

Advocating (and Iterating) for Student Financial Literacy

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INITIAL COLLABORATION

Two years ago, our university library partnered with a local credit union to offer financial literacy workshops for undergraduate students.

The programs were certified through Residence Life so attendees earned points to improve their priority in the annual housing selection process.

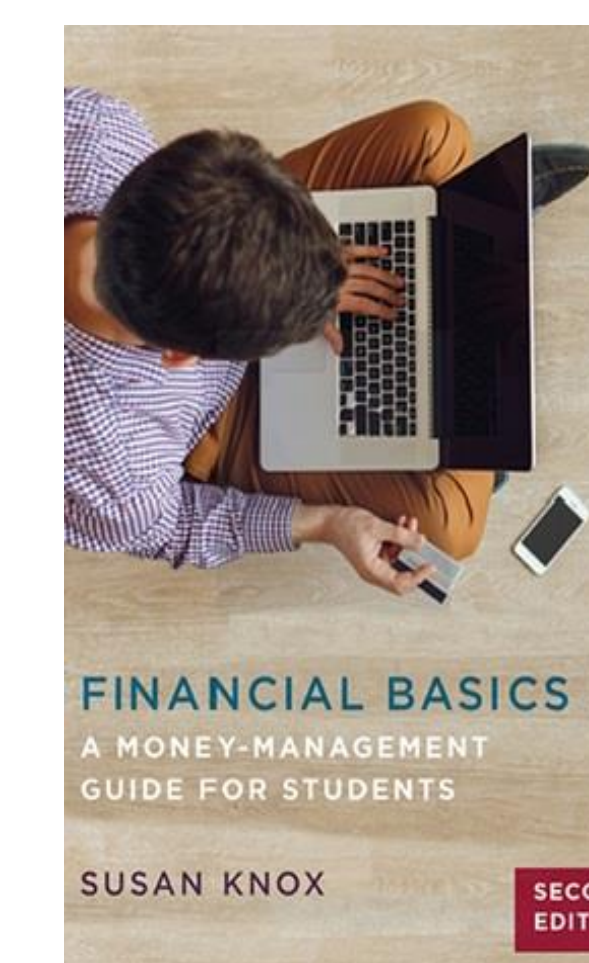
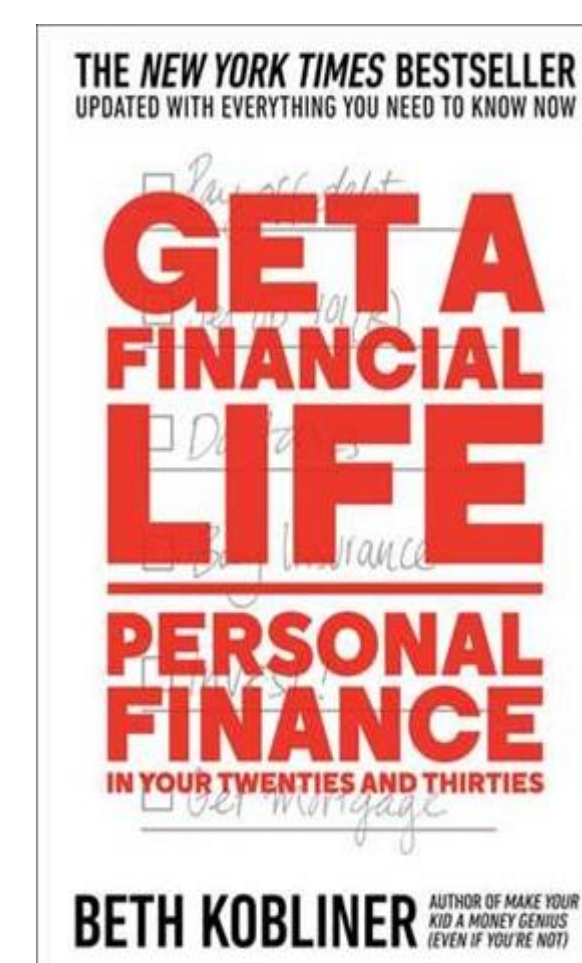
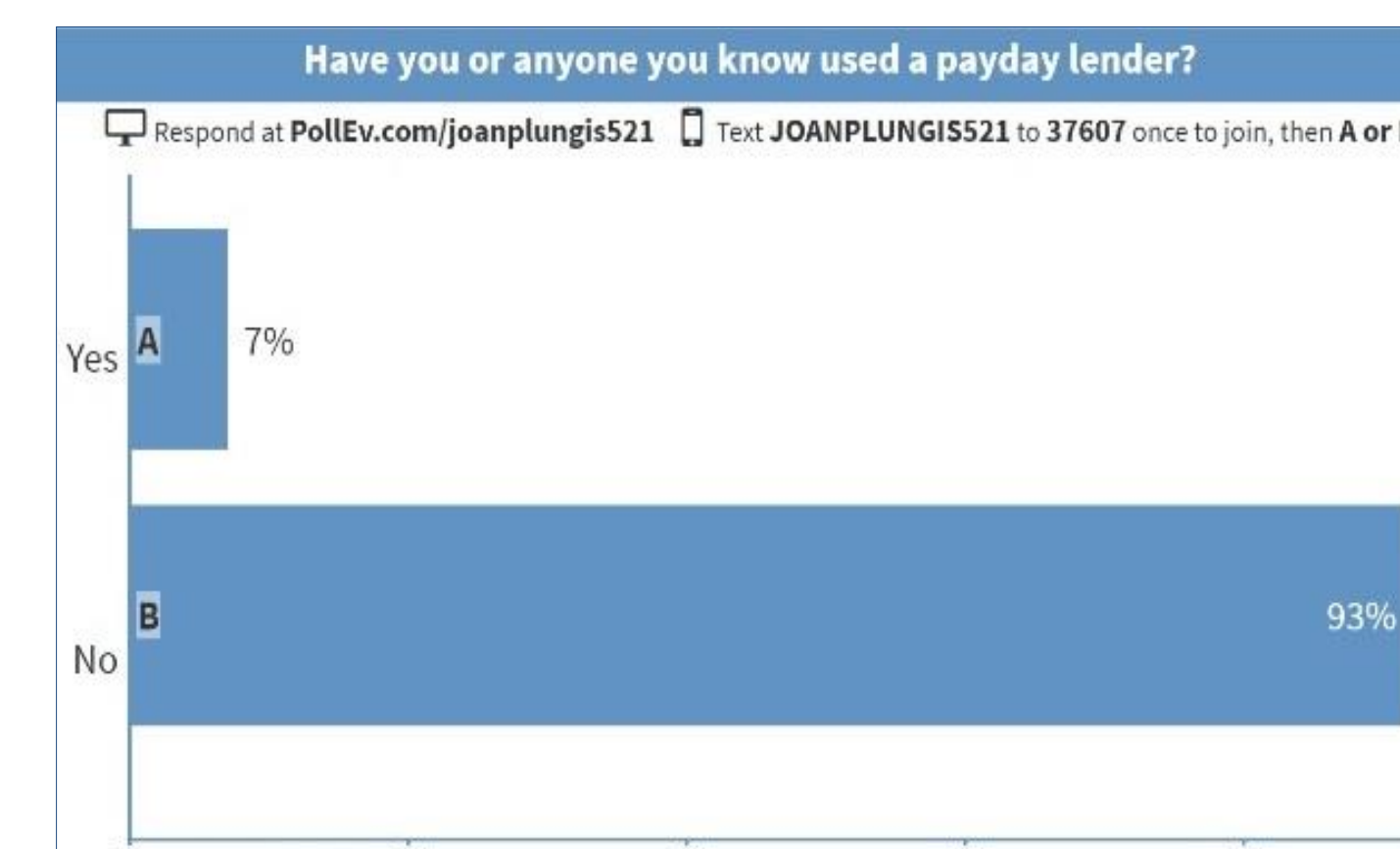
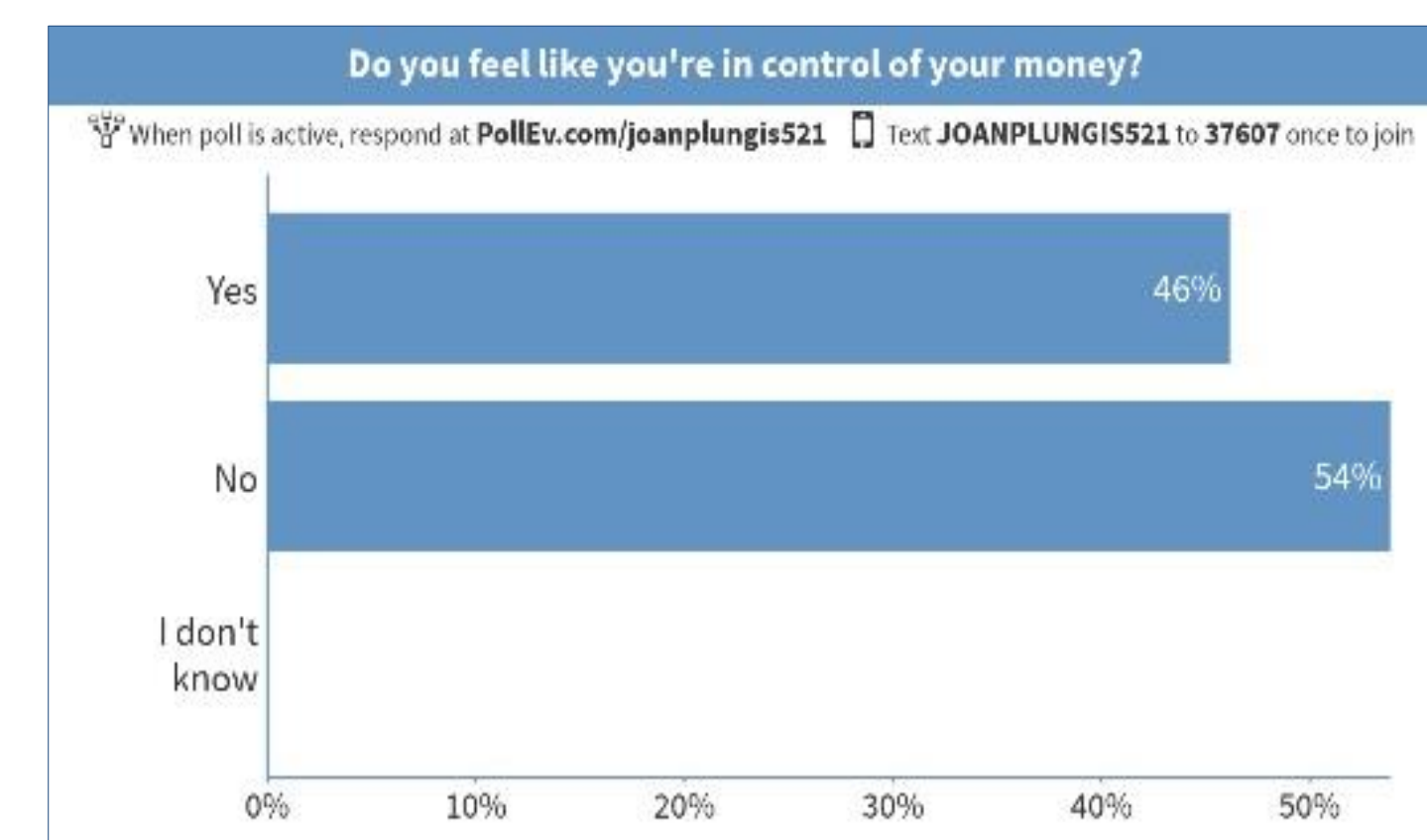


