

Mind in Society

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What is Mind in Society?

Mind in Society explores societal challenges through social cognition, addressing issues like misinformation and stereotypes. Students actively craft solutions, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. By combining theory and application, the course empowers students to shape society, emphasizing research, ethical considerations, and teamwork for tackling contemporary issues effectively.

What is Mind in Society?

- A 4 week impact driven elective for bachelor psychology students in year 3
- As part of the CLI fellowship we monitored the development of the students during the course. Our goals was to measure differences in the following:
 - Inner compass: internal guide, shaped by someone's values and purpose, that helps them make authentic and meaningful decisions
 - Collaborative skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Long term orientation/future perspective
 - Sense making: seeking patterns, structuring skills

Measurements

We conducted weekly Qualtrics surveys on the covered topics and personal development, using both open and closed questions.

We also carried out pre- and post-measurements of personal skills through Qualtrics surveys with open and closed questions.



Weekly measurement results

N = 6

Week 1 Biases

What do you think about this week's subject? Please share your thoughts. - open question

- Interesting
- Lot of prior knowledge, but still learned new things
- Great discussions

How did you experience this week? Give a grade on these components from 1 to 10. 1 meaning very bad and 10 meaning very good. - slider question

- The topics covered: **6,5**
- The collaboration within the group: **5,6**
- Own commitment and work attitude: **5,6**

Week 2

Stereotypes

- Students found this really interesting again
- Were already pretty involved in this subject
- Found it really enriching

- The topics covered: **8,0**
- The collaboration within the group: **8,8**
- Own commitment and work attitude: **7,8**

Week 3

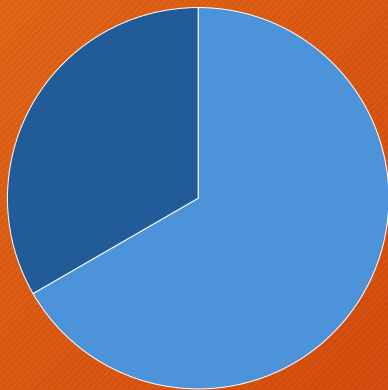
Misinformation & Conspiracy Theories

- Students loved the topic,
- The best one so far
- Loved the lectures, assignment and reading material, very enthusiastic

- The topics covered: 8,5
- The collaboration within the group: 9,3
- Own commitment and work attitude: 7,5

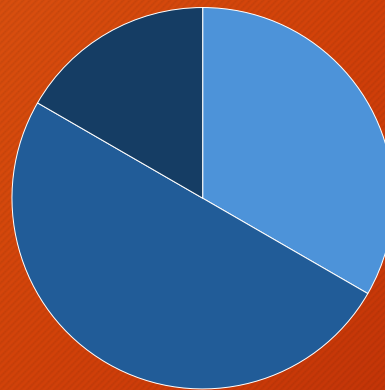
I have applied critical thinking - matrix question

Week 1



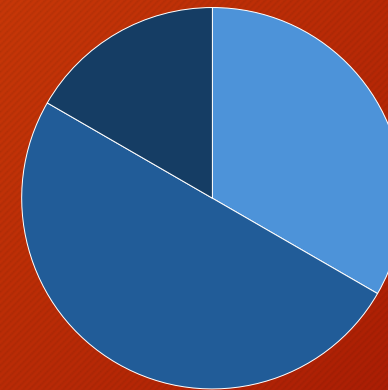
■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

Week 2



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

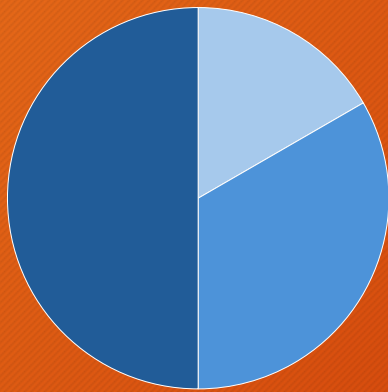
Week 3



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

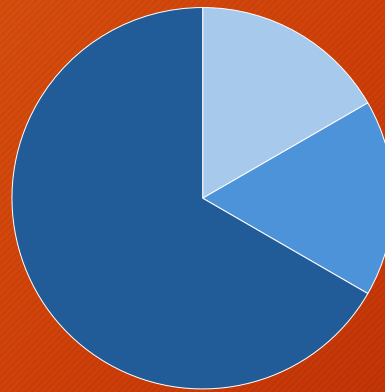
I have made connections that I didn't see before - matrix question

