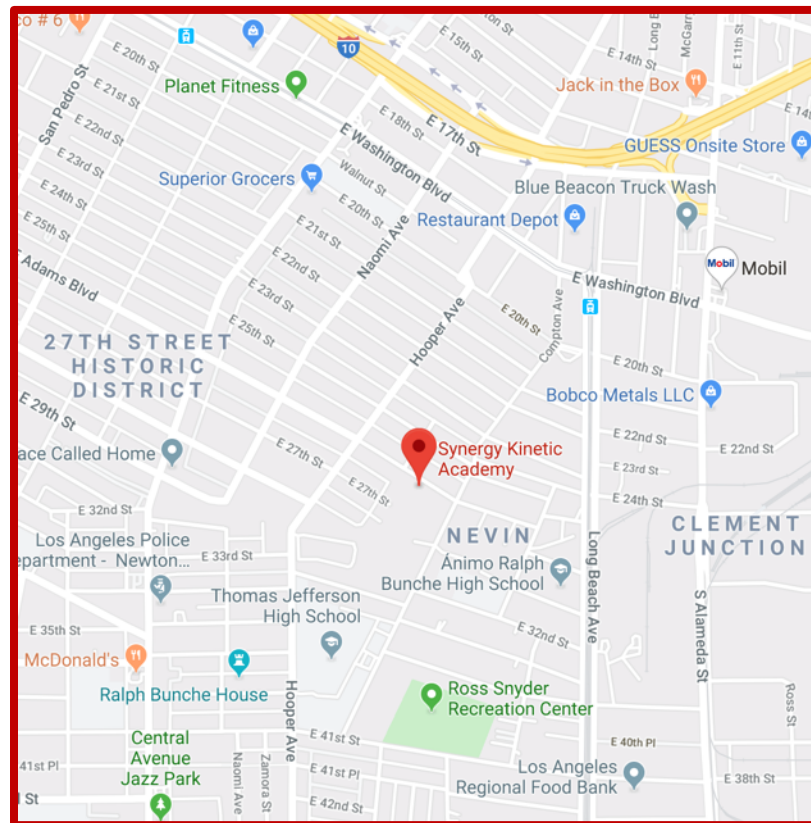


**DAYS OF DIALOGUE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Synergy Kinetic Academy Middle School

1420 East Adams Blvd, LA 90011

12/19/2019 REPORT



REPORT: Days of Dialogue on Gun Violence Prevention

12/19/2019

## Days of Dialogue is... Facilitated dialogue

- *Structured* Conversation
- The facilitator acts as a *moderator*, rather than a leader and is always neutral
- The purpose is to share *Thoughts, Feelings, and Experiences* in a safe and confidential space

## Dialogue participants are encouraged to...

- Express your *opinions*
- *Listen* to others
- Give *everyone* a chance to speak
- Respect the *ground rules*
- *Respect* each other

### 40 PARTICIPANTS

25 students – 23 girls, 2 boys

5 LAPD officers

2 Teachers, 2 Administrators

1 Charter School executive

4 Facilitators, 1 INVLA staff

### Dialogue Format

Synergy Kinetic Academy–Middle School Service Learning Class students experienced their first Day of Dialogue, with the topic “Gun Violence Prevention.” Students were encouraged to share their honest opinions + describe their lived experiences with regard to law enforcement, gun violence, and other topics. Students in this class are delving into the impact of housing insecurity in their community. The students were able to ask questions about how these stressors might impact police officers’ work on a daily basis. After a brief introduction to the program, the class was divided into four smaller groups. Each group consisted of several students, 1 facilitator, and 1 or 2 LAPD officers.

The young people had the opportunity to interact with LAPD officers in a safe space, with a neutral facilitator to guide the dialogue process. Participants explored both the prepared questions, as well as their own ideas and concerns. The discussion is meant to be organic. For both the youth and the officers, we have found that this format works to transform relationships– sometimes even in just a single dialogue session.

### **DAYS OF DIALOGUE on GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION** **GROUND RULES for DIALOGUE**

#### **Ground Rules:**

- **Speak openly and honestly**
- **Listen carefully and respectfully to each person**
- **Explore differences respectfully and look for common ground**
- **Trust that the facilitator has the best interest of the group at heart**
- **Silence cell phones (unless the group agrees otherwise)**
- **Be respectful of the opinions of others**

**DAYS OF DIALOGUE on GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**  
**Questions for MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH with Law Enforcement**

**Who are we? Introductions, Background, Ground Rules**

**Part 1: Introduce yourself**

- 1- What is your name, organization affiliation, if any?
- 2- What are your expectations of today's dialogue?

**Part 2: Critical Questions**

- 1- What did you learn about guns growing up?
- 2- What guidance, if any, was given to you about how guns should be handled when you were growing up?
- 3- What has been the most valuable guidance you received related to guns as a child, teen or adult?
- 4- What has been the most direct impact of gun violence on you or people that you know?
- 5- If you or someone you know were ever asked to "hold" a gun for someone else- maybe someone who is older- how would you feel about that? What would you do?

