

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

Arkansas Governor's School has been an incredible experience. I feel it has better prepared me for college and my future. I am very thankful I was given this opportunity.
My experience at AGS was amazing. I really love the diversity and the atmosphere here. It is so different than where I am from, so coming here was a change. I enjoy how everyone can be open about their opinions without feeling like they will be judged. I also met many new friends that I will keep for a lifetime. AGS was the best experience of my life.
My overall experience at AGS was amazing. I enjoyed all 6 weeks of the program and am sad it is now ending. The program taught me many things and created many new friendships.
Overall pretty good! I felt that there were a lot of rules, and that some punishments were unfairly assigned. I myself never got in trouble, but from observing some of the RA's, I thought that some kids were singled out. I felt there was too much power given to the RA's. But overall I personally learned a lot and made many great friendships.
My time spent here at AGS has resulted in me having one of the best days of my life. 10/10
Fun, I wish there wasn't a break
My overall experience was unforgettable. I came into the program worried that I would not make any friends and the classes would be boring, but I have met lifelong friends here and I took the best English classes I have ever taken. I have a new found interest in poetry!
My AGS experience has been awesome. I've learned a lot of new things and made a lot of new friends. I've learned to question things and not merely accept things and people for what we perceive them to be. I've also learned valuable social skills that will serve me well for the rest of my life. My overall AGS experience was exhilarating. 10/10 would recommend.
I loved it 10/10 and I would definitely come back. The classes were interesting and fun the staff were kind and interested in what we had to say and in promoting a fun experience for all of us here at AGS.
It was fun but week 5 was just not packed like other weeks so I feel that it should be a 5 week program Cool people, eh food, classes started to get boring
I've enjoyed my time at AGS immensely. I think this is a wonderful program that has stretched my mind and introduced me to many like-minded, curious, driven individuals. Of course, some activities were more effective than others. Occasionally the lesson wasn't extremely captivating or the speaker's words didn't directly resonate with me, but I found that because of the overall mindset of this environment, even the weaker activities provided interesting and relevant material to discuss and critically analyze with my peers, in turn serving as beneficial and thought-provoking as well. Overall, this experience has been a very positive one!
I had a truly fantastic time at AGS. I feel like I learned so much and actually grew academically and socially. Everyday was a great experience. I have very few complaints overall.
It was honestly one of the best things I have ever done.
Pretty fun. Felt kind of trapped.
Everyone says it, but life-changing. I've grown so much as a student, a thinker, and as a person. Each teacher influenced me in their own way and the opportunities and experiences I've had here have helped me in so many ways. I've never felt more at home and I don't want to leave.
It was wonderful. It's not every day one can learn about four different topics and still have time for recreation. This is a great place to get a fresh learning experience.
I loved it. It was a little intimidating being around so many smart people, it makes you lose a little confidence. But the people you meet here are all genuine. It was such a fulfilling experience.

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AGS was overall a good experience. I enjoyed meeting people who had the same passions and goals as I do. The beginning was a little overwhelming simply because many kids came to AGS already having a "group". The first week was a little repetitive because we had to keep reintroducing each other (which makes sense). I enjoyed many of the 4:10/6:10's although some were a little misleading & did not actually touch on what the description said it would. The field trips like Heifer and the plays were also very fun. The majority of the RA's were really nice and understanding. The food was better than school food, however often some of it was flavorless and the cafeteria lacked of fruit. The dorms could use some improvement (mold/air conditioner/bug problems). I enjoyed the atmosphere, however, I did notice that some staff would favor some individuals.

It was a fantastic experience to learn and grow as a person and a student

I enjoyed my experience at AGS very much. It has been probably the best 6 weeks of my life, and I am extremely thankful for being able to come be a part of it.

It was a fantastic experience that I would not trade for the world. It has helped me as a person to think about what i am doing and how to become a beneficial member of society.

One of the greatest experiences of my life. if I could do it over again I would.

I felt the intellectual stimulation to be a bit lacking if I'm being honest. I felt I learned nothing in my main area and area 2 was just a rehash of discussion after movies.

Totes amazing

AGS has provided me with opportunities for intellectual, social and emotional growth. I feel like it has taken me several steps closer to achieving my academic goals. It has also helped me develop what will hopefully be lifelong friendships with many people. All the enriching experiences that AGS has offered helped me develop as an individual as a whole--not just intellectually.

Out of 10, 4.

Not because of anything wrong with the program. I just didn't like being away from home.

I had a great experience.

AGS was the most amazing summer of my life. I've learned more here in six weeks than I do in a year at High School. Not only the learning environment but lifelong friendships have been made and it's an absolute honor that I got to participate. Thank You Tim!!!

It was better than I expected. I made connections with people I'd never known, sharpened skills I never thought I'd own, and, just, in general, got out of my comfort zone.

My overall experience was mind-opening. I am changed because of it and I have learned to be a more accepting person and a more critical thinker.

Wow. The experience has been WOW. I am heart broken at the fact that I have to leave. I have loved everyone here. People are so open minded and kind. 10/10 would recommend.

I think the experience is second to none. I've been fortunate enough to have a lot of experience being away from home for longer periods of time during the summer, but AGS by far did the best in giving me a college-like experience. Furthermore, the people here are absolutely amazing. The community here at AGS is so open-minded and generally accepting, and that's unfortunately not something that can be found every where. It's been a wonderful experience, and I would definitely recommend the program to other people.

AGS was the most physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually stimulating event in my life. The six weeks I spent here were amazing and unforgettable.

Life-changing, I became more confident of myself and was able to make a lot of good connections with people.