Week 1



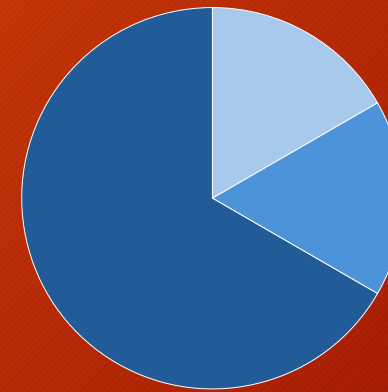
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Week 2



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

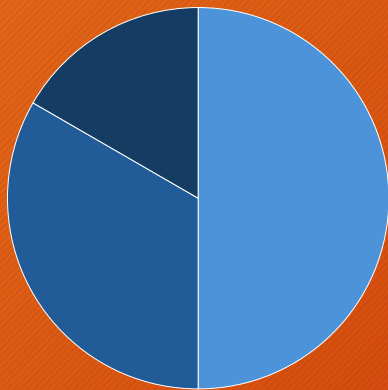
Week 3



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
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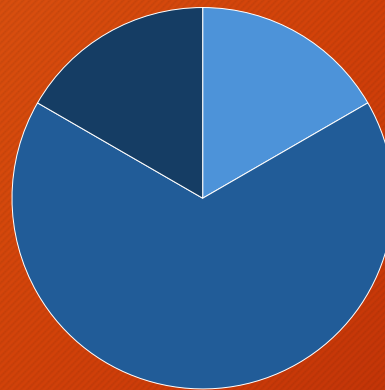
I have applied skills I already have - matrix question

Week 1



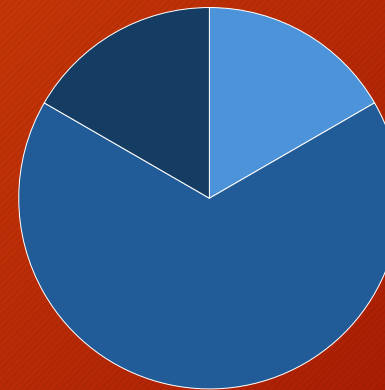
■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

Week 2



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

Week 3



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

If so, which learned skills have you applied? - open question

Week 1

Public speaking
Giving examples
Research skills
Critical skills
Reflective skills
Collaborative skills
Knowledge about biases

Week 2

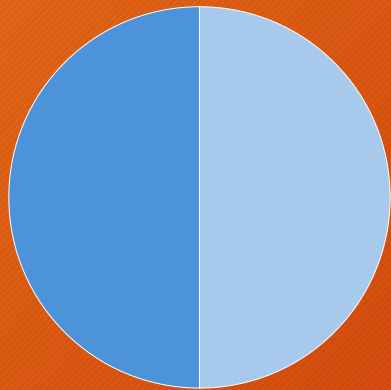
Leading a discussion
Critical thinking
Active listening
Applying real life examples
Teamwork
Research skills
Group communication

Week 3

Critical thinking
Evidence based learning
Collaborative skills
Group work
Connecting knowledge
Creative thinking
Evaluation

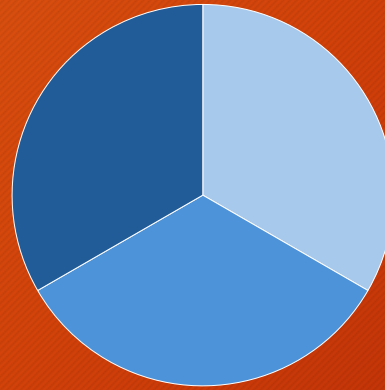
I have applied newly learned skills - matrix question

Week 1



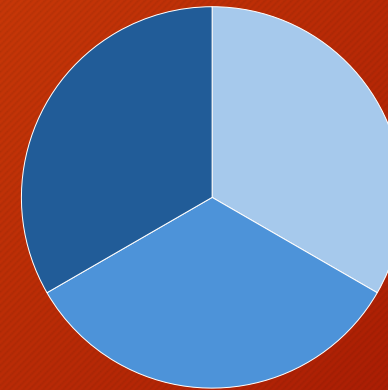
■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