**VIDEO GAMES and SOCIAL MEDIA**

- 5- How have video games impacted your impression of guns and gun violence?
- 6- How has social media impacted your impression of guns and gun violence?
- 7- Were you ever bullied on social media? If so, what did you do?
- 8- Is the content of video games harmful? helpful? neither? both? Please discuss.
- 9- How have video games impacted your impression of police officers?
- 10- How has social media impacted your impression of police officers?

**IN GENERAL**

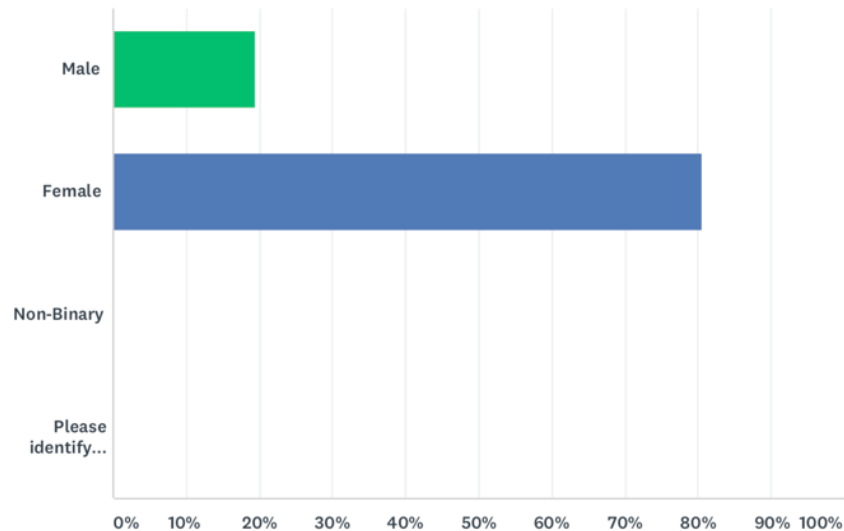
- 11- What is your overall impression of police officers in your community? Please discuss both positive and negative aspects.
- 12- What might police officers do to gain your trust?



**PRE DIALOGUE SURVEY RESULTS**

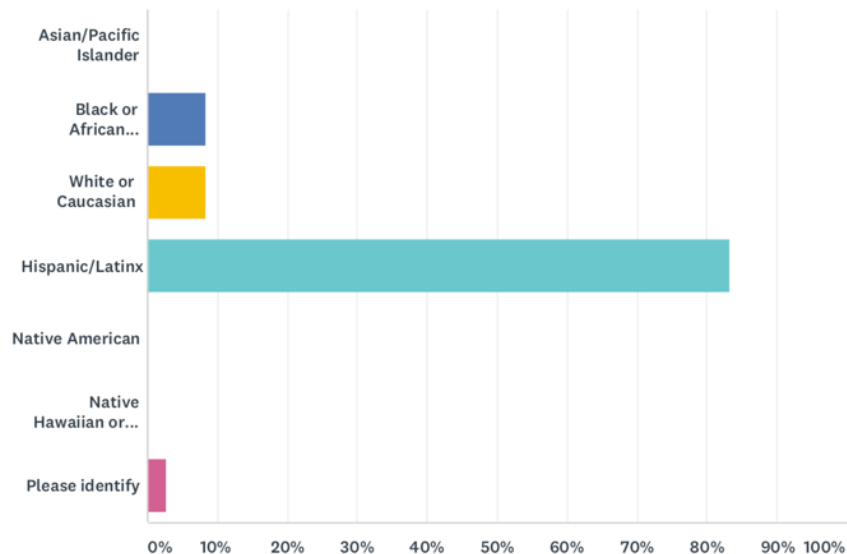
**Q1 What is your gender?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**Q2 What is your ethnicity? Check all that apply.**

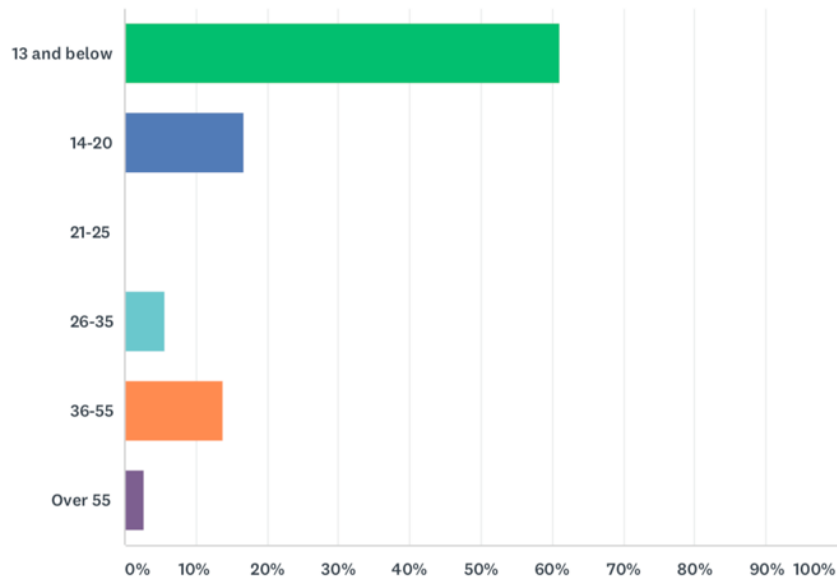
Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**PRE DIALOGUE**

