1) Friday, May 15th, 350 students and teachers from Twin Rivers Unified School District, Sacramento City Unified School District and Elk Grove Unified School District came to UC Davis from 8:30am-5:30pm for the SAYS kickoff—Amplifying Youth Health, Leadership, & Learning.

Demographic Information of Participants:

307 Participants responded to this evaluation and 86% of them were under 17 years of age. Furthermore, the following graph demonstrates the racial/ethnic identity of participants:

Everyone participated in 2 Workshops. Workshop titles include: In America; Fight for Your Writes; Goin’ Hard: Black, Brown & Yellow Heroes/Sheroes Who Changed the World & How I Can Too; The Text Generation; Riots that Go!; Word Becomes Flesh; Life Every Voice; among others.

The workshops evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Here are just a few of the top key words from participants: “It was a subject I had interest in.” “[It gave me] the freedom of speech that you wouldn’t have in class.” Additionally, their favorite part of workshops: “Writing”; “People sharing what they wrote.”; “Everything.”; “The Poetry”; “When we wrote the poems.”

At a glance, here is the overall feedback we received on the workshops:
Participants felt the workshops were great, but how did they enjoy the entire SAYS Conference?

Keywords from participants: “Increased skills in poetry.”; “How to speak from the heart and practice.”; “Learning how to express myself.”; “I was able to understand how and why people write poems and are so much into writing.”; “I think I found my representation in voice.”; “I am motivated to bring this back to my community.”

Here is how the participants rated the conference:

[Bar chart showing ratings for various aspects of the conference]

2) After an inspiring day of workshops, participants went directly to the Veterans’ Memorial Theater in Davis from 5:30-9:30pm for the 1st Annual SAYS Teen Poetry Slam:

159 Participants responded to this survey at the Slam and 72% of them were between 12-15 years of age. This event was 88% of the attendee’s first Slam, 94% of which were from the Sacramento area. As demonstrated below, 90% of participants surveyed gave the Slam a top 5 rating.

[Pie chart showing ratings for the Slam]