Week 2



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

Week 3



■ Not at all ■ A little bit
■ Several times ■ A lot

If so, which newly learned skills have you applied? - open question

Week 1

Making connections between subjects

Reading the codex

Week 2

Analytic skills to answer questions

Applying the new learned knowledge about identifying and challenging stereotypes

Week 3

Creative thinking (coming up with a conspiracy theory)

Recognizing cognitive bias

Evaluating credibility

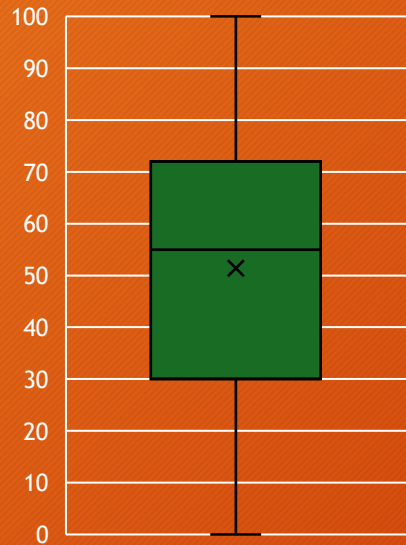
Distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources

Pre vs post measurement results

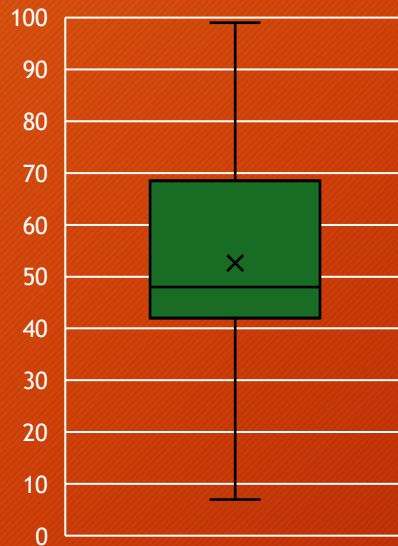
N = 13

What is your style of working together with peers?

Before



After

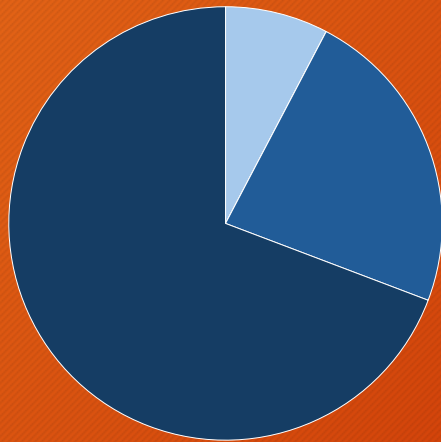


- Not really a difference in mean and median
- Little bit of a different distribution, more answers in the middle

100 -> I rather work with people with different views than me
0 -> I rather work with people just like me

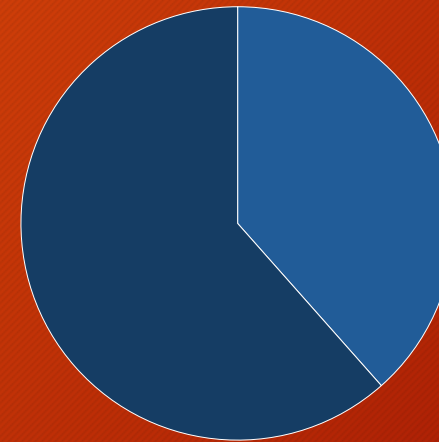
I am a critical thinker - matrix question