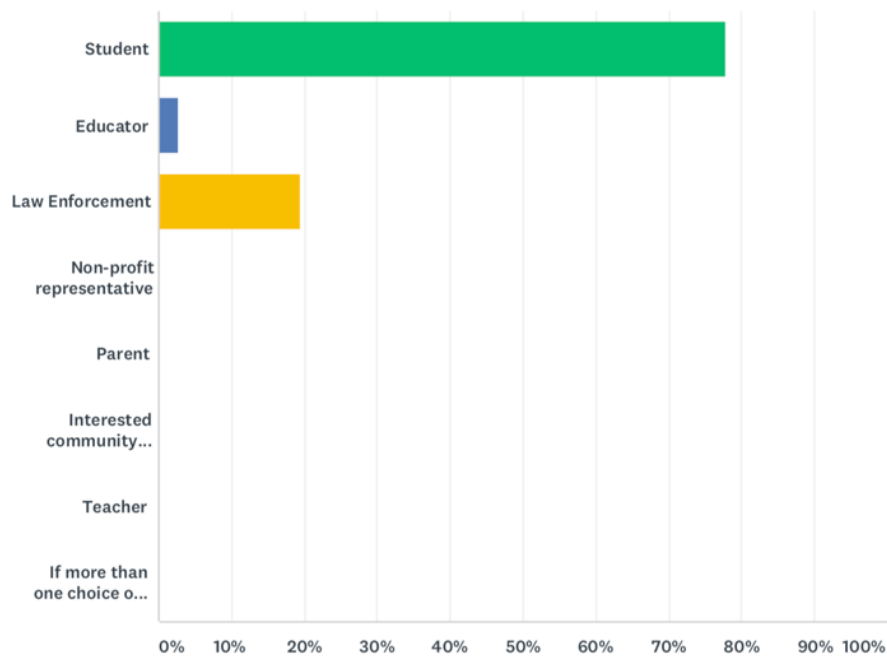
Q3 What is your age?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



Q4 Check all that apply. I am a:

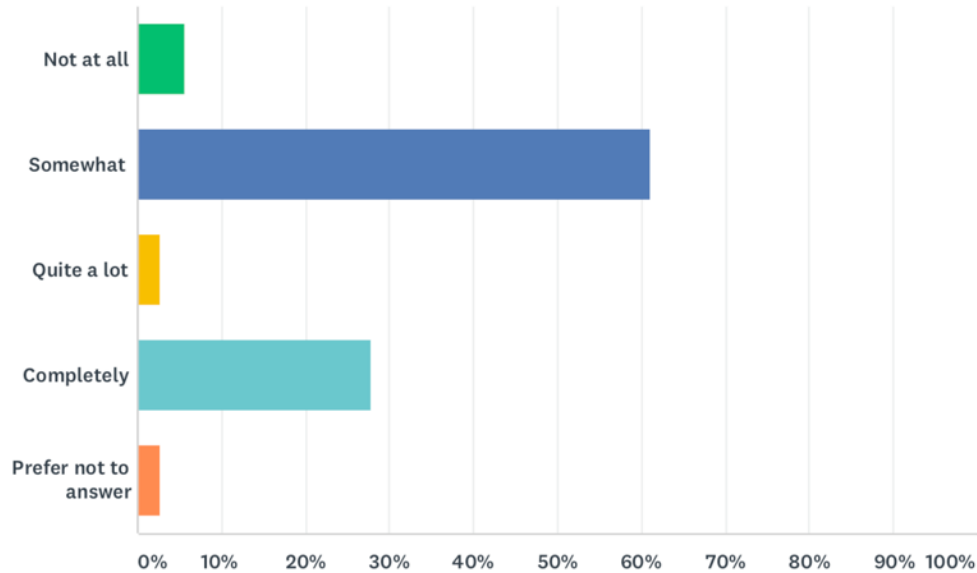
Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**PRE DIALOGUE**

