NSSE 2014 Civic Engagement
Open-Ended Response Themes

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Themes:

1. **Nothing:**
   - Low-effort: response is nothing, but put a period or “N/A” instead of actually saying they had no meaningful experiences
   - High-effort: response is nothing; actually stating they had no meaningful experiences
     - ex. “I have not had any experiences with local, campus, state, national, or global issues. I have not been involved in that way around campus.”

2. **Interpersonal Relationships:** response states having an experience with friends, coworkers, faculty, etc.
   - ex. “I’ve met all my friends at JMU!”

3. **Political and Social Issues:** response mentions social or political topics, broken up into the 4 categories below; ex. “Learning about the minimum wage in microeconomics class.” (Economics)
   - Health Care
   - Economics
   - Environment
   - Other

4. **Political and Social Engagement:** response is similar to the Political and Social Issues category but states that the participant took action and is somehow engaged with organizations or advocacy; ex. “I am in student government so I am very familiar with dealing with on-campus issues and dealing directly with student issues.” (Campus)
   - Federal
   - State
   - Local
5. **Community Engagement**: the participant took action in the community and is somehow engaged with organizations or advocacy within their own community
   - ex. “Being able to make a difference in my community.”

6. **Campus Engagement**: the participant took action on campus and is somehow engaged or involved with organizations or clubs within the JMU campus that are not affiliated with a social or political cause
   - ex. “My most meaningful experiences have been with my swim team! It has created a family and together we have done so many memorable things.”

7. **Personal Growth**: response mentions reflection on how what they’ve learned has helped them grow and develop as a person or citizen
   - ex. “Discussing these issues with other students has helped me understand others better and allowed my critical thinking to grow, which is meaningful.”

8. **Diversity**: response comments on issues or observations pertaining to diversity
   - ex. “I never realized how so many people have different views. It very important to be open to everyone and never ‘judge a book by its cover.’ I learned that college enables students to be surrounded by so much diversity and no one should take that for granted.”

9. **Communication**: response mentions discussion or dissemination of information with others through in-class discussions, social events, or social media
   - ex. “Spreading awareness to the issue and getting others involved is one of the best things I have done while at this university.”