Members of the 2016 freshman class are thinking a lot about politics. They are eager to get involved and share their views, but are also looking for support as they try to navigate their new environment.

With a divisive political climate, freshmen are expressing their views...

- 80% Think global climate change should be a federal priority
- 87% Agree that sexual activity without explicit, affirmative consent is considered sexual assault
- 68% Believe the federal government should have stricter gun control laws

...And are taking action to promote change.

- 22% Demonstrated for a cause
- 51% Spoke up publicly about a cause
- 55% Helped raise money for a cause or campaign

Incoming students believe in the importance of community involvement and civic values.

- 36% Feel it’s important to participate in a community action program
- 43% Feel it’s important to become a community leader
- 47% Feel it’s important to promote racial understanding
- 49% Feel it’s important to influence social values

Students seem eager and ready to engage with research and science.

- 53% Are confident in their ability to understand scientific concepts
- 65% Anticipate working on a professor’s research project
- 50% Derive satisfaction from working on a team that is doing important research
- 35% Feel like they belong in the field of science

...And are applying complex thinking strategies.

- 63% Frequently supported their opinion with a logical argument
- 49% Frequently evaluated the quality or reliability of information
- 46% Frequently analyzed information from multiple sources before drawing a conclusion

And colleges need to be prepared to support students’ mental health concerns as they arrive on campus.

- 84% Felt anxious
- 51% Felt depressed
- 41% Were frequently overwhelmed by all they had to do
- 47% Anticipate seeking personal counseling

Information about students entering college helps enrollment planning, retention efforts, and provides a baseline for understanding college effectiveness. Register for the CIRP Freshman Survey at www.cirpsurveys.org. The 2016 CIRP Freshman Survey findings are available at www.heri.ucla.edu/publications-tfs.