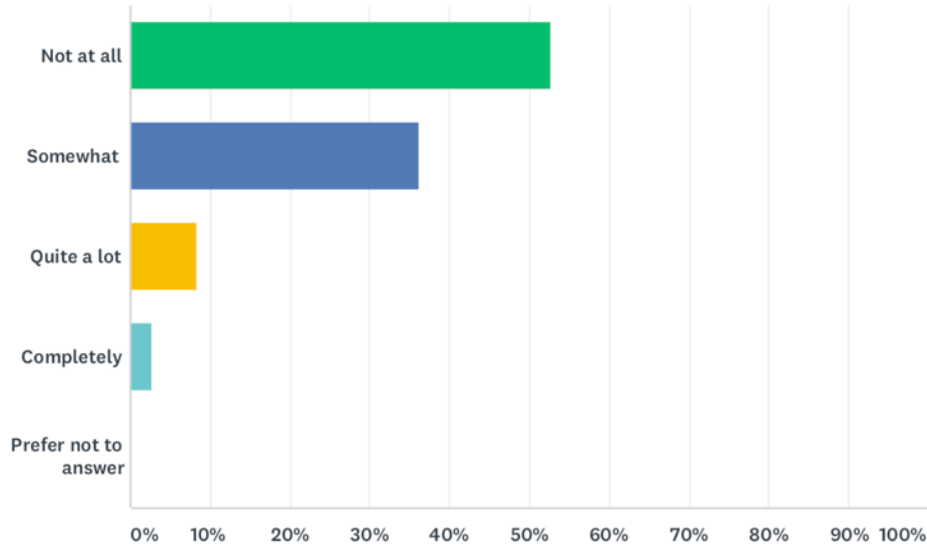
**Q5 Are you in charge of your life?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**Q6 Has gun violence impacted your life?**

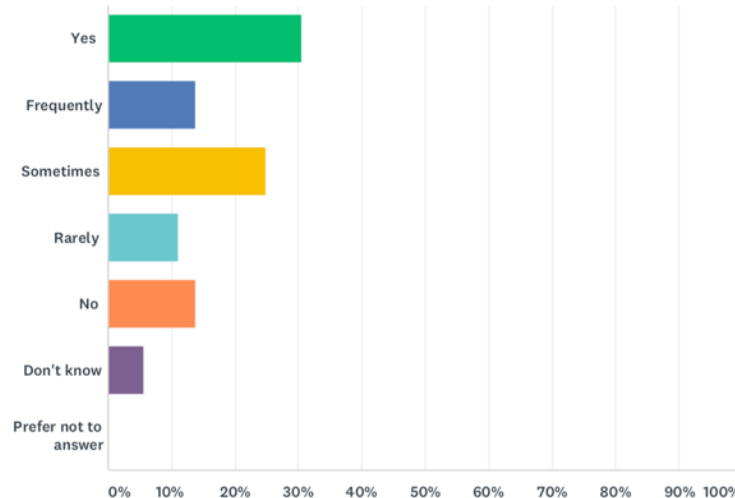
Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**PRE DIALOGUE**

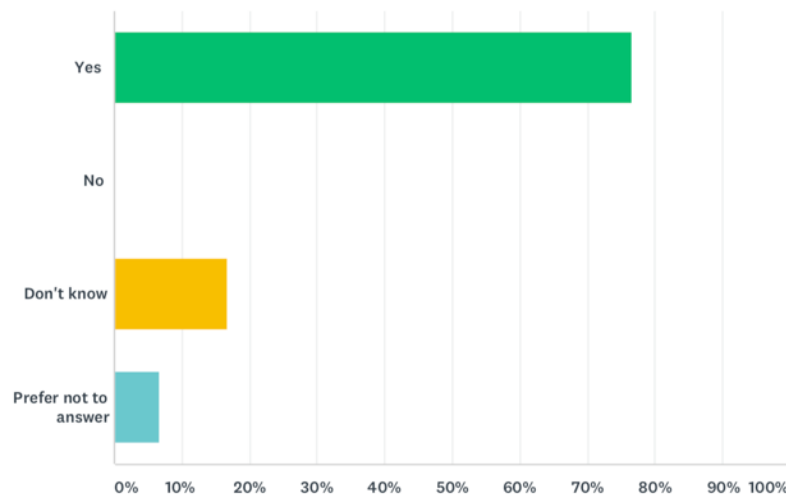
Q7 When comparing treatment of community members by law enforcement, do you believe that people of color are consistently treated less fairly by law enforcement officers than are white people?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



Q8 If you answered Yes, Frequently, or Sometimes, do you believe that law enforcement officers can change their behavior to consistently treat people of color fairly?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 6

