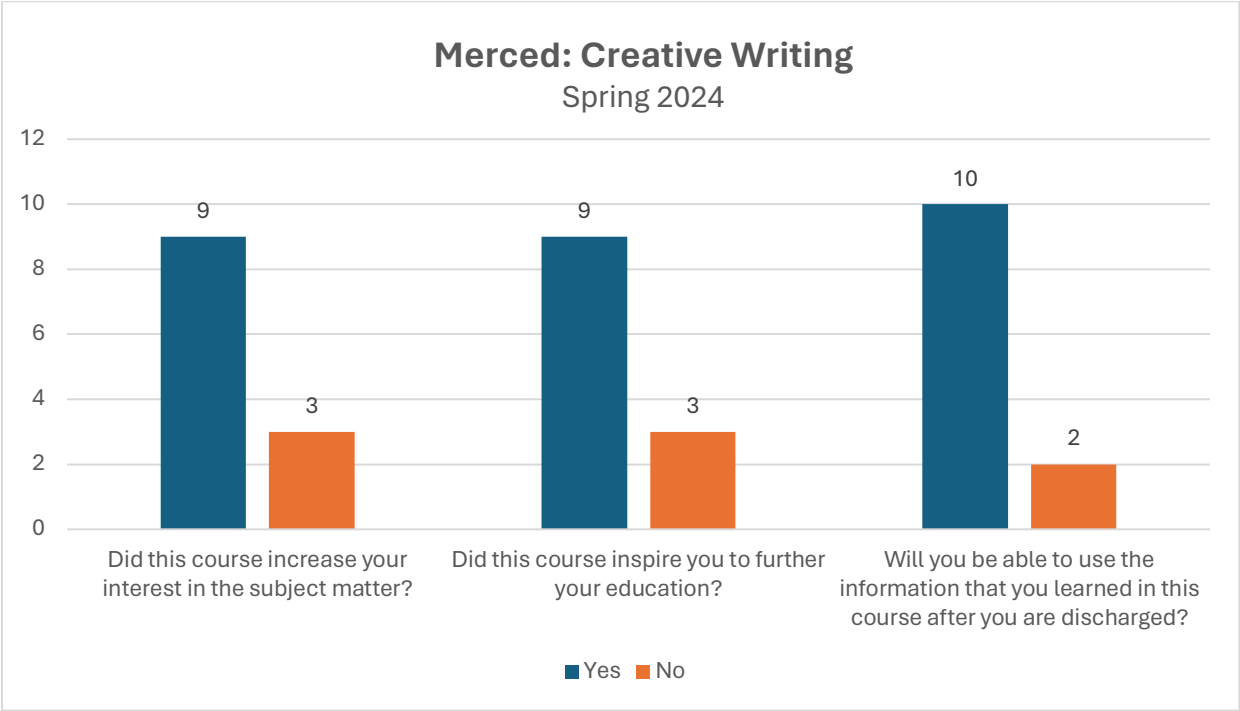
<b>PEP 2023-24 Metrics</b>	
<b>County Juvenile Facilities Serviced</b>	<b>18 Counties/23 Facilities</b> Imperial County Kern County (2 facilities) Kings County Los Angeles County (3 facilities) Madera County Merced County

	Monterey County (2 facilities) Riverside County (3 facilities) Sacramento County San Diego County (2 facilities) Santa Barbara County Santa Clara County San Mateo County San Joaquin County Solano County Stanislaus County Tulare County Tuolumne County
<b>Number of Youth Participants</b>	<b>323</b> (19 SYTF participants per county)
<b>Number of Volunteers</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>Courses Sections Taught</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Different Courses Taught</b>	<b>20</b> Introduction to College Introduction to Soft Skills Career Development Introduction to Financial Literacy Building Healthy Relationships Creative Writing Creative Expression Self-Advocacy Introduction to Civics Introduction to Philosophy Introduction to Debate Introduction to Social Problems Introduction to Music Appreciation Yoga & Meditation Introduction to Screenwriting Introduction to Mindfulness Introduction to Autobiography Writing Introduction to Film Studies Introduction to College Success Introduction the Law & Legal Theory



## Course Survey Data

The following PEP survey data are from courses that were taught in various county juvenile facilities in California during the Spring Semester 2024 and Fall Semester 2023. At the completion of the course, in-custody students were given post-course surveys to complete. The following is a sample of outcomes of the courses that were taught during this period.

