FYS - Fall Semester 2003 Course Evaluations April 19, 2004
Debriefing

## Meeting Agenda

I. Discussion of Objective Assessment Items of FYS Students

- FYS Strengths and Weaknesses
- How to best present FYS to incoming students
II. Discussion of Qualitative Assessment Items of FYS Students
- Suggestions regarding book selection process
a. Useful "Modern" Topics?
b. Developmentally Appropriate Literature?
- Speakers
a. Too many? Too few?
b. Should there be a limit on the number of speaker sessions?
- Films
a. Developmentally Appropriate?
b. Should they be required?
c. Is there enough use of the film series to continue its use?
III. Discussion of Grading and Course Assignments
- Uniform FYS Syllabus?


## Objective Assessement

## Encouraged to Participate



77\% Agreement Rating - 2002
82\% Agreement Rating - 2003

## Participated on Regular Basis



## All Were Involved



## Conflicting Viewpoints Accepted



## Conflicting Viewpoints Used for Discussion



Interdisciplinary Approach


## Interdisciplinary Investigations Were Encouraged



Strongly Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Disagree Agree
56\% Agreement Rating - 2002
55\% Agreement Rating - 2003

## Themes Clearly Identified



# Field Trips Effectively Emphasized The Theme 



Films Helped Me Understand The Theme


34\% Agreement Rating - 2002
32\% Agreement Rating - 2003

# Assignments Viewed As Required Tasks 



## I Looked Forward To Going To Class



## Viewed FYS as "My Course"



## The Course Helped Me Learn to Formulate Challenging Questions



## Formulate Information-Seeking Questions



Found Outside Speakers Valuable


54\% Agreement Rating - 2002
55\% Agreement Rating - 2003

## Discussed FYS with Peers Outside of Class



30\% Agreement Rating - 2002
37\% Agreement Rating - 2003

## Not Enough Group Work



## Comfort Using JCU Library



## I Found the Books Interesting



63\% Agreement Rating - 2002
64\% Agreement Rating - 2003

## Overall, I Enjoyed the FYS



## Qualitative Assessment

## The Extent to Which FYS was Beneficial



Most Valuable Skills


## Compare Your Section With Other FYS Sections



## Suggestions for Improving FYS



## Book Suggestions



## Additional Comments About Book Selection

- Students wanted more input in selection process for 'fourth text'.
- Students suggested reading material that was 'more modern', or 'more relevant to the lives of college students'.
- Less than a dozen students requested that the Rwanda text be dropped from future FYS courses.


## Additional Suggestions

- End FYS; or at least offer it as an "optional" course.
- Move FYS to a two day schedule.
- Students rating their FYS section as harder consistently asked for a common syllabus


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## Suggestions - Continued:

- Students attending fewer lectures wanted to attend more - and have input in which lectures to attend.
- Students recommended finding 'more interesting speakers' - those who could talk about the lives of college students.
- Wanted more films, a better selection, or wanted them tied more closely to the theme.