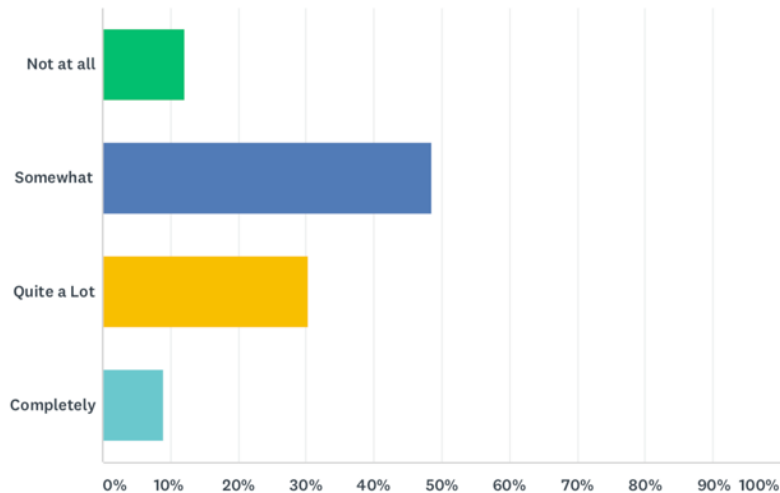




**POST DIALOGUE SURVEY RESULTS**

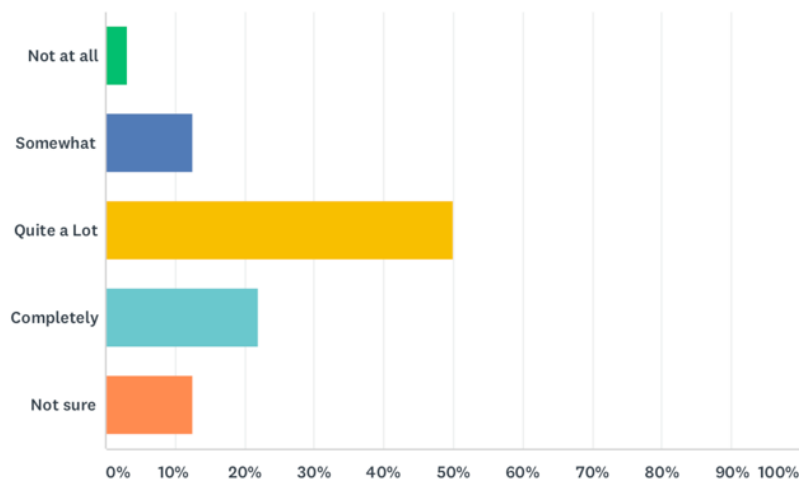
Q1 Have your opinions changed as a result of this Dialogue?

Answered: 33 Skipped: 0



Q2 Is law enforcement able to help you manage conflicts you may be experiencing in your community?

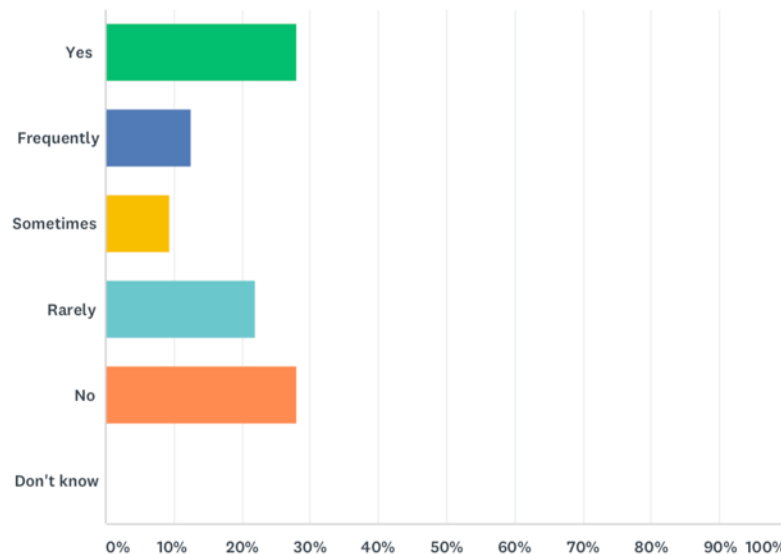
Answered: 32 Skipped: 1



**POST** DIALOGUE SURVEY RESULTS

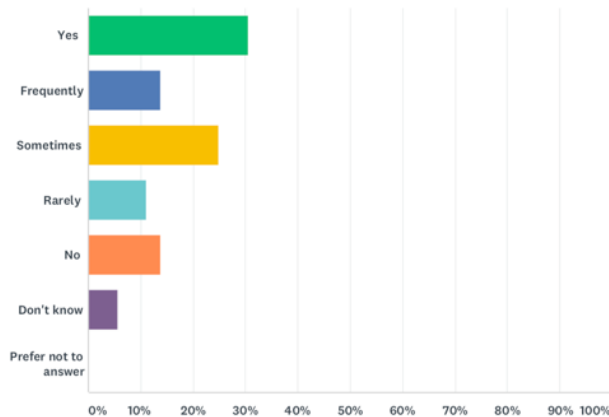
Q3 When comparing treatment of community members by law enforcement, do you believe that people of color are consistently treated less fairly by law enforcement officers than are white people?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 1



**PRE** When comparing treatment of community members by law enforcement, do you believe that people of color are consistently treated less fairly by law enforcement officers than are white people?