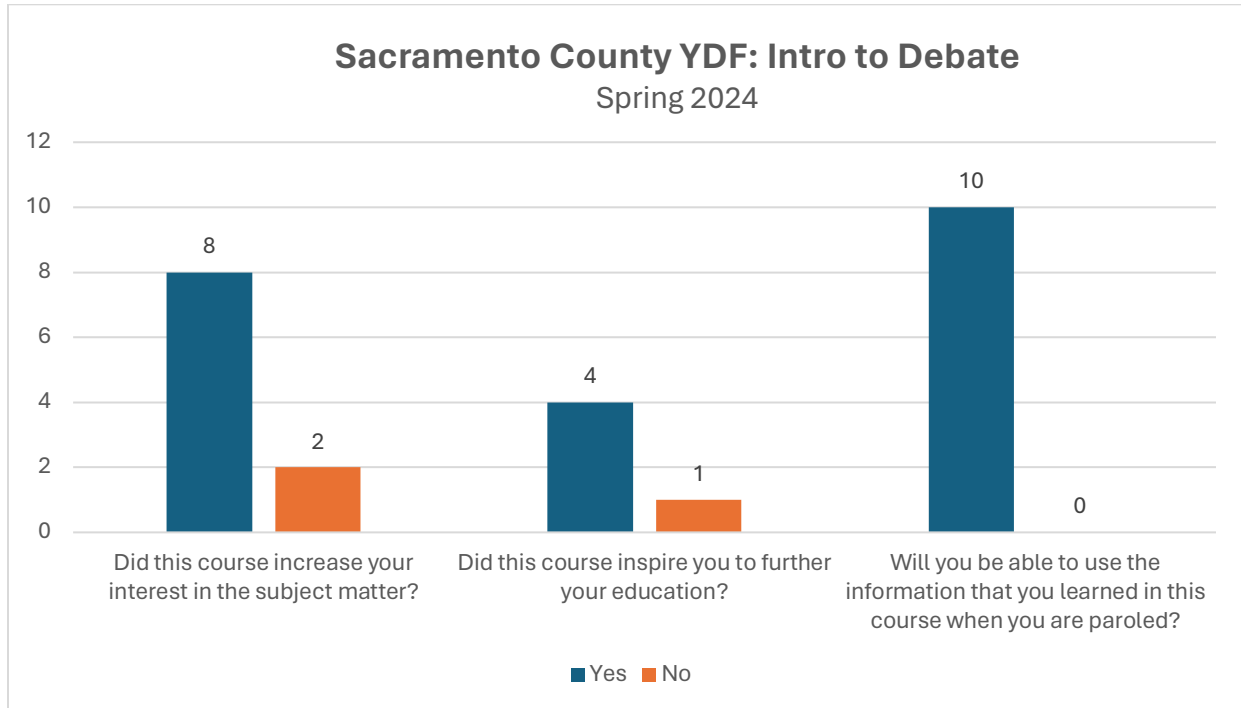


**Creative Writing  
Post-Course Comments**

- "What I like about this course is that it taught me how to make a story."
- "This is a good course I like creative writing."
- "Fun things, interesting, better writing skills."

-- "I love it hope our class can do it again and I learned and liked how we got to learn and see outside people."

-- "I like this class because it was a good class and fun not boring."