While the sessions drew large crowds, evaluations indicated students wanted more time for peer interaction, and less old-school, classroom-like, PowerPoint-focused presentations.

FEEDBACK-DRIVEN IMPROVEMENTS

Inspired by the highly successful peer-consultant model used in the campus writing center, we approached a finance professor about involving his upper-level students as peer facilitators in our programs. Student volunteers received extra credit in the class, plus housing selection points for their participation.

We introduced interactivity with Poll Everywhere questions and a guess how much change is in the jar activity (with prizes!).



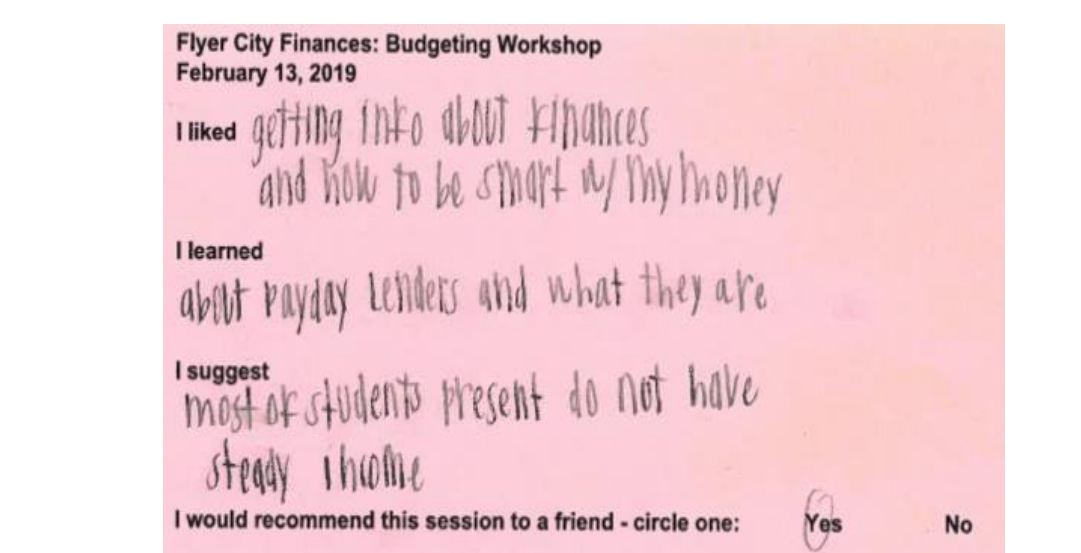
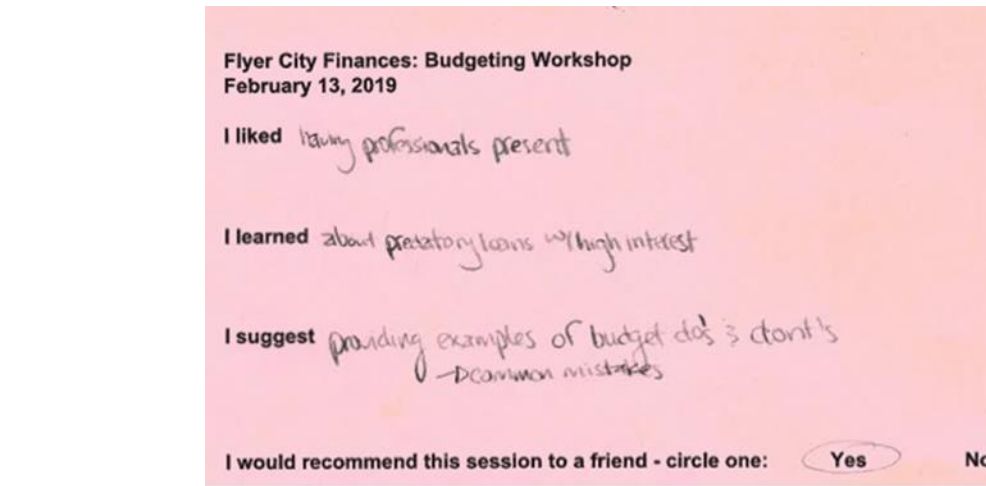
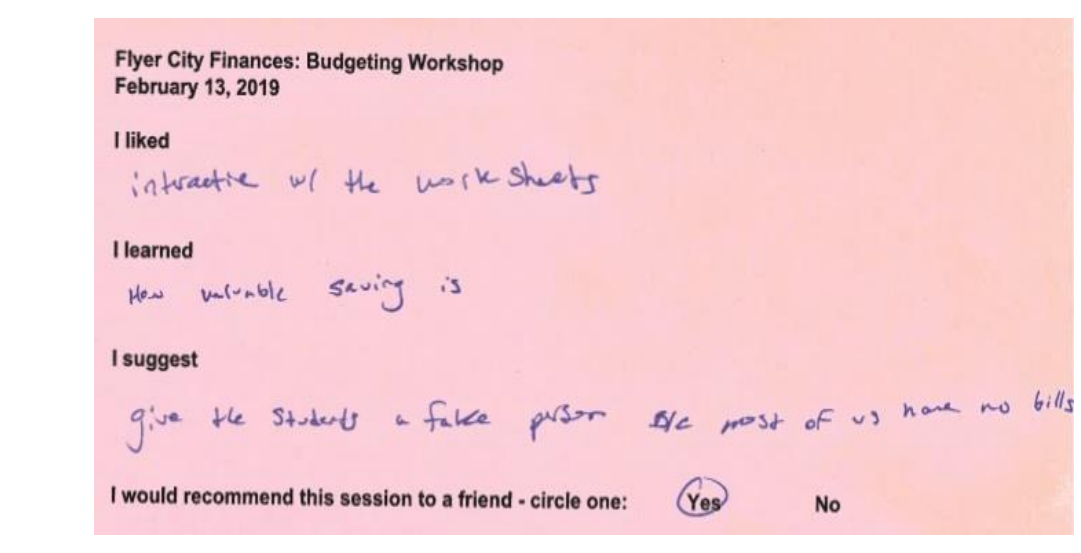
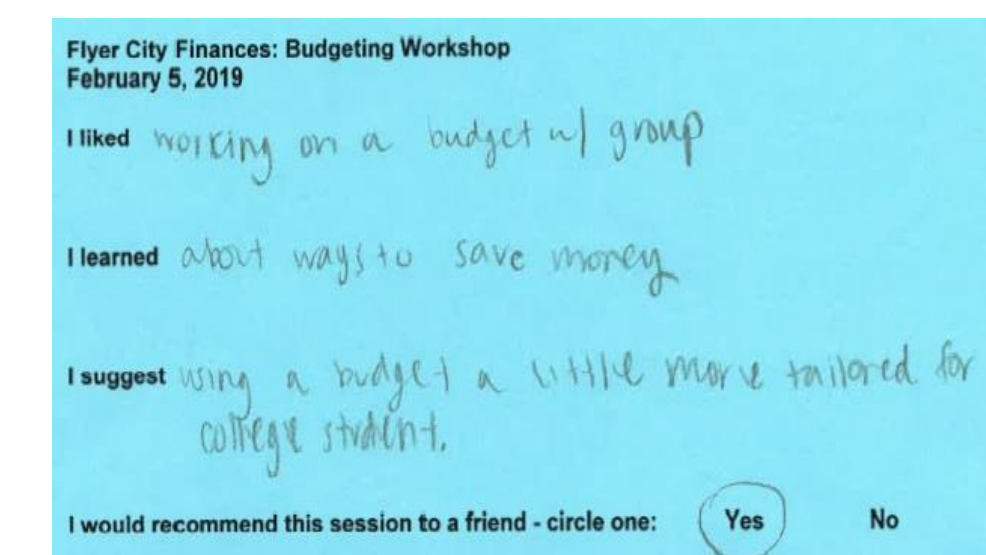
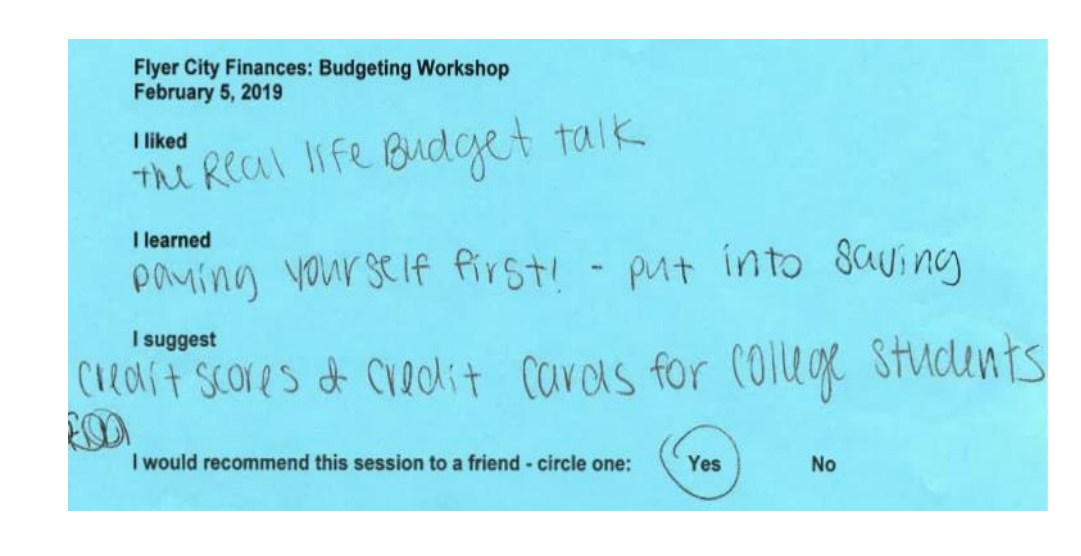
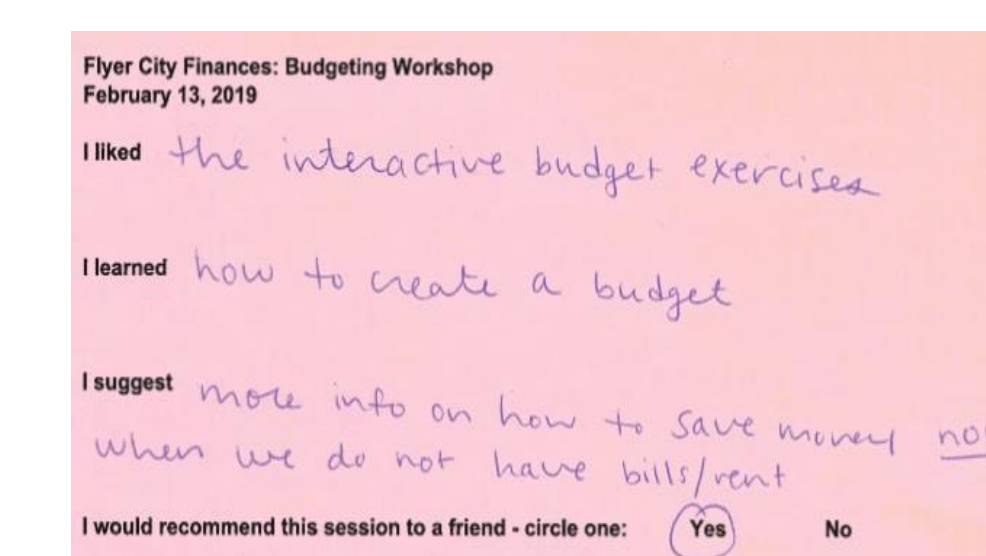
In small break-out discussion groups led by student facilitators, attendees completed and discussed a budget worksheet. They then shared tips and ideas for money management with the larger group.



FUTURE PLANS

Future iterations will be even more student-centric:

- use budget examples with realistic categories for students (no alimony or mortgages)
- create budgets for sample student personas
- discuss how to budget when only income is from a summer job



We may use Microsoft Excel's budget templates for college students, which have appropriate categories with actual dollar amounts.