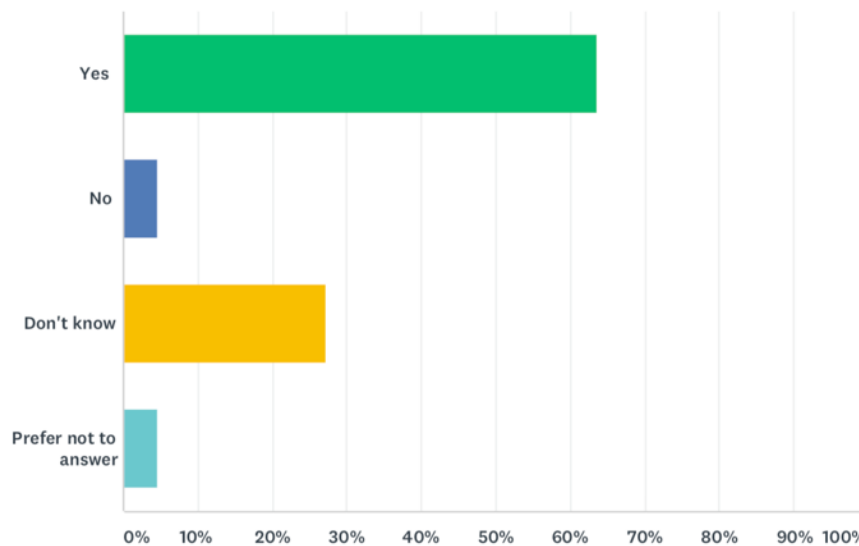
Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



**POST** DIALOGUE SURVEY RESULTS

Q4 If you answered Yes, Frequently or Sometimes, do you believe that law enforcement officers can change their behavior to consistently treat people of color fairly?

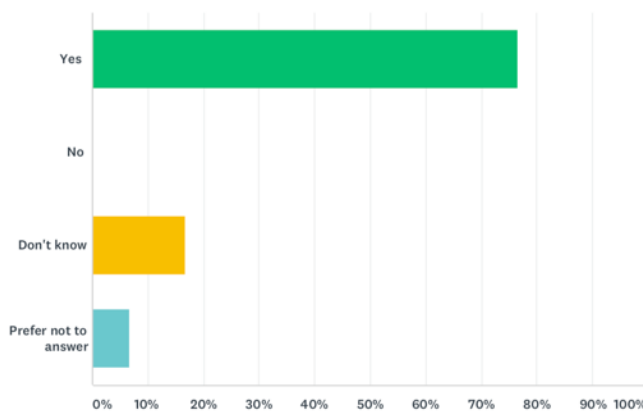
Answered: 22 Skipped: 11



**PRE**

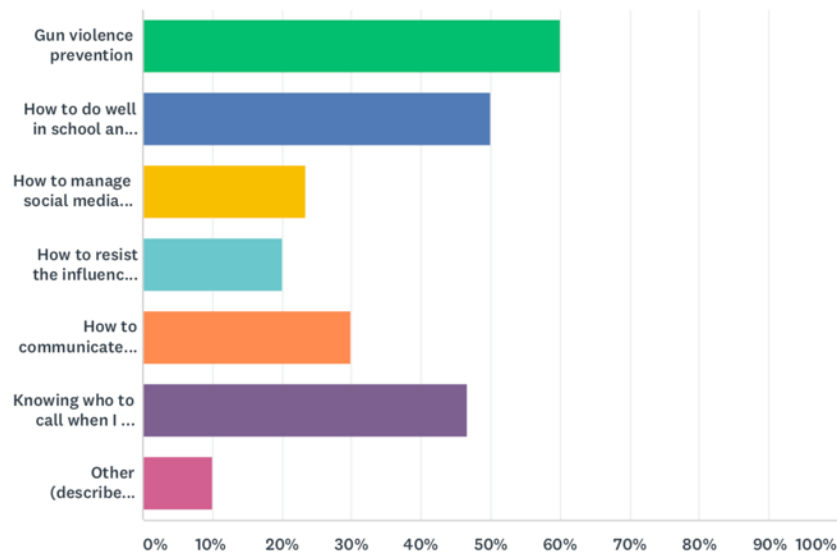
If you answered Yes, Frequently, or Sometimes, do you believe that law enforcement officers can change their behavior to consistently treat people of color fairly?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 6



Q5 What are the most important areas that you would like to discuss further? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 30 Skipped: 3

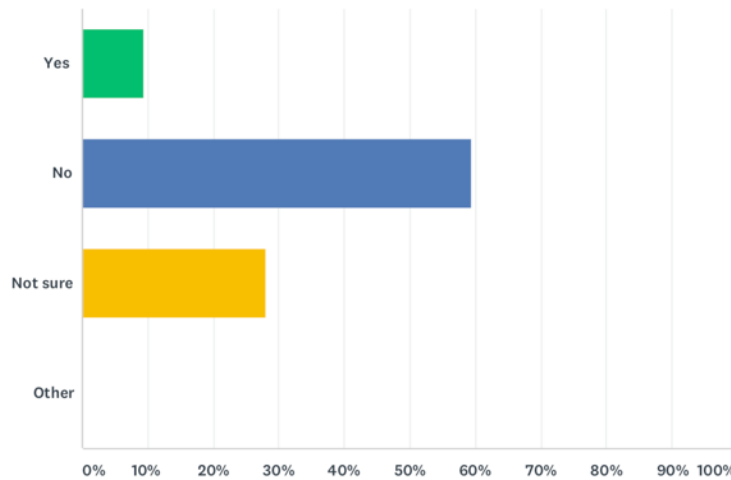


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Gun violence prevention	60.00%	18
How to do well in school and stay out of gangs	50.00%	15
How to manage social media better	23.33%	7
How to resist the influence of violent video games	20.00%	6
How to communicate better with my friends and family	30.00%	9
Knowing who to call when I - or someone I know- might be having a problem.	46.67%	14
Other (describe below)	10.00%	3
Total Respondents: 30		