My experience was wonderful. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

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<p>I enjoyed my area 1, 2, and 3 classes. I really liked several of the speakers and movies. I had a great time here at AGS. I was able to learn and share ideas with like minded individuals.</p>
<p>I would say I benefited greatly from coming here to AGS. I enjoyed the teachers, films, speakers, and my classes. I would gladly do this over again and recommend it to anyone interested in learning.</p>
<p>It taught me how to have effective, civil debates without using logical fallacies! I absolutely loved my time at AGS; it's a great transition to make you familiar with a college atmosphere. I go to a small school, so this helped me avoid culture shock!</p>
<p>AGS was such an amazing experience. I will never regret taking 6 weeks out of my summer to be in school!</p>
<p>The experience has been wonderful, from the speakers and seminars that I have learned from to the great teachers to the well mannered students. I won't forget it.</p>
<p>It was wonderful. The people were extremely nice! The staff was always helpful and had kind things to say- especially the lunch and cleaning staff. The curriculum was just challenging enough while still holding my interest.</p>
<p>I am totally in love with the program. It has been a very eye-opening and constructive experience overall, I am very glad that I chose to be a part of AGS. I feel that it helped me be more open to other peoples beliefs and also I felt I took part in a much larger group of intellectuals. If I was asked if I do it again, I would 100% do it. thank you soo much for the experience.</p>
<p>I absolutely loved it! It can be a bit tiring for an introvert, but it is fantastic. It is almost like an intellectual's utopia. My only wish is that all the natural science courses wouldn't be so biology based.</p>
<p>I loved it! I was worried I wouldn't fit in at first, but over time I fit in with a great group and met a lot of wonderful new people. I will recommend my incoming junior friends to apply.</p>
<p>It's been a great experience. I don't think it was life changing but it was wonderful to meet new people and experience something totally new.</p>
<p>It wasn't as great as I was hoping for, but that's probably just due to my personality</p>
<p>Life changing. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world.</p>
<p>Overall, Arkansas Governor's School helped me know what qualifications I want in a college and also what qualifications most colleges want in me.</p>
<p>It was amazing and unforgettable. I wish I could do it again but sadly I can't.</p>
<p>My AGS experience was decent, but most definitely could have been better. I never really got a great feel of the program until the end, which is very unfortunate.</p>
<p>Very positively. Although there was things I didn't particularly enjoy, I have no regrets in regards to attending the program.</p>
<p>I love AGS so much, I am so happy that I decided to go. At first during the whole application process I kept telling myself that it didn't matter that much, but once I got accepted and got here it was worth every single moment spent on working hard to get accepted.</p>
<p>Phenomenal. This experience helped me to rediscover myself and gave me a great idea of what to expect in college.</p>
<p>I would assess it as a short period of overwhelming greatness that i'll never forget in my life even if I tried like super duper hard.</p>
<p>I loved it.</p>
<p>It was a really fun time. It was hard being the only girl from my school and I hated the first week just because i had no friends and i think there should have been more activities to help kids like me. But now at the end I've made very good friends.</p>

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<p>I had a very good experience at AGS and think it was a great program to experience this summer and beneficial for me going forward.</p>
<p>It was very positive. I would definitely recommend.</p>
<p>AGS as a whole has been such a rewarding experience for me. I would never have been able to learn any of the things I have learned through out these past six weeks at a regular school environment.</p>
<p>my experience at AGS has been more than i expected. I am leaving with a whole new way of thinking and critiquing, and i know that this has given me a step up in life that most aren't privileged with.</p>
<p>I loved it. 10/10</p>
<p>amazing</p>
<p>I personally didn't enjoy AGS that much; however, I completely understand what it was meant to do for students. I feel the school aspect of it should be "upped" a bit; and we should have a bit more freedom with regards to cellphones and such. (If we're trusted to act in a responsible and adult-like manner, why are we still treated like children with regards to our phones and our ability to abstain from using them at inappropriate times?)</p>
<p>I love AGS so much. I like who I have become here. If there is on thing that I didn't like, it was the phone rule. I feel like phones should be allowed because they are apart of society and future AGS generations are going to be more attached to their phones than we are.</p>
<p>I absolutely fell in love with AGS. It opened my mind to extremely diverse topics. If I could, I would stay here all summer at AGS.</p>
<p>Positive. I learned a lot, made friends, and contributed to the AGS experience. I hope the AGS program will always be a part of Arkansas public education.</p>
<p>AGS has been one of the greatest experiences I have had in my lifetime. From all the people I have met to all the new things I have learned, I would want to do this again.</p>
<p>It was wonderful. It was by far my favorite academic experience I've ever gone through.</p>
<p>Good</p>
<p>I had a great experience at AGS this summer. I was exposed to new problems which required me to think critically, and feel as though I was challenged in a way much different from regular school. I made lots of new friends who I could relate to very well, and feel like I have become a more social person overall. I would definitely choose to come to AGS again given the choice.</p>
<p>My AGS experience has been very good and I would deffenitly do it again.</p>
<p>I'd rate it very highly. I liked the environment of both my classes and all of the events and social things.</p>
<p>My experience was very nice. I had fun in all of my classes and I think that I came away with a lot of information I am sure to remember.</p>
<p>It was life changing and I could not have had a better time here than I did, I believe.</p>
<p>I have thoroughly enjoyed the entire AGS experience. From my dorm mates to my classes to the multitude of activities, every part has made the time I spent here worth while. I wish I didn't have to leave and I wish to maintain the relationships I have formed here, which will be the most difficult part. I feel that the RAs, Teachers, and Lyle did a terrific job at keep us engaged and thinking and almost every possible moment while also allowing us to express our opinions and display our talents. The most important about AGS to me is the freedom we have as students. It is not set up like a military camp, but is still structured to provide some order to any potential chaos that could occur. However, all these things would not be as grand if not for the immense diversity that is exhibited here in terms of intellectual skills and other such talents.</p>
<p>I found the AGS experience life changing. It opened my mind to new ideas and concepts. It helped me to realize what is going to be important to me in the near future, like college applications and my senior year.</p>

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### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

AGS was, in its essence, a very great experience in many areas. The people, for the most part, demonstrated an elevated level of maturity that allowed others to learn without the burden of harsh judgment. Much of the educational and social events were absolutely captivating. Also, the Hall Directors and the RAs were very kind. I really wish that it didn't take so much time getting to the WAC.

AGS was an experience that definitely put me out of my comfort zone. In some ways this increased social interaction was beneficial, however, I did not always feel comfortable with speaking up in group discussions. Perhaps either area II or III classes could be formulated by like personality test results (ie introverts go in a separate class).

AMAZING!! So many great memories have come out of AGS and I am so incredibly thankful. I have met some beautiful people here which I will never forget. There could not have been a better way to spend my summer. (Ok maybe some college visits but besides that nothing else). I'm not sure if I would go as far as to say that AGS has changed my whole entire life, but I would definitely say that it has made an impression on me that I will never forget.