Before



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

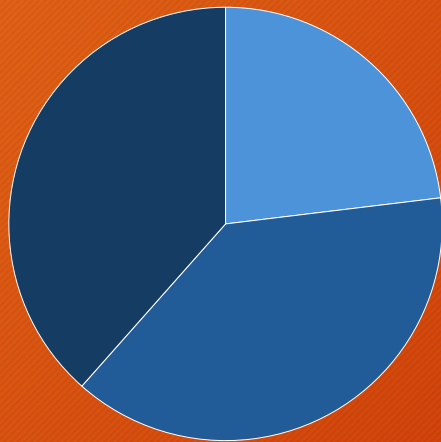
After



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

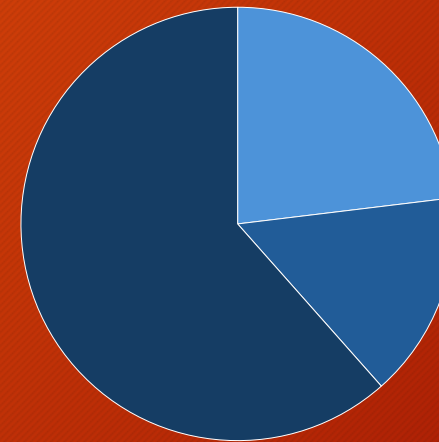
When working/studying I search for patterns and structure - matrix question

Before



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

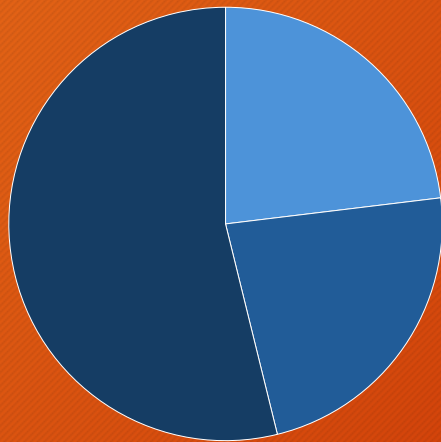
After



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

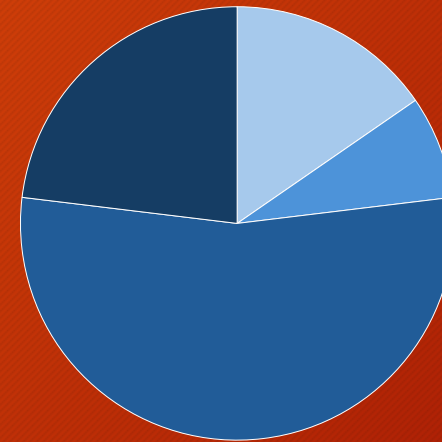
It is easy for me to work together with peers - matrix question

Before



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

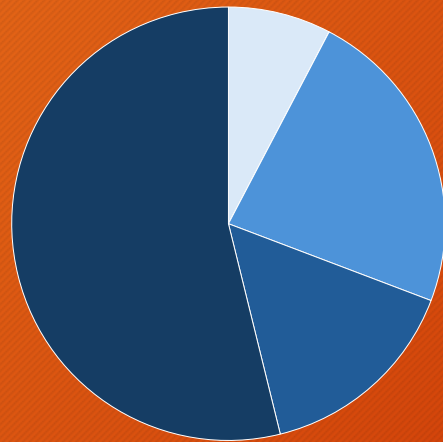
After



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
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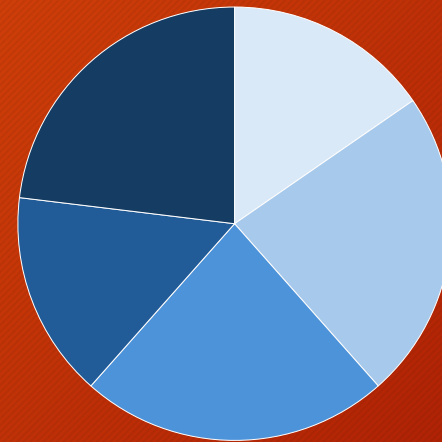
Guest lectures - *matrix questions*