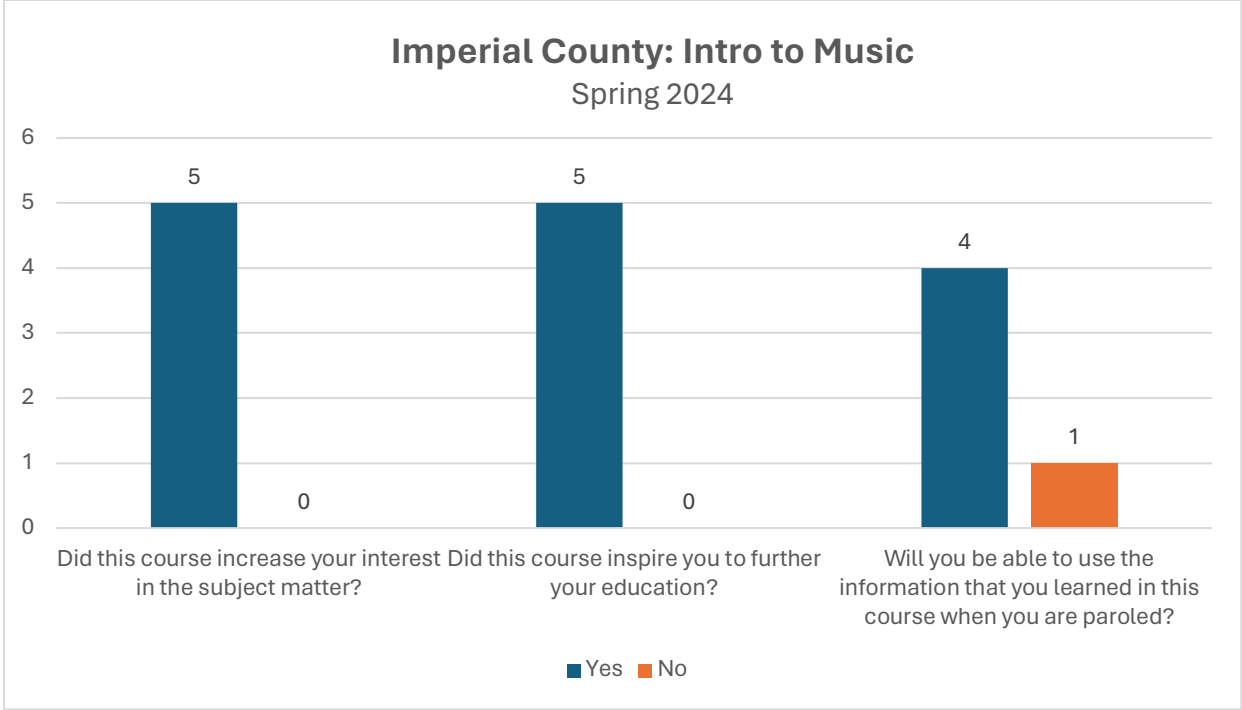
### Intro to Debate Post-Course Comments

-- "I like the program a lot come back soon!"

-- "Very interesting."

-- "It was cool."

-- "This course taught me a lot about many things i haven't learned before thank you for your time."



**Intro to Music  
Post-Course Comments**

-- "The class was fun and very informative."

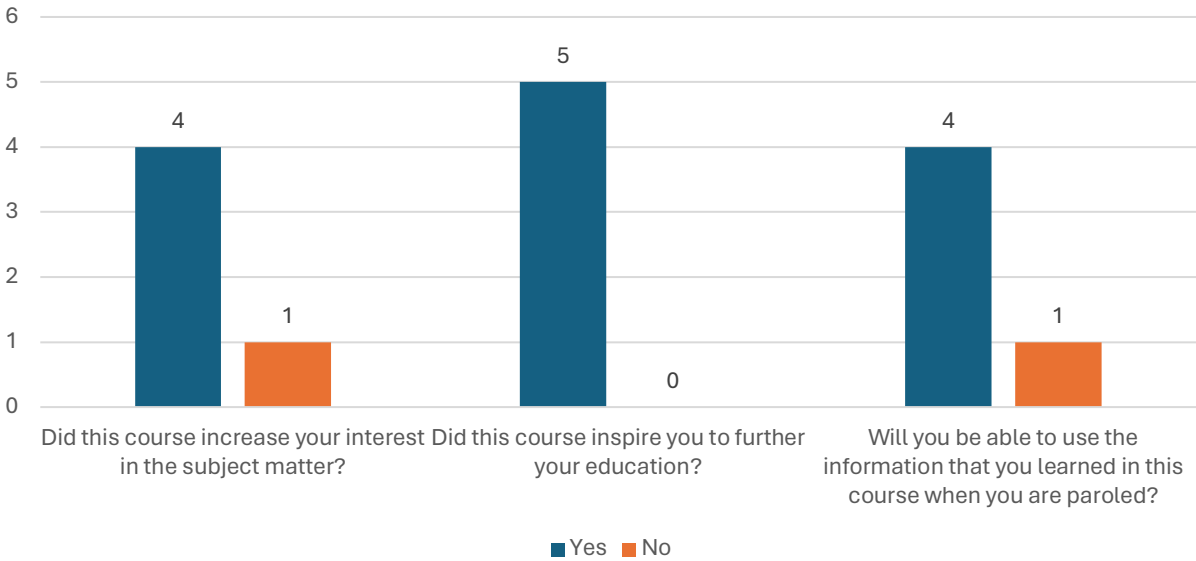
-- "This class helped me adapt better social skills and helped me get out of my comfort zone. I was really shy and quiet."

