

# Summer 2006 Summer Content Institute Feedback

## Voices Rising Evaluation Brief

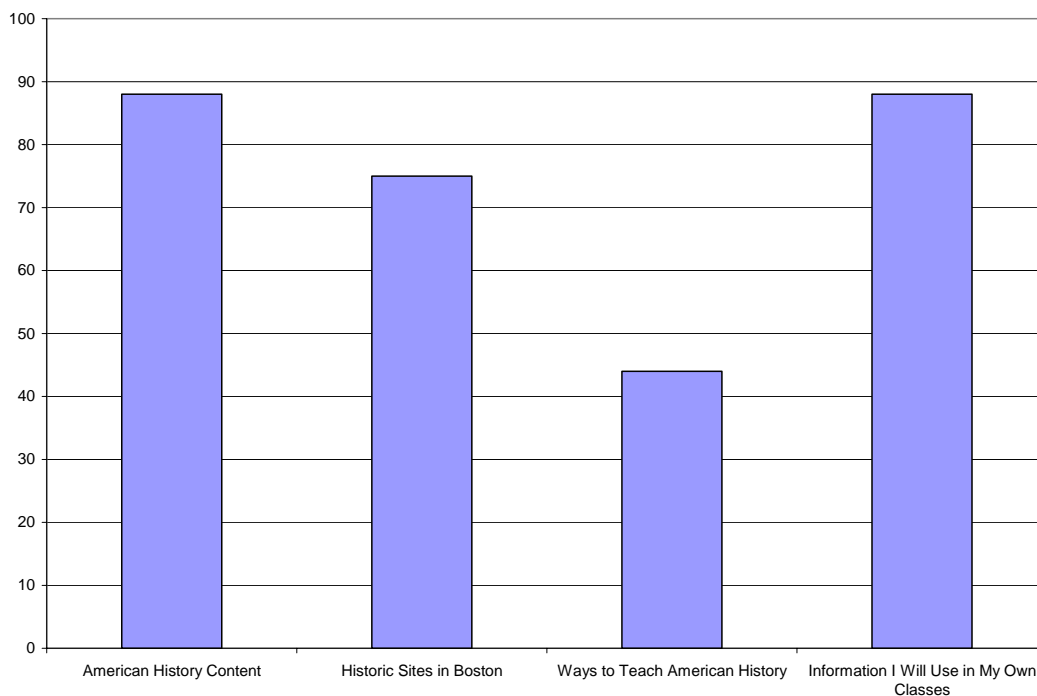
August 2006

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### Teachers Report Institute Was Effective

Higher percentages of participating teachers reported that the Voices Rising Summer Content Institute was “very effective” or “effective” in teaching them American history content (88%), informing them of historic sites in Boston (75%) and providing them with information that will be used in their own courses (88%). Substantially fewer participants reported that the summer institute was effective in teaching them about how to teach American History content.

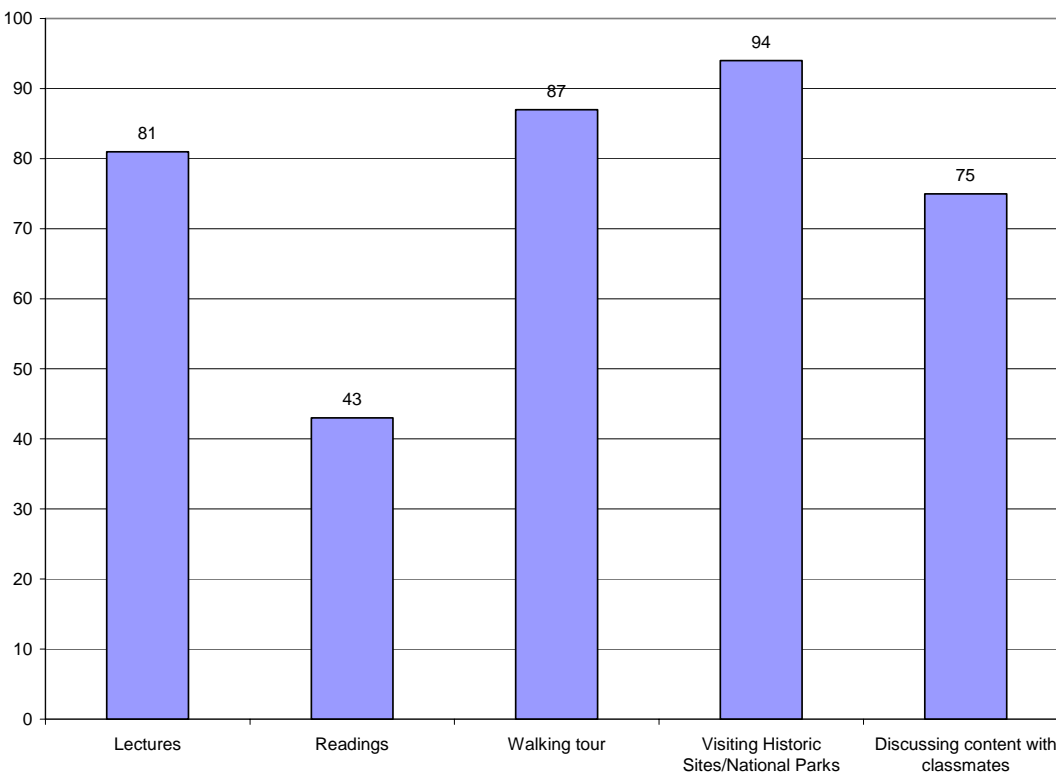
Chart 1. Percent of Participants Reporting Summer Institute was “Very Effective” or “Effective”



### Visiting Historic Sites and Walking Tour Effective

A large majority of participants in the Summer Institute reported visiting historic sites (94%) and the walking tour (87%) were “very effective” or “effective.” High percentages also reported that discussing the content with their classmates and listening to the lectures was effective. Participants were less favorable about the assigned readings. (See Chart 2 below).

Chart 2. Percent of Participants Reporting Activities Were Very Effective or Effective



### Participants Reported that the Summer Institute Met Their Professional Development Needs

Over 90 percent of participants reported that the Summer Content Institute was “very effective” or “somewhat effective” in meeting their professional development needs. Participants reported that the institute provided them with history content, important context, and information about Boston’s historic sites. For example, one participant noted: *The key content I learned this past week was varied and broad, but it coalesced with my past background in U.S. history, and I know that it strengthened my knowledge, curiosity, and ability to learn more and fit it into a stronger context.*

### Suggestions for Future Improvements

Participants provided inconsistent feedback regarding suggestions for changes for future content institutes. One theme that appears to have emerged is that participants suggested that the format of the session include more variety. One student stated: *I think it would be great to blend the two each day, rather than have entire days devoted to the classroom lectures.* Others suggested that the institute focus more on pedagogical approaches for teaching American history content. However, pedagogical approaches were not a planned part of the content institute. Nonetheless, the evaluator recommends that future content institutes provide teachers with materials and/or information about when they will obtain skills regarding pedagogy.