Words aren't enough. I loved all that I did here. I truly had fun 95% of the time, and that other 5% wasn't that bad to begin with. I will be trying to get all of my friends in the grade below me to apply next year.

I loved my experience at ags

It has been very good. It has definitely been positive even with a few negative instances. AGS is a beacon for liberally minded people, so even being open minded, a conservative can experience being a vast minority.

It was okay. Nothing was really different from school. I feel exactly the same as when I first got here. I didn't really like the fact that we couldn't have our phones after class because I didn't make not one friend here and so I had to sit and stare at walls and stuff during 'social' events. It's exactly the same as school, I didn't feel like I was very supported and the only person I talked to on a daily basis was my roommate. The only thing I really liked about the program were the different learning topics even though some topics could've been expanded on.

My overall experience was AMAZING , all caps. But the entirety of this experience has helped change my outlook on life for the better and ultimately makes me want to recommend everyone take advantage of this opportunity because it's such a privilege to be here and in an environment such as this one.

my overall experience has been wonderful i met a lot of cool people i learned a lot of new things and all ways keep an open mind.

It was a very significant time being a student here, and getting to be with individuals of varying talents and backgrounds. Since I was here for performing arts, most of my academic development was assessed by my Area II and seminar classes, and the format of open discussion was effective in learning new ideas. I have made friends that will last me a life time, and have gained skills that will prepare me for the future.

It was definitely different from what I am used to in Siloam, I have always been a person that asks question based around our Area II and the fact that I came to a place where we can ask those questions both in class and just have the conversation normally made it a wonderful experience.

This has been one of the best experiences of my life. The atmosphere and the people are truly amazing. This is something I will remember for the rest of my life. I loved ever day and every moment.

I love AGS so much. It has been a monumental experience that will stay with me for years.

My overall experience at AGS was life changing. I learned a lot and met lots of life long friends along the way. The staff and students were so engaged in learning and having an enjoyable time while we were here.

AGS is amazing and should continue on forever. It has opened doors, not just academically but also socially and within myself. It's been an experience I would not trade for anything.

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eh. it was the bomb diggidy
My overall experience at AGS was absolutely amazing. I've learned so much and opened up my mind to new viewpoints
I've had a fairly good experience at AGS overall. I've liked the excited-to-learn attitude that everyone seems to have. I've enjoyed the learning opportunities I've had here, and the fact that even though this is a place of learning, this has still been a fairly laid back experience. I wasn't a huge fan of the obvious political affiliation of a majority of the people here, including the faculty. I'm glad that we were able to discuss our political opinions here, but I would've liked to not feel as alone, immoral, and lesser because of my particularly strong political views.
My overall experience at AGS has been very well. I have had a great time
AGS was one of the best experiences ever. I would not trade my time here for anything. Peers, teachers, lectures, RAs, they were all so great and I could not thank anyone enough.
great
good
I Love it very much, I wish it was longer. I will miss the friends I have made over the past six weeks and the teachers are amazing most of the time. To expand on AGS its made me more into a adult that can see past the surface of things and see the more unowned.
AGS has honestly been one of the best experiences I've ever had, and that I will probably ever have. The opportunity to be surrounded with 400 like minded individuals who are so open to new things is a once in a lifetime experience. I opened my mind to new things, and became more tolerant of people around me. I feel like AGS hasn't completely changed who I am, but it has sharpened up some of my rough edges, allowing me to have the ability to develop into a little bit better version of myself. I have had the utmost positive experience with the program, and everyone in it. I honestly couldn't think of a better, or more productive, way to spend my summer. Even though the actual curriculum I learnt was beneficial, the push for me to expand my views and my tolerance, and to understand a broader perspective of the world was the most important thing to me. Thank you so so much for this amazing experience.
Great!
I have loved AGS. I was hesitant to apply to the program just because it was six weeks but I do not regret my decision to apply one bit. This has been an amazing experience and I am definitely going to encourage people from my school to apply next year.
My experience at AGS has been wonderful and beneficial for my later life. AGS has been largely positive and fun.
AGS has been an overall great experience, I'm glad I came.
A lot of people constantly talked about how life-changing AGS is and for some reason I dont find it life-changing. It was a great experience though, and i learnt a lot in many fields from being here.
AGS was an incredible experience that made me more aware of myself and others, and allowed me to get a taste of college and all the things out in the world. The community atmosphere made it easy to meet other people with similar as well as different interests, and for the most part, everyone was welcome to share ideas with each other.
It was definitely educational, and not just in the traditional sense. Being allowed this (relative) autonomy in and out of the classroom has allowed me to grow as a person. I listen closer, process my emotions and opinions more accurately, and have really worked on my anxiety and insecurities while here.
Thought provoking
I have LOVED the friendly and accepting environment. All the students here have been willing to include you in the conversation.