-- "This course was cool."

-- "I learned about different genres of music which was something I wasn't open to before."

# Imperial County: Intro to Yoga & Meditation

Spring 2024

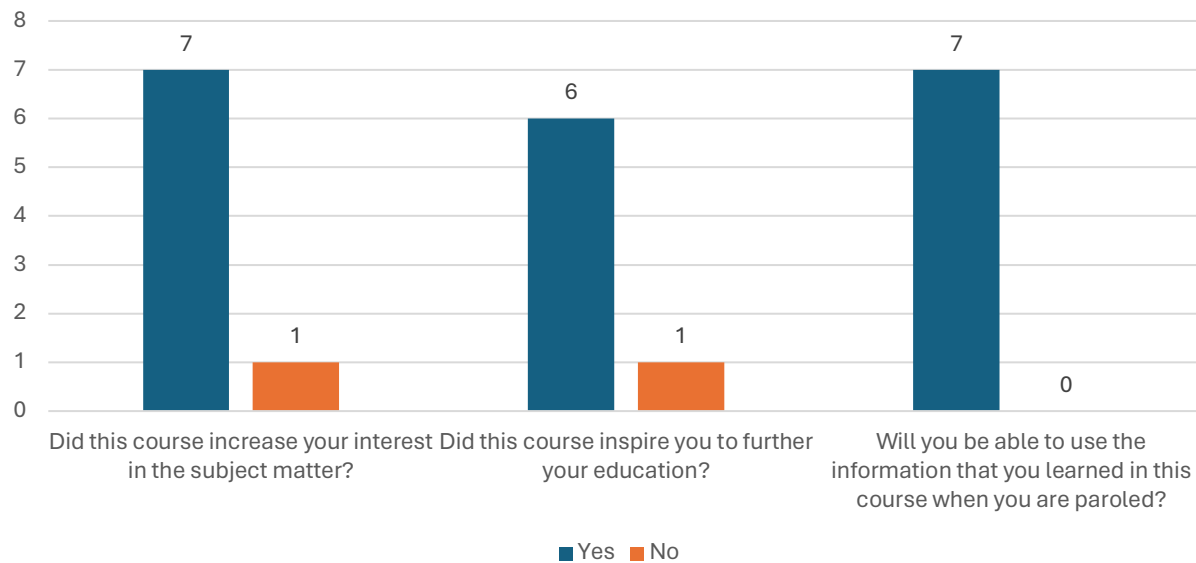


## Intro to Yoga & Meditation Post-Course Comments

- "This course helped me learn different techniques to reduce my anxiety."
- "This course inspired me to self meditate on my own."
- "This class helped me learn how to chill out when needed."
- "The class was interesting and was funny at first to see everyone doing different yoga positions, but it actually did relax us."
- "This class was fun and different."

## Monterey County Juvenile Hall: Music Appreciation

Fall 2023



### Post-Course Comments

-- It caught my attention to understand music and the culture of music. I had a feel for music but to understand why I feel for music as far as genre, instruments, etc. and where certain aspects originated from.