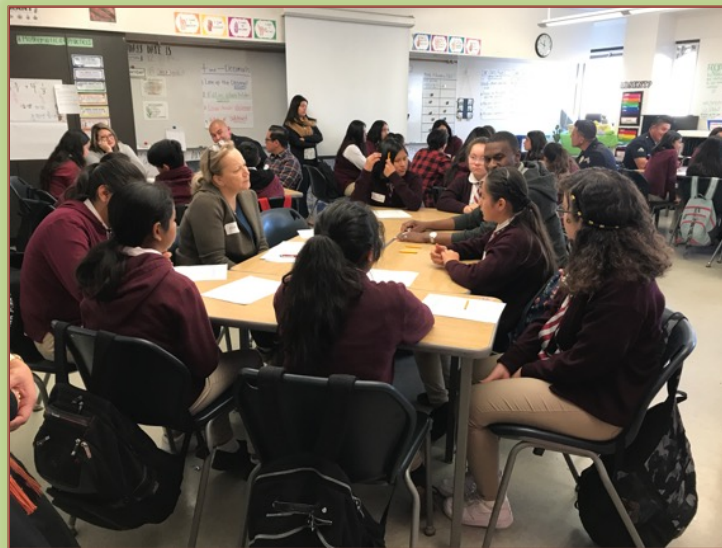
(see comments for other suggestions for future dialogues)

Q6 Do you think that teachers should have guns in schools?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	9.38%	3
No	59.38%	19
Not sure	28.13%	9
Other	0.00%	0
TOTAL		32



**COMMENTS    12/19/2019 Synergy Middle School**

○ **We talked about:**

What a safe community is and what a bad community is.

We talked about why the police came here today– they wanted to make friends (and eat tamales)

Reasons for housing insecurity and homelessness:

We learned about Rent and Red Lines.

Renting rates go higher in certain areas. People can't buy homes.

Many people are homeless because of their race. Many people are nervous about getting deported.

Knowledge of homeless shelters

Has LAPD seen any changes that are good?

○ **About Guns and Gun Violence:**

Mass shootings– our country has the most guns

Difference between guns in video games and in real life, how video games could be bad for us and other people.

I don't think that teachers should have guns in schools. But they should know how to act in case.

Since there are several school shootings and accidents going on, it depends on how the system is working. (student's response as to whether or not teachers should have guns in school)

I think teachers should learn how to stop a school shooter– but not with a gun (like tackle them, martial arts, etc)



Comments 12/19/2019 Continued

○ **Suggestions for future dialogue topics:**

What to do when seeing domestic violence

Vaping and smoking

How to do well and stay out of gangs– how to fix it before it starts

Make a plan to come to houses and explain Special Order #40 and people's rights

Special Order #40's purpose is to assure immigrant communities within the City of Los Angeles that there is no need to fear contact with the LAPD when they have been the victim or a witness to a crime. It ensures that LAPD officers do not initiate investigations solely to determine a person's immigration status, and that LAPD officers will treat all people with respect and dignity.

[www.LAPD.online](http://www.LAPD.online)

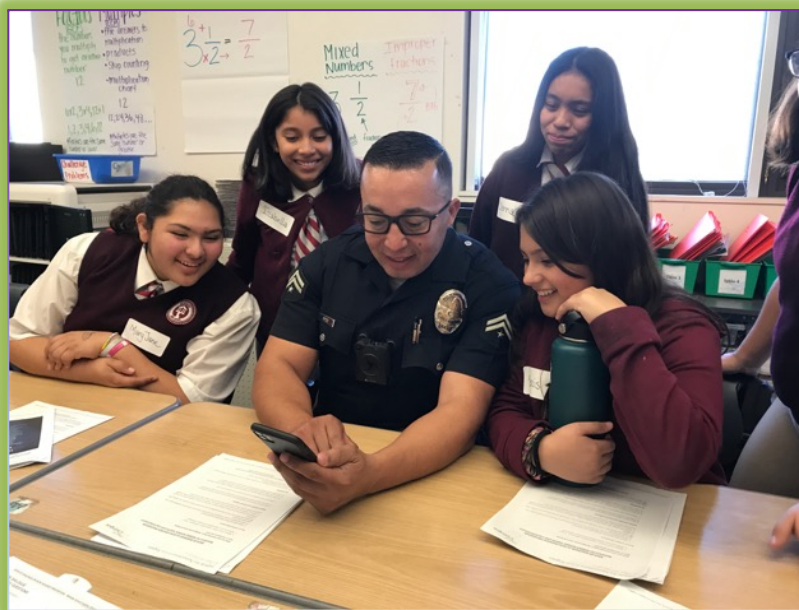
○ **In conclusion:**

I really enjoyed today and learned lots of information.