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<p>It was amazing being around so many smart and eloquent people. It opened my horizons.</p>
<p>I would assess my overall experience at AGS as being a pretty beneficial experience. I was able to achieve my goal of becoming more open minded to all aspects of society. I met tons of new friends and will be able to use that to my advantage. I would also say that my experience here at AGS has been very unique, it has given me the opportunity to explore my options into careers, lifestyles, beliefs and much more. and I think the faculty and staff very much for that.</p>
<p>AGS was just about the best thing I have ever experienced. I grew in so many aspects and made amazing friends. The overall environment was nurturing and welcoming. AGS fulfilled my expectations and then some.</p>
<p>This has been the best experience of my life. I can't even put it to words. I love it here so much.</p>
<p>i would assess my experience overall as an enjoyable experience. im glad that i came here and I'm grateful that i was chosen. i hope to remember this forever</p>
<p>It was great and a perfect way to spend my summer. Though sometimes there was times that I either felt overwhelmed or tired. But that's not to say I didn't enjoy it. What I got most out of it was a new perception of the world and an appreciation of new fields.</p>
<p>amazing, getting to explore/learn more in my areas and meeting new people has been the best experience ever</p>
<p>I think this has given me a great opportunity to experience things in the real world and in a very fun way. I feel lucky to have participated in a program like this one, I will tell students who are future juniors to apply for it for sure.</p>
<p>My experience has been amazing. AGS shook up my perception of the world around me, both physically (being in Conway, from Fayetteville) and mentally (AREA 2). I feel like it has altered me in ways nothing else would have, especially for a summer program. I made friends and connections like the ones I've been trying to make at school, but was having a hard time doing. Being here has given me the tools to go back to my high school and excel at my senior year. The friendships I've made with kids that were here with me, and will be with me at school, are invaluable. This has been incredible for me, and it's opened my mind to possibilities and ways of thinking like never before. I feel like I'm writing in cliches, but they're all so true. Coming into AGS, all I knew was that people said it was "life-changing". Now that's it's over, I can say it delivered-and then some.</p>
<p>It was okay. I don't know if it was the life-changing experience that everyone claimed it was but it was fun sometimes. I don't know it almost seemed like it was supposed to suckerpunch kids who didn't actively care about people in the homefront and people in other parts of the world who are suffering. I just didn't need any of that. I already knew that.</p>
<p>I loved my time at AGS. It was a little slow in the first week, but after that I had a great experience. The people here were accepting and enthusiastic about learning and meeting new people, which made it an open and loving environment. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.</p>
<p>I feel like this was one of the best experiences of my life, so far. I have never felt like I have fit in anymore than I have while i was here.</p>
<p>Extremely fun with a very positive environment as well as informative about many subjects and topics.</p>
<p>I feel my overall experience was extremely positive. I think it really helped me grow as a person, define why I believe what I believe, learn that I am capable of living without my parents and to overall grow as a social person. I've thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone.</p>
<p>My experience at AGS was amazing. I was exposed to new types of thinking and people. I made amazing lifelong friends. I was also exposed to different opinions, and while they did not change my own, I am more prepared for college, the real world, and people who are different from me.</p>

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AGS did a lot of things for me. It gave me new motivation, ideas about my future, friends from across the state, and a way to fill my summer that did not involve sitting on the couch at home. All good things. The greatest gift, however, was the fact that for the first time I was completely and consistently engaged in my environment. As a gifted student, back home in my own small town school, I, all too often, slide by with my mind on autopilot, good grades and test scores requiring not focus nor thought. Governor's School asked something different of me. Presented with new ideas and activities minute by minute, I was required to "tune-in" my mind and actively participate in my environment. I was challenged, my ideas were challenged, and I was asked to rise to a new set of standards that involved more than just sliding through. This is priceless. I cannot express the value of being truly involved. AGS has dusted the cobwebs from my mind, built up from years of nonuse in non-challenging classrooms and discussions. I am now a well-oiled thinking machine, ready to return home and involve myself in my school and community. After all, you only get out what you put in!

My overall experience at AGS was an amazing one. Not only did I learn new techniques in my Area 1 of Instrumental Music, but I also learned and developed social and cognitive skills to take back home and use for a lifetime. I also made hundreds of new friends and became apart of a large, strong, family of bright intellectuals who love learning for the sake of learning and nothing else.

it was okay.

It was good. The first week I hated but things slowly got better and the second half was great. I disliked most of the speakers that were brought in. I didn't take anything away from them. I did love the nano science speaker though. Her topic was very interesting to me. I also hated most of the 4:10s and 6:10s. I attended many the first week and a half and they were almost all a bore. After that I attended very few because they were a waste of my time. The first week of AGS was very rough because I had almost no time to myself, but the RA's realized that introverts were being pushed too much and asked our thoughts on it. There are too many required events in the first week that are socially taxing. I wish there has been more interesting stuff to do in my free time as well. I would have loved to watch a Studio Ghibli movie.

Overall, I enjoyed AGS, and am glad I came. Unlike most people, however, I would actually say that the program gave me a new found appreciation for my school and home. While, naturally, I didn't agree with all of the ideas which were expressed at AGS, that was the main reason I came in the first place, was to experience what that's like, and to see how my faith holds up against others' beliefs. On the side, I was also able to have lots of new experiences at AGS, such as seeing a ballet and gaining an idea of what college is like. While I am definitely ready to go home (as I simply need a break from controversial stuff and just want to relax a bit), I am still slightly sad AGS is ending, and wish I could come back and experience it again some time.

AGS has been great, I love the material and the atmosphere, and I've learned a lot from my experience.

Tremendous. AGS hit dead on - landing the perfect balance of academia and activities to engage and challenge my fellow students and I. Arkansas Governor's School's greatest gift to me was to provide an environment where my mind had to be constantly and consistently engaged; where I could not slide by on autopilot as I so often do at home. Having this opportunity where I was challenged again and again to "tune in" and actively involve myself in my surroundings was more valuable than any one experience. So rarely are gifted students required by their studies to truly focus in - it was refreshing to be in a place where this was commonplace. AGS shook the cobwebs from my mind, reigniting its engines and oiling the synapses, leading me to a new level of capabilities and critical thinking.



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The entire experience has been amazing. There were a few bumps in the road mainly caused by me, but the program is fun, informative, and a treasure to have been a part of.

It was an amazing experience. I had an overall great time here. I made new friends, new goals, and a new perspective for my future.

Where do I begin? AGS was a blessing for me. I love being here surrounded by so many people who are eager to learn more and have fun while doing it. From the first mixer, to the dance showcase, and everything in between, this has been the experience of a lifetime. I have made friendships with people from Fayetteville to Hamburg and I have also rekindle some old relationships with friends from the past. The students and the staff and become apart of my family as a start a new chapter in my life. I know I can take on my future with the people I have grown to love here at AGS. These past six weeks have been an incredible journey. I strongly dislike that this ended so soon. There is no place I would rather spend my six weeks at.

AGS was the best 6 weeks of my life. It allowed me to use my gifts in a way that isn't allowed in my community. It allowed me to be myself without any constrictions or problems. AGS opened my eyes to the numerous possibilities that I have in this world. If I could do this all over again I certainly would because this program really does change peoples' lives for the better. AGS also allowed me to really get a true feel for the college environment by way of these different diverse groups of people. Its' not just a homogenous environment with like minded people. We are all different in our own special way and that's how it is in the real world. AGS truly has been a blessing for me and I just want to say I won't ever forget this wonderful time in my life and the people that I have met. I've made memories for a lifetime here. Home is where the heart is, and I can truly say that AGS is a home for me.