-- The course has been able to teach me more about music than I knew, I learned there are many different types of music.

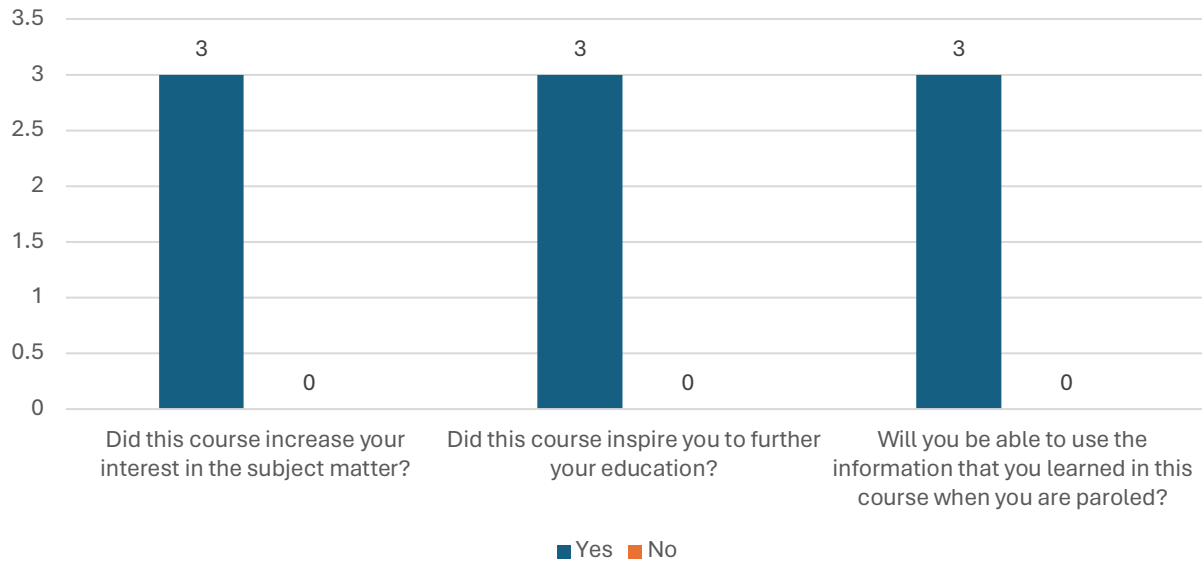
-- Thank you for coming out here to see us in person. Music will always remind me of this class.

-- I really enjoyed this program because I felt significant. Lisa was always open to new ideas and ready to hear us out. Jen has such a happy spirit so I'm sure she made everyone feel comfortable and at home. I really hope this isn't the last time we get to see them.

-- I learned some things about music that caught my attention and would consider using when I'm out. Thank you for coming.