The guest lectures were fun and informative



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

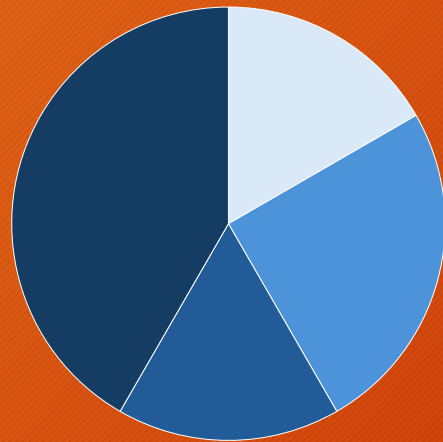
I could relate to the guest speakers



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

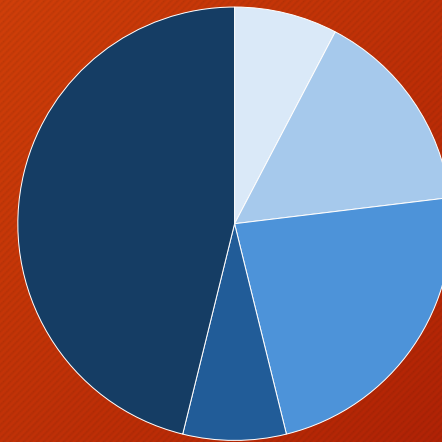
Guestlectures - *matrix questions*

The guest speakers gave me insight about how I can use my skills in my future career



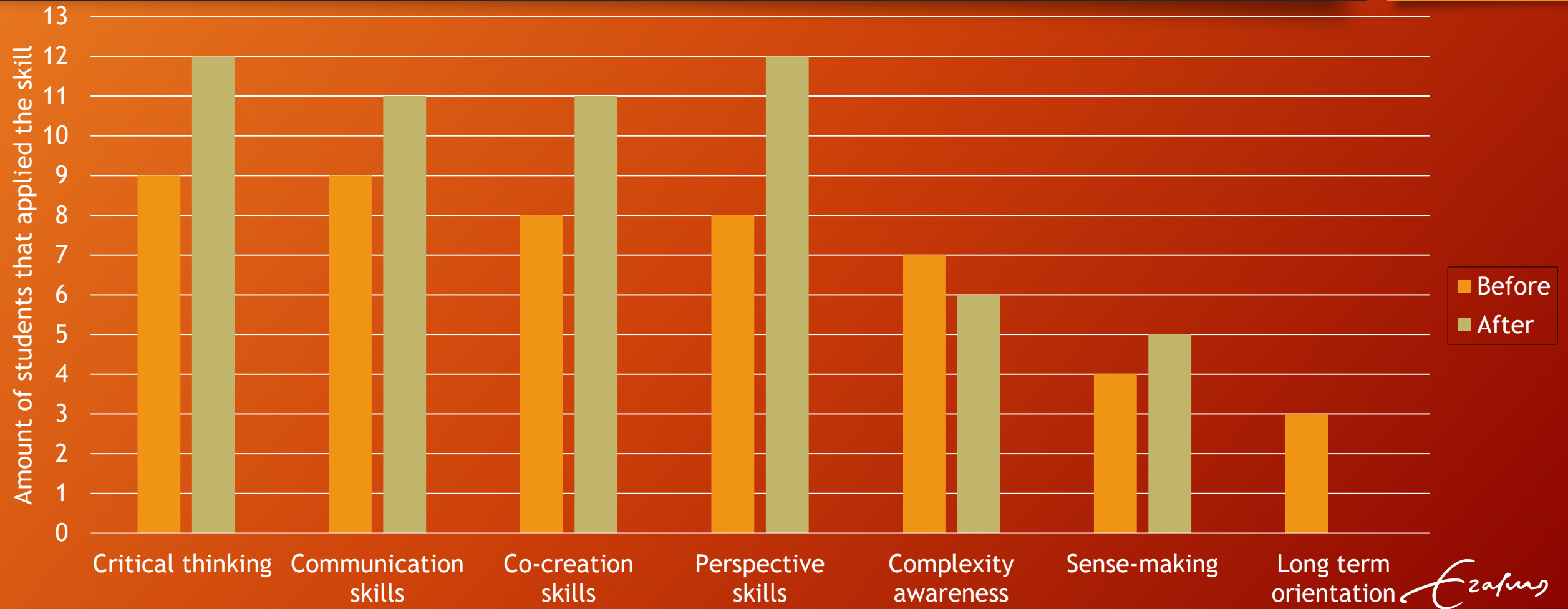
- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

I found the guest lectures an enrichment of the elective



- I disagree
- I disagree a little
- I am neutral
- I agree a little
- I agree

Which skills do you think you will apply the most during this elective? - multiple answers possible



What skills do you wish to learn during this elective that you think you will apply during your future career?