My overall experience at AGS was a positive one. Personally, I need a lot of time to adapt to a new living situation, so that was my main challenge. 6 weeks was the perfect time slot for me to overcome the rush, and then thrive. Looking back, the curriculum in all 3 areas was constructive and I am thankful to have that under my belt. The best part is the other students and new friendships. My main "overall" complaint would be the cell phone policy. I felt prohibited by it, as I could not make both real life and technological connections with people during the day with ease. We are, theoretically, the top 400 students of the state, so I would like to believe we could handle having our phones without it taking away from the program. It doesn't seem fair to inflict this rule -- that feels like a punishment -- from beginning to end.

I absolutely loved AGS. There were some aspects that I did not find favorable. Ultimately AGS was highly beneficial and I am so grateful that I have the experience.

I feel as though AGS has an identity crisis. It's almost like the school is caught between being a summer camp or a pre-college program. I mean, I had the impression academics would come first at AGS but the impression I have now is that the focus is more on obedience and safety. For example, two of my area one teachers had no clue they were supposed to create their own lesson plans for the program and were often unprepared for class, while my RAs knew exactly what was expected of them and had huge manuals to go by. I'm not trying decry the actions of either group, I just wish there would be a more focused objective to AGS. If this program is to be one of knowledge and learning then why are resources only being expended on ensuring students follow the rules? It almost feels that in trying to ensure we make it through the program safely AGS has devolved into a six-week summer camp with the supposedly stimulating classes as a pointless chore. We need more focus at AGS, if this is to be a camp for six weeks then advertise it as such, but if it is to be a center for knowledge and growth treat it as such.

It was quite a unique experience. I'm glad I got to attend this amazing program. I've met so many people and learned quite a bit about many things. 10/10 Would do again.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

<p>My overall experience was great at AGS. I always had something to do and was never bored. I enjoyed it a lot. This has been my best summer so far.</p>
<p>I loved being at AGS. It has been one of the greatest experiences that I have ever had. There were some things that could have been altered, but overall, I loved it here.</p>
<p>super duper good</p>
<p>AGS has been great, I love the material and the atmosphere, and I've learned a lot from my experience.</p>
<p>I was very good! I do, however, wish we were able to pick our seats at required events. I was in Hardin hall, and thereby forced to sit in the back. I am a person who flourishes in the front.</p>
<p>10 out of 10</p>
<p>The experience was amazing. I met a great deal of new people and made new friends. My mind was opened to new ideas and ways of thinking. Although, I felt that there wasn't enough interactive events as there were lectures.</p>
<p>This was quite possibly the best summer of my life. My mind has been expanded and pulled like fresh taffy, but more than that, I feel as if the people I've met/ the connections I've made have enriched my life more than any other program I've experienced.</p>
<p>Splendid experience, very diverse events, had the opportunity to meet many new people and try many new things</p>
<p>Very strenuous, I likely lost weight, but hugely positive. I learned the oddities and depth of my field, was all but forced by the controversial topics into deep conversations with my peers, and currently have a much better understanding of what to expect from college.</p>
<p>I absolutely loved my experience at AGS.</p>
<p>It was good, in natural science, I would have liked a broader variety of subjects as 3 of the 4 were biology related, but the teachers in all areas were very good (Robertson, Itza, Whitt, Bradsher, Edmonds, and Gobble)</p>
<p>AGS was different than any other experience I had previously been through. I was enlightened both academically and socially.</p>
<p>Life changing. I absolutely loved the experience</p>
<p>Fantastic. wouldn't trade it for the world &amp; so happy about the relationships and connections I've made &amp; things I have learned</p>
<p>It's a life changing experience. I loved it so much.</p>
<p>Great. The area 2 classes especially were very interesting and enlightening</p>
<p>wonderful first week was difficult but then it was amazing changed my life</p>
<p>AGS was the best. I got to meet a lot of people and learn a lot about them. I found the ELA program a little underwhelming but the community as a whole was one of the best experiences I've ever had.</p>

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

AGS has been the best experience of my life so far. I have experienced six weeks in a wonderful social and educational environment that has gone beyond the regular classroom experience. The teachers here have mentally pushed me and have opened my eyes to new ways of thinking. I have been introduced to a variety of Speakers that have introduced me to new ideas and the latest technology such as 'New Horizons' and Nano-technology. As a Natural Science Student, I have been exposed to a variety of classes and people, and this will continue to guide me for the rest of my life. I went on a Bioblitz hike, and went to student concerts, I attended seminars and explored a beautiful campus. The level of freedom and trust that was given to me helped to make me feel like the young adult I am. The activities, the seminars, the teachers, the environment, the students, etc...I was never bored. I experienced water balloon fights in Area I, I was here when the first up-close pictures of Pluto were discovered, I witnessed a political panel, and had in depth discussions in class that questioned reality and the way I think. I don't want to leave. I have met people from across that state that I would not have met unless I had come here. I have made friends for life. The best part of AGS, is that while I am among 400 lucky students from across the state that were gifted with this opportunity, I met a variety of people from different walks of life, towns, regions, with different talents and ways of intelligence. They were all similar to me and were searching for the same things as I was. This experience has been amazing.

Here's the thing: AGS was not "magical". It was not the best experience of my life, and it definitely had its down moments. However, I do not regret coming here in the slightest. I got to understand so much more about myself that I didn't know before, and I'm thankful for that. The people here are very smart and interesting, and everyone was so accepting. I don't think I met a single "mean" person here.

I had a really great time both inside and out of classes, even though I grew more and more tired throughout the entire program. During the program I always thought of the "life changing experience" part, and it wasn't until the end that I realized that just AGS as a whole was embodying that phrase.

Overall, I was disappointed in AGS. The faculty turned out to be amazing but the faculty did not seem very welcoming at first and I found it very difficult to be comfortable at AGS. The last week of the program, I finally found where I am comfortable and I can see how AGS can be a great experience.

I would definitely say I got much more out of the intellectual aspect than the social. The content that was displayed to us (or at least most of it) was of quite high quality. I'm familiar with this atmosphere of living on a school campus and this allowed me to focus more on the academic aspect of AGS and although I feel some things were not beneficial to my intellectual development, I feel most were.

I had a wonderful time learning.

It was great. I loved it!

It was fantastic

It was fantastic. If I could do it again, I would!