I think once you get to know the officers, they are nicer.

I had fun! It seems like the police do treat the people of the community fairly, so don't believe the rumors!

Thank you for coming.

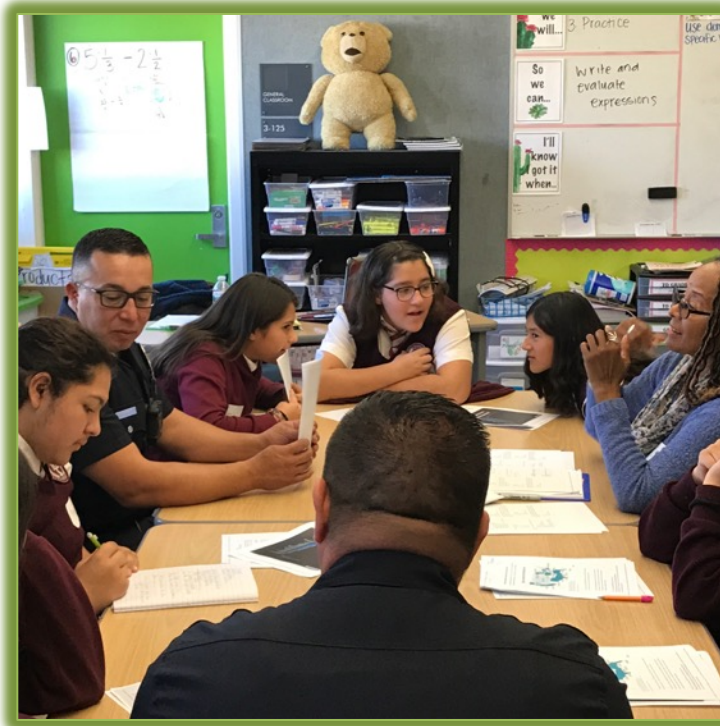


# Institute for Nonviolence in Los Angeles & Days of Dialogue

## SERIES



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



Ms. Maria Raffanti + Synergy Kinetic  
Middle School Service Learning  
Class

Principal Mrs. Christine Bradford and  
Administrators

Synergy CEO Rhonda Deomampo

LAPD officers

Facilitators: Candace Carnicelli,  
Janvie Cason, Marie Stein, Laura  
Gonzalez





***Days of Dialogue***

**PAST AND PRESENT SUPPORTERS**

- |   |                                   |                                  |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▶ Jamie Afifi                                   | ▶ IBEW 18                         | ▶ California Wellness Foundation |
| ▶ Supervisor Kathryn Barger                     | ▶ Edythe & Eli Broad Foundation   | ▶ Cedars Sinai                   |
| ▶ Ambassador Frank Baxter                       | ▶ Steve Burkow                    | ▶ Jamey Cohen                    |
| ▶ Carol Biondi                                  | ▶ California Community Foundation | ▶ Fox Studios                    |
| ▶ John Branca                                   | ▶ California Endowment            | ▶ Greenberg Foundation           |
| ▶ Skip Brittenham                               | ▶ California Nurses               | ▶ Andrew & Ellen Hauptman        |
| ▶ IBEW 18                                       | ▶ LAPD Foundation                 | ▶ Spectrum                       |
| ▶ Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt                         | ▶ Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP  | ▶ SEIU Local 2015                |
| ▶ Matthew Johnson                               | ▶ Dale Mason                      | ▶ SEIU Local 721                 |
| ▶ Kaiser Permanente Downey                      | ▶ Brett O'Brien                   | ▶ SEIU Local 99                  |
| ▶ Kaiser Permanente Inglewood                   | ▶ Murphy O'Brien                  | ▶ Julianne Sohn                  |
| ▶ Joanne Kozberg                                | ▶ National Basketball Association | ▶ Sony Pictures Entertainment    |
| ▶ LIUNA (Laborers Int'l Union of North America) | ▶ Ed Roski, Jr.                   |                                  |
| ▶ Los Angeles Police Protective League          | ▶ Hope Warschaw                   |                                  |

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[www.futureofpolicing.org](http://www.futureofpolicing.org)



@daysofdialogue

[jfrank@daysofdialogue.org](mailto:jfrank@daysofdialogue.org) 213.346.3271

Executive Director ... Avis Ridley-Thomas

Senior Project Director ... Jill Frank

Development Associate ... Charley Dobbs

**Dialogue topics we have been exploring:** Gun Violence Prevention; Future of Policing; Focused Partnerships for Community Health; Bringing U.S. Together; Juvenile Justice; Reclaiming Tolerance & Civility in the Face of Violence

*Call us if you would like to develop and host a new dialogue topic with your community/organization/school*