### Merced County Juvenile Hall: Creative Expression

Fall 2023

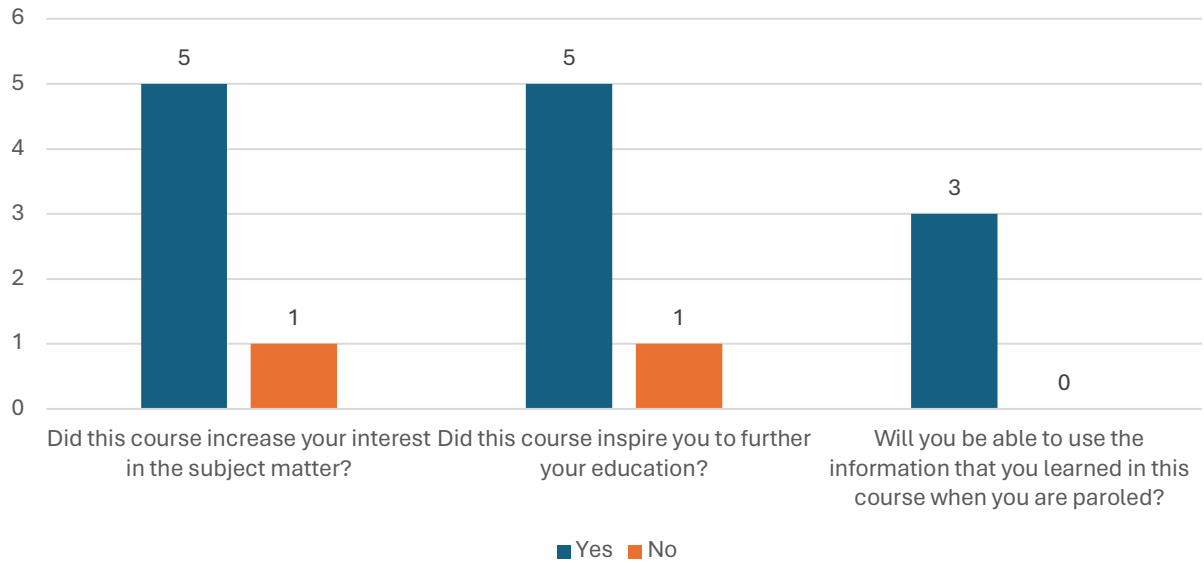


#### Post-Course Comments

-- Love this class.

### Indio Juvenile Hall: Creative Expression

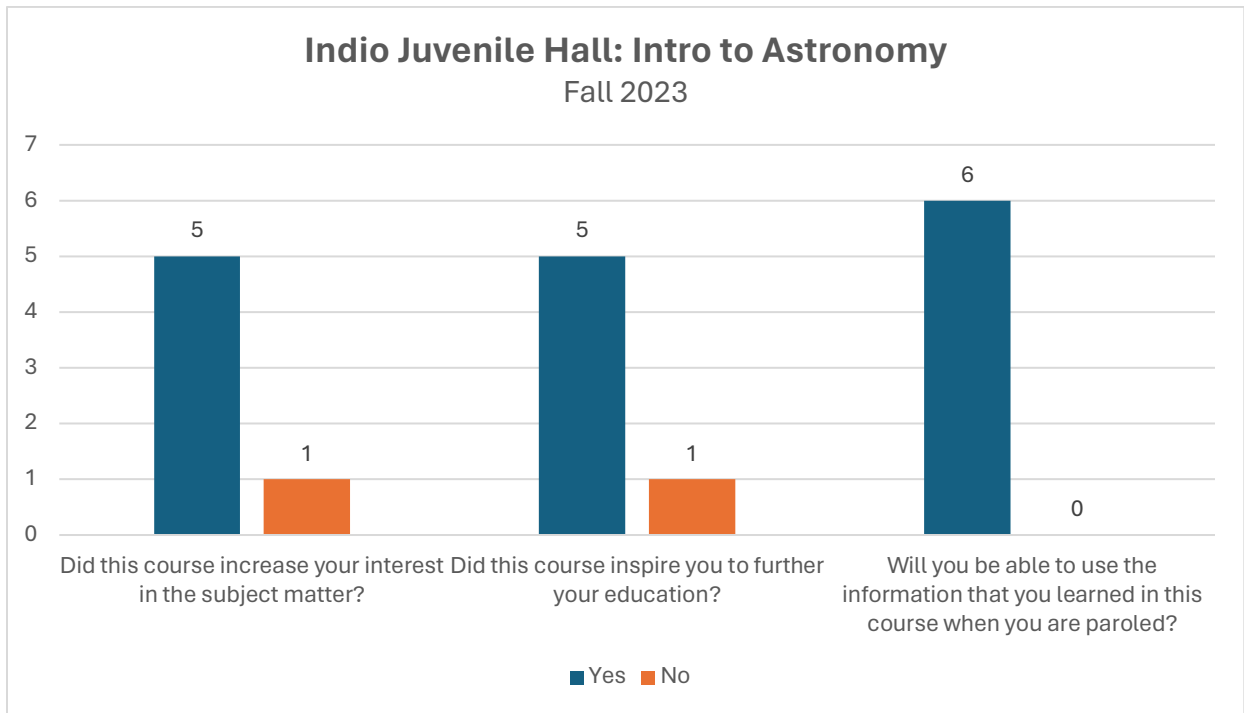
Fall 2023



#### Post-Course Comments



-- It was a good course overall but don't feel like I need this course again.  
 -- It was the most interesting class by far we've had. They were really honest, friendly, open hearted.  
 -- Inspired me to learn more and encouraged me to do better.  
 -- I really enjoyed the class.  
 -- It was an honor to have learned what I took in. Thank you for your time.