It was a good experience to learn about new things and meet new people. I would recommend it to others

AGS 2015 was amazing! That word is probably overused, but my experience at AGS is indescribable; I can't portray it in words. It's just something that you have to experience for yourself to truly understand what I mean. The sense of community was strong, and it was warm and welcoming and a safe spot. It was successful.

AGS has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Being surrounded by so many intelligent people, all curious about learning pushes myself to learn more. I am, more than ever, ready to go to college to experience a similar atmosphere.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

I loved the program. It is one of the best things I have ever done in my life. It was so amazing to be in a place where I could connect with others. I definitely felt like I had finally found my people and everything here seemed so real. The only part of AGS that I didn't enjoy was the fact that I didn't get along with my roommate, at all. And we weren't able to get a room switch because our Hall Director thought we needed to communicate better.

100 out of 10.

\*Best way i could possibly think to spend my summer

\*never been in such a great environment

\*learned more than i could have imagined

\*experienced so many things i had never tried before

\*felt incredibly open to be myself

\*loved the students, teachers, and faculty

It was one of the best experiences of my life. It was nothing but beneficial as I have experienced dramatic changes in how I question things around me, how I communicate with others, how I learn, and how I listen.

AGS has greatly influenced my life. I think I was very blessed to have this experience. Here, I've learned that it's okay to not have my head in my phone, which has opened up more my social interaction with people. I've learned to critically think and to ask questions. Overall, this opportunity has been phenomenal.

AGS is something that I hope I have the ability to experience again. The faculty created a positive environment and I felt free to express myself. It gave me the ability to fully be myself and know that I will be accepted, regardless of other factors.

Wonderful, but my ideas would make it run more smoothly.

It was amazing. At the beginning all the RA's kept saying how by the end we would become this big happy AGS community. I was skeptical, we were all a bunch of nerdy kids who didn't know eachother. As this experience draws to a close though, I am saddened. We did in fact become a big happy AGS family. There were people of all kinds of varying beliefs and opinions, and for the most part others respected them and did not write them completely off. We built a support system for one another. This has been amazing, even though some parts of some area 2 and speaker I disagree with, they challenged me to asses my beliefs, which is always good to do.

I think it was a good experience.

My overall experience at AGS was beneficial. It was a little long for me. I got really homesick after the break, but of course that is partly my own fault. Really my only complaint is that it took up basically my whole summer. I probably would have enjoyed it more had it been 4 weeks instead of 6. Overall however, I learned a lot and gained many valuable skills that I will take home with me.

AGS is amazing. I am a changed person because of it and I learned so much that I never thought I would. I found my place in the world. I'm looking forward to college. I finally found my people.

I loved AGS. I was in the minority here being a conservative Christian. It was interesting to me to hear how everyone else thought as opposed to what I hear everyday from like minded people. I will strongly recommend AGS to every upcoming junior.

I loved my time here at AGS. I m sad it is coming to an end. I will never forget all the people I have met and all the things I have done while I was here. It was an experience I will never forget any time soon.

I loved my experience. The friends I made were very different from my friends at home. I loved the social events that took place.

My overall experience at AGS was generally enjoyable.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

AGS has been a life-changing experience - one that I wish all of my peers could enjoy.
I would say that it has been very beneficial to me in that it has given me an opportunity to experience a wide variety of subjects, but it has allowed me to become accustomed to life in a dorm, living with a roommate, and being away from home for an extended period of time.
My overall experience went very, very well. I loved getting to have intellectual conversations with people who disagreed and agreed with me. It was a different view point, and I absorbed tons of information just from listening.
I enjoyed my experience at AGS. I really liked the environment and being surrounded by other intelligent students like me. I enjoyed the social events and most of the required events. The RA's were nice and supportive and made me feel welcome and safe.
The academics aspect was amazing. The social aspect wasn't as good. I am an introvert and all the social activities were geared to extroverts.
My experience has been amazing. This is the first time I've felt like I have a place.
It was a great learning experience. We learned in a comfortable environment that wasn't too strict or too lenient.
I loved my overall experience here at AGS. While at times the routine of it all did get a little abrasive, I very much enjoyed all of the events I experienced and people I met. The classes, social events, and recreational activities combined to make AGS an amazing and life-changing experience for me.
AGS was a fantastic experience. The teachers here were great at the subject they taught and were genuinely interested in what you have to say. The people you met quickly became your friends and they helped transition into the environment. The downside was the fact that we didn't have the ability to at least have a phone in our possession, but I guess it was not that bad.
a six week oasis of education and growth. Overall, great.
A perfect 10 out of 10. It was exactly what I expected it to be, plus much more. I have learned so many new things, and made so many new friends. AGS has reminded me what it is like to be a gifted and talented student and for that I will be forever grateful. However, there were some things I wish had been addressed prior to move-in day, such as the existence of a dress code.
I think that AGS is the best summer program that there is. It has developed my critical thinking, reasoning, judgement, etc.
I did not enjoy a majority of the experience. I am not a very social person and I am not sure if I would go through this experience again. It was awful for the first week having to deal with the massive hordes of people that I did not know. My inability to adapt to social climates was a major cause for a majority of the stress that I have endured throughout the program.
10/10- I had a really great experience and don't think I could have learned the things I did here while having so much fun in many other places
The purpose to unify educated high school students from across the state is a noble concept. However, the sub par residential life and ineffective teachers decreased the value of this program significantly.
AGS has been a roller coaster of experiences. I feel very lucky to have been a part of this exclusive club. The natural science courses I have taken have helped to give me some direction for my future studies. Aside from my academic focuses, I have met many wonderful people and have learned much about myself. I will cherish the memories I have made at AGS for years to come.
It was an amazing experience, I LOVED IT! THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME COME AND BECOME APART OF THE PROGRAM!
On a scale of one to ten i would say a 7. I wish my area I had been more interactive and the times for the weight room and tennis courts were more flexible.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

I had a wonderfully wonderful time. I branched out and found my niche, and the abundance of activities really quenched my thirst for knowledge.

I could not have asked for anymore than what I received. I have so much more confidence in the world now, and I am overjoyed to explore the earth after AGS. It really rejuvenated my love of learning and drama. I had many memorable experience here, that I will never forget. I had the courage to do things I would have never done before.

I give AGS an A+. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world.