Open mindedness
Being outspoken
Changing the world
Applying psychology to future career
Writing skills
Self control
Critical thinking
Applying psychology to societal problems
Applying views
Social skills
Integration of perspectives
Recognize Misinformation
Debating Presentation skills
Giving criticism
Recognize bias

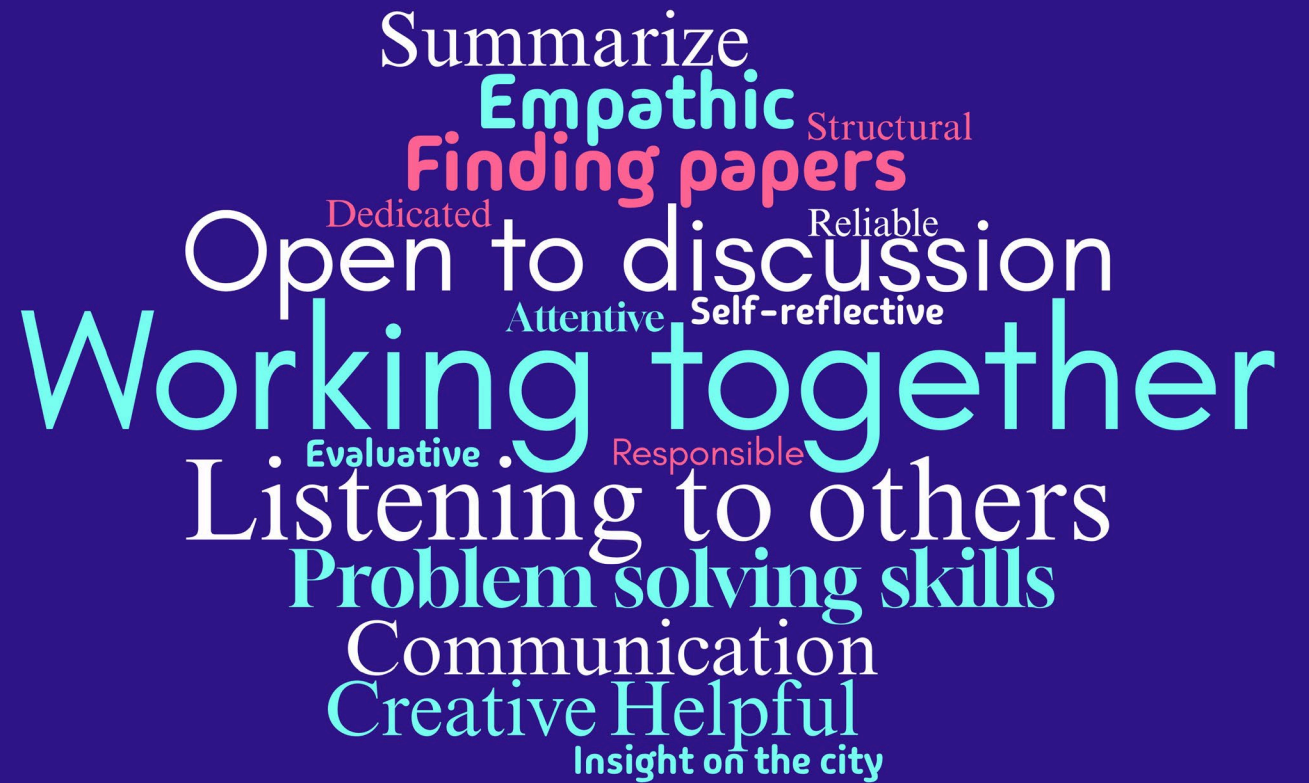
What skills have you learned during this elective that you think you will apply during your future career?

Presentation skills
Recognize Misinformation
Recognize bias
Communication skills
Critical thinking
Collaboration
Create work from an abstract topic
Integration of perspectives
Questioning own beliefs
Talking in English

Describe what your unique qualities are and how they contribute to functioning well within a group and creating the final product.

Positivity
Supportive
Creative
Critical thinking
Dedicated
Hardworking
Adjustive
Productive
Flexible
Communication
Listening to others
Out of the box thinking
Working together
Problem solving skills
Interested in societal issues
Funny
Empathic
Respectfulness
Kind
Helpful
Structural
Cautious
Understanding
Agreeable
Self-reflective
Responsible
Leadership

Describe what your unique qualities are and how they contributed to functioning well within your group and creating the final product.