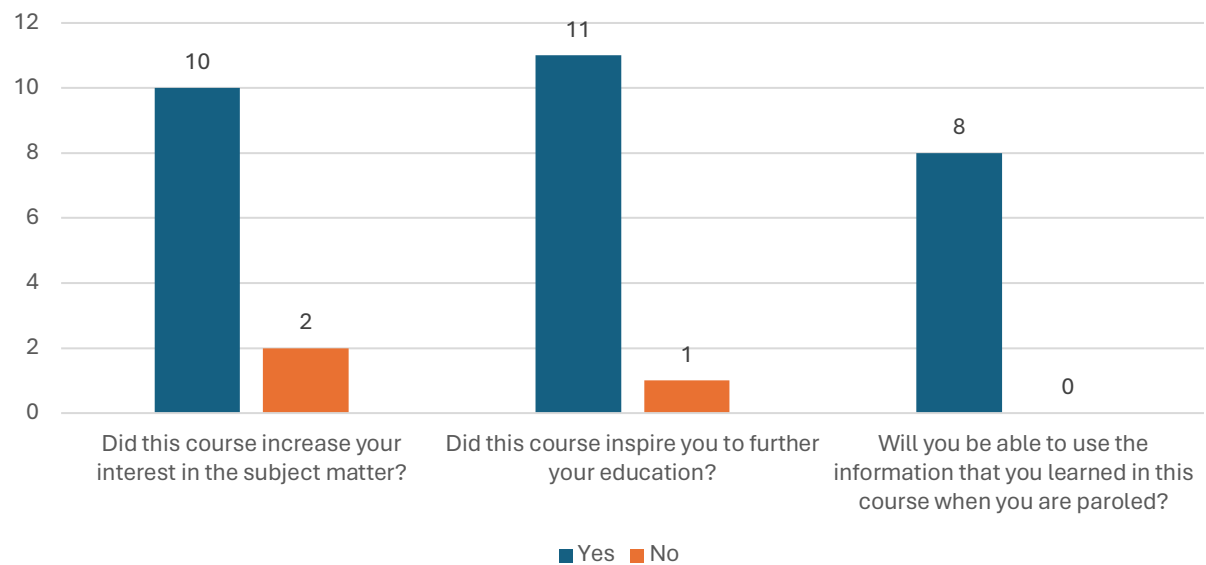


### Intro to Astronomy Post-Course Comments

-- It was a good.  
 -- Learn hard.