It was a great experience, I loved meeting new friends, learning new ideas, and having a chance to become apart of this School! thank you so much for letting me come!

I had an amazing experience at AGS. Learned new things, made new friends, and had a lot of fun.

Absolutely outstanding. I would have never had an experience equal to this anywhere else. This is the first time I've felt proud to be an Arkansan.

I really feel that I got what I came here for, which was to learn in a fun environment with experts and my peers

Wonderful. AGS exposed me to many topics that should be discussed, but are typically ignored. The faculty presented differing ideas and opinions and encouraged us to consider all new concepts respectfully. The seminars, speakers, and films sparked intelligent conversations between intellectual peers. The atmosphere is very accepting and open. I felt comfortable to be myself and voice my opinions without fear of discrimination or judgement.

Positively. I believe that I have grown as a person and as a critical thinker.

My overall experience here was unusual but much needed. I come from a minority school in academic distress but I don't let where I come from shape where I am going in my future. I know a lot of intelligent children from schools that don't have the best resources. Students are more than a test score. I felt underrepresented but I still learned a lot of lessons that I am going to take home with me.

My opinion on AGS is very fickle. I hated it at first because there were so many cliques and rules I was not accustomed to, such as being required to watch a movie I had no interest in or a speaker whom did not affect me. But other than that, everything that I chose to attend was very liberating and I have made very new ideas and close relationships.

I loved AGS with all of my heart. This has been an experience that I will treasure forever. I've learned so much and made friends that I will never forget. Six weeks seemed like a big chunk of summer to give up, and it was, but I wouldn't take it back for anything.

The prime purpose of the program is solid. AGS provides an ideal equalizing ground for educated and driven kids throughout the state. While these ideals are optimal, the sub par living conditions and ineffectiveness of the teachers decreased from this prime goal.

AGS was the best experience I've ever had. I wish I could redo it. For me, I noticed more personal development than educational. The environment was so accepting and loving.

AGS was neat. Personally, my Area 1 lacked a little, and I didn't learn as much as I thought I would. The outside of class activities were a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed the WAC. Although I understand not everyone would have the same views as I did, it was intimidating - and a scary at times - to be in an environment where non-liberal views were looked down upon and people with those views were definitely in the minority.

It has been a very positive, intellectual experience that I will take with me for the rest of my life.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

At first, I will admit I absolutely hated it. I cried every day for the first week. But as I became used to being on my own and began to accept that I had no choice but to be here, I began to LOVE it. I've made so many friends and I learned more in the first two days of my drama class than I have in the past 3 years of drama classes at my school. I learned to be independent. AGS has opened my mind to so many valuable things. I don't want to leave. I wish I could come back every year. I am even thinking about becoming an RA just so I can gain more knowledge taught at AGS.

I liked most of my experience at AGS. There were times when it felt like we were overloaded with a lot of stuff to do but overall, it was pretty nice.

AGS was a life-changing summer. These six weeks were some of the most educational, eye-opening, fun-filled weeks I've ever experienced. The professors were engaging and knowledgeable. The faculty and students are so ready to learn and engage. It's a safe and fun environment with a great balance of fun and education.

It was fun. I felt excluded a lot of the time from social groups but that was to no fault of AGS. I would highly recommend AGS to any student wishing to be enlightened to new ideas.

I'm at a loss for words, so I'll make a list. :)

- Making memories
- Meeting amazing people
- Thoughtful conversation
- Acceptance
- Open-minded
- Communication skills for life
- Good food and AMAZING lunch ladies
- Wonderful housekeeping
- Rockin' teachers!!!
- Gross dorms
- Pecans. Everywhere
- No phone and that's okay

It's indescribable, really. In my application, we wrote about an idea that stretched our mind. Well, I've become more flexible than ever. I will miss AGS.

It was an incredible and unique experience and I feel I'll take what I learned with me for the rest of my life.

AGS has been a life-changing experience that will shape how I consider my future and my options. I have truly been blessed to be able to attend such an incredible program.

Arkansas Governor's School completely lived up to my expectations. The incredible classes, speakers, staff, and fellow students gave me memories that will stay with me forever. I truly do believe that I am a more self-aware and enlightened person because of my six weeks here,

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

It was fun, educational, and more than a summer camp or a school. I know a few people who left because they felt like they already knew what was being taught, but I feel like they were missing the point. Academically, it gave me a chance to practice writing and experience different points of view from my peers that I could never have gotten elsewhere. Socially, I feel like I became more aware of issues I didn't know about or I was more educated on issues I already knew about. AGS also gave me the chance to discuss these issues with other kids my age in an intellectual environment, something I really appreciated and wouldn't have been able to otherwise do. And I just really loved all of the people here, from students, to teachers, to RAs, to Miss Mimi in the cafeteria.

ITS SO GREAT.

I don't want to leave:(

AGS is the best. My experience was like no other. I have met a lot of great people who I do not want to leave. The educational experience has a better environment than a regular public school setting.

On a scale of one to ten I would not be able to assign my experience at AGS a value because it was far better than a simple 10/10. This is a fantastic program and I wish I could stay here forever.

I learned a lot here. It wasn't consistent, but what I did learn will really affect my life when I return home. I had a lot of fun, and it was way more productive than I would have been at home. If I could do the program over again, I would. I wish I didn't have to go home.

I had so much fun being here. It was definitely one of the best experiences of my life. I don't regret coming here one bit. My only complaint was that I was not able to work out everyday because of the limited hours.

It was an incredible experience. I am so glad I had the opportunity to come here. It helped me grow in to myself and hopefully I can take that self confidence back to a not so tolerant community and maintain it, because I've learned it's worth being myself.

I had fun. I'm glad i was able to have this experience, but I wouldn't do it again.

I would say it was just ok. I wasn't able to exercise as much as I wanted and some of the ideals were one sided and redundant, but the speakers, movies, and games were great.

AGS WAS AWESOME! Seriously, AGS was probably one of the best experiences I've ever had in high school or during the summer in a summer program. The RAs and HMs made everything smooth and my Area 1 teachers were fantastic. While I didn't enjoy all of the speakers and some of the movies' images made me sick due to flashing images (Koyaanisqatsi and Miss Representation), I enjoyed AGS as a whole.