A word cloud of skills and qualities. The most prominent words are 'Working together' and 'Problem solving skills', both in large cyan font. Other words include 'Listening to others', 'Open to discussion', 'Empathic', 'Finding papers', 'Communication', 'Creative', 'Helpful', 'Summarize', 'Dedicated', 'Attentive', 'Self-reflective', 'Responsible', 'Evaluative', 'Insight on the city', 'Reliable', and 'Structural'. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with 'Working together' at the center.

Describe what your unique qualities are and how they contribute to functioning well within a group and creating the final product.

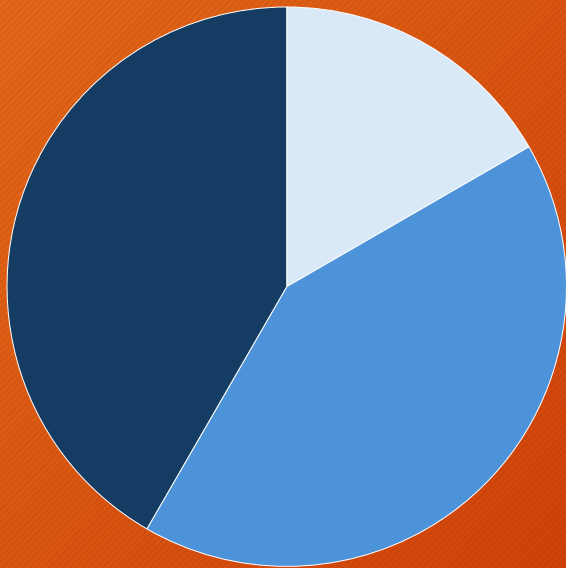
- **Worse:** The student demonstrated a decline in their ability to describe their unique qualities, as reflected in a lower-quality answer.
- **The Same:** The student showed no improvement in describing their unique qualities, but the quality of their answer did not decline either.
- **Better:** The student demonstrated improvement in describing their unique qualities, as shown by a higher-quality answer.



■ Worse ■ The same ■ Better

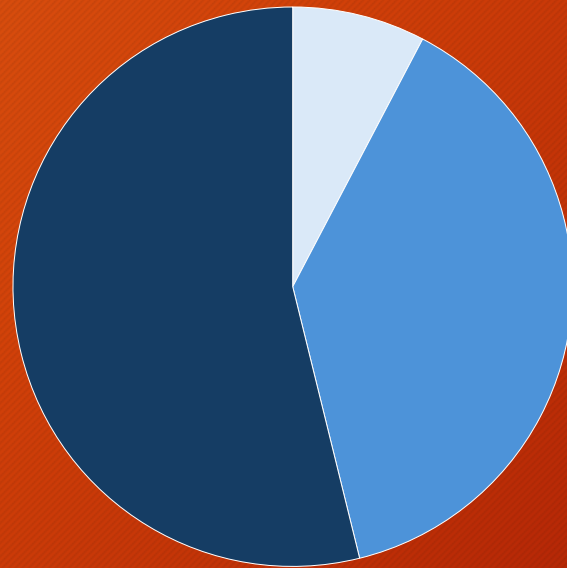
Describe your future perspective. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? And in 10? How do you want to apply your personal qualities in your future career?

Detail



■ Worse ■ The same ■ Better

Focus



■ Worse ■ The same ■ Better

Measured on Detail and Focus
Detail: More detailed answer, naming more qualities that they can apply and going more in depth on future career

Focus: Answer is focused on a clear careerpath and a clear vision of how to apply qualities to a career in the future

Conclusion

- **Skill Development:** The elective helped students acquire new skills and strengthen existing ones, including critical thinking, sense-making, and recognizing biases.
- **Personal Growth:** Students gained deeper insights into their inner compass and future perspectives. They demonstrated an improved ability to articulate how they could apply their inner compass and envision their future.
- **Challenges in Group Assignments:** The group assignment required more supervision, resulting in varied outcomes across groups. This impacted the ability of some students to co-create and communicate effectively, leading to a decline in collaboration skills.