## San Mateo County Juvenile Hall: Creative Expression

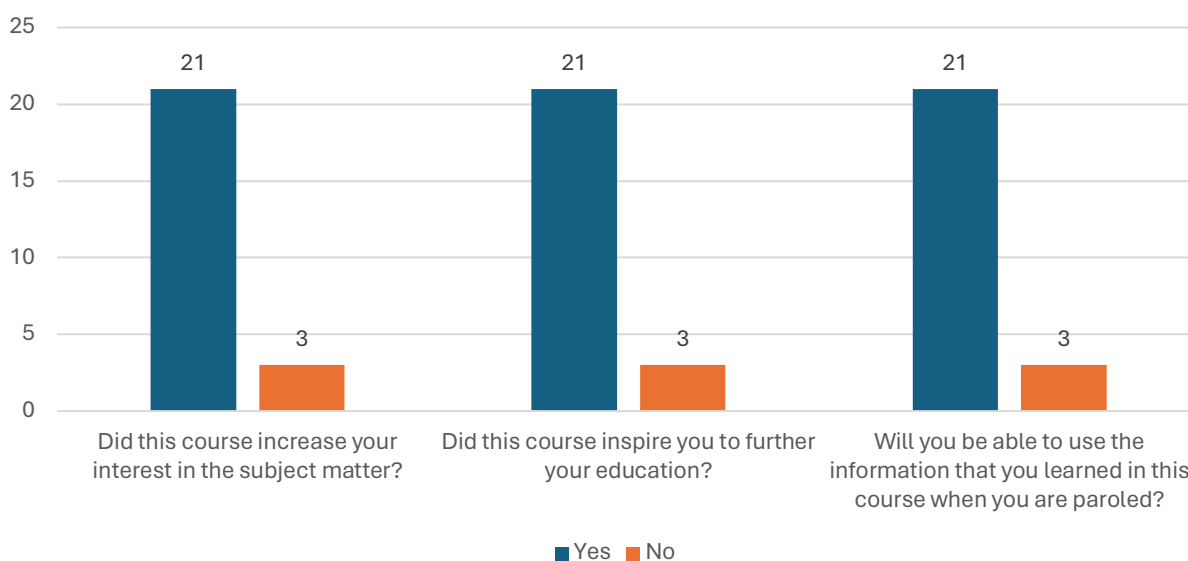
Fall 2023



### Post-Course Comments

- I enjoyed this class.
- Class was fun.
- It was good.
- Great.
- Thanks.

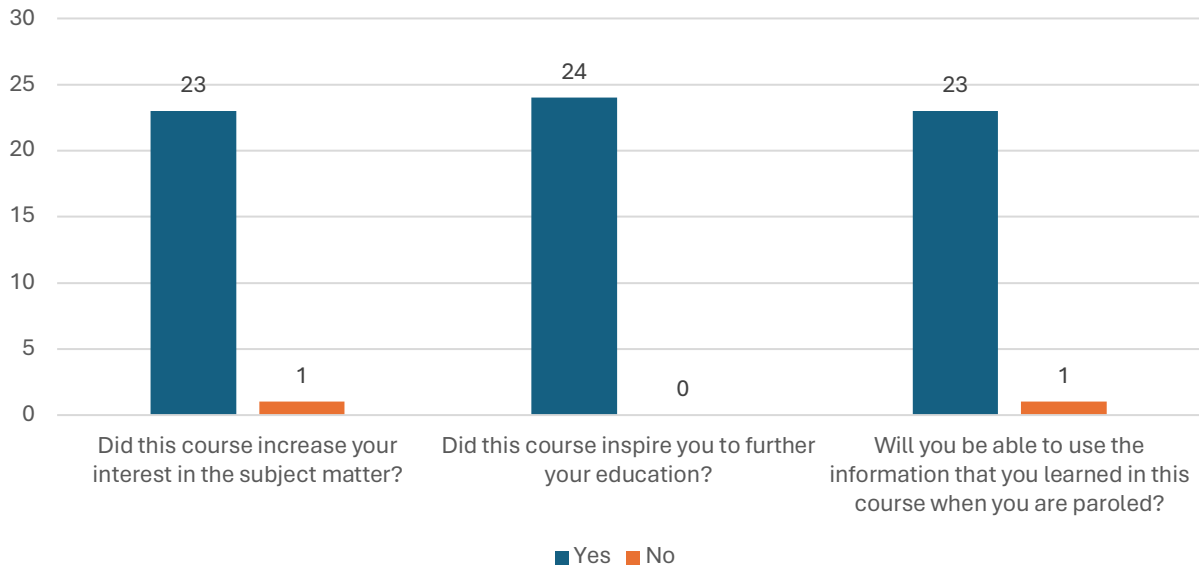
## San Diego County Juvenile Hall: Creative Writing Fall 2023



### Post-Course Comments

- I want to go to college.
- I like writing poems.
- This was fun.
- I like this class.
- Please come back.

**San Diego County Juvenile Hall: Building Healthy Relationships**  
Fall 2023



**Building Healthy Relationships**  
**Post-Course Comments**

- I never thought I could go to college, now I know I can and will.
- These are the coolest people who come talk to us.
- I want to show my mom I can go to college and make her proud.
- These guys did it, so can I.
- Thanks for coming, it was fun.
- Can we talk about college more?