I couldn't have asked for any better way to spend my summer. The seminars were exciting, the speakers were thought provoking, and I enjoyed every second here. I have made wonderful friends as well as improved writing/art. I learned quite a lot in my time here.

10/10 would do again if I could. I had so much fun and learned an inordinate amount of stuff and I wish I could come back!

It was wonderful. I met a lot of new people and learned things that would never have been taught to me in a traditional high school. It was amazing to be in a place full of people like me, people who love what they do and are willing to go the extra mile. I felt like everything I had to do had a true purpose, I wasn't just doing something because I had to. Everything I did here was done to make me a better person and I truly appreciated that.

It was personally not for me but I respect the program

My overall experience at AGS was really fun. The only thing is I did not learn much in Area 3 and my Social Science classes could have been more effective.

There were some struggles, but I have really grown as a person here and I've really learned a lot about who I am.



## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

<p>I had such an amazing time at AGS! This really opened up my eyes to so many new ideas and helped me discover a little about myself. Everything about this program is amazing and should continue.</p>
<p>AGS has been a life changing experience for me. Not only did the academics make an impact, but also the social aspect of my time here.</p>
<p>To explain my experience succinctly: AGS kicked ass.</p>
<p>This has truly been one of the best experiences I have had. The classes and the activities have made it the best. (Plus the new people)</p>
<p>Great. I really wish my senior year would be this nice. I loved that I had freedom but not enough that anything could happen.</p>
<p>I loved it. I don't want to leave here, the students and staff were so nice, and open-minded.</p>
<p>One of the best experiences of my life. It will be unforgettable. My memory will forever contain AGS as something positive.</p>
<p>10/10 would recommend AGS. AGS has been very fulfilling. I have had a wonderful time learning wonderful things with wonderful people. It would be hard to compile a list of all the things I have learned from AGS, from my Area I,II, and III, to all the great 4:10s and 6:10s, to the intangible things I've learned from my fellow students. It was a joy to wake up every morning and know I was always going to have an interesting and exciting day learning how to be a citizen of the world, in a beautiful place, with beautiful people.</p>
<p>Really great besides koyannisquatsi which I now see as a form of torture. Otherwise the place was great also we should be able to have phones on sundays and also not have to wait outside of staples for events when it is extremely hot.</p>
<p>Loved everything about it. Best part is the people my age and the interactions I had with them. I would spend a whole year here with these people if I could.</p>
<p>10/10 would do again.</p>
<p>It was fantastic. I got to learn more about myself and everyone from all of Arkansas. I didn't think English would be my Area 1, but I'm glad that it is. I'm grateful for everyone. 100/10 would come back.</p>
<p>My overall experience at AGS is a roller-coaster.</p>
<p>I would say it is one of the greatest experiences of my life. It was very unusual for me because I go to a private school, but the program is very easy for anyone to come and enjoy.</p>
<p>It was absolutely amazing. It helped to broaden my circle of friends and my point of view on many different topics, even though there might be a few too many liberals here.</p>
<p>I had a good experience at AGS. I think my time here was very well spent.</p>
<p>I was a wonderful time. Every moment was priceless!</p>
<p>I have to say that AGS was a very good way to spend six weeks. There were several aspects that were amazing and I loved them. There were other things that I just could not enjoy. I think that, in the long run, coming to AGS was a good idea</p>
<p>The overall experience at AGS was positive and constructive both socially and intellectually.</p>
<p>I had a great time at AGS and met many new people. This allowed me to be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and such, however there are certain aspects you miss about home, for example, the ability to eat food whenever you are hungry as opposed to a strict dietary schedule.</p>
<p>I enjoyed it very much, even with negative preconceived notions about my experience. I'm very glad I came.</p>
<p>Overall I would say it was a useful experience.</p>

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

My experience at AGS is one of a life time. The environment, people, and staff have made this the best summer of my life. AGS has opened my eyes to new ideas and points of view that I would have never considered without the program. The only "downfall" of this program is not being able to do it more than once. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at AGS and I hate to leave but I know I will carry the memories I have made here with me throughout my life.

It was pretty boring. For the most part, I didn't enjoy my experience.

This was one of the best experiences of my life. AGS developed in me critical thinking skills I had never thought of or approached. I enjoyed actually conversing with other kids who were on my intellectual level.

I had an incredible time here at AGS. Everything went so smooth and almost all of the presentations were fantastic. I will never forget AGS and how much it taught me.

I have created a new family. Being of only three accepted from my school, I didn't know a whole lot of people coming in on the first day of classes, but now I can say that I loved every minute of AGS, because I have now made life-long friends.

It was an enlightening experience. I'm not the same person I was coming into AGS. I have change socially and mentally for the better.

My overall experience has been a blast and I have enjoyed my time here. I have learned so much in the time that I've been here and I enjoyed being surrounded by intellectual people.

Overall went really well 11 out of 10

Eye-opening. The people, the classes, and the activities here are the most diverse and beneficial experiences I've gone through in my academic career. I don't think I can experience anything like this anywhere else. This amazing environment has changed me for the better intellectually, personally, and socially. My eyes have opened to new perspectives and views of the world that will help me venture through the real world. I thoroughly enjoyed my days here, and I cannot believe I'll be leaving this place. I wish AGS was my real high school!!!

I really loved it here, minus the residential part. The classes were phenomenal, and I wouldn't want to spend my summer any other way.

It was superfluous! AGS offered a place to be yourself with others of like minds. Mattered not did it if you were Liberal, Conservative, Homosexual, Heterosexual, Boy, or Girl. This created a wonderful learning environment for us all. In general, AGS is most definitely worth spending six weeks away from my summer!

This Experience was actually amazing. It was life changing. I learned so many things that I can take away from here and relay to others.

It was definitely interesting. Some things weren't very well organized, but other than that, I'm glad I came because I enjoyed it, even if I missed playing video games with my other friends.

Eh. At first, I absolutely hated it, but once I started to make friends, it was alright. But it's really not worth it if you're an introvert that just wants to learn quietly or take a break after too much interaction. It looks good on a resume, but it's not at all life-changing.

I would have to say that AGS has been one of the BEST experiences of my life. I have learned a lot, and am so excited to share my experiences with everyone at home. It was a WONDERFUL time!

Just dandy. Has been a blessing, and causes major perspective shifts. Such an amazing learning experience.

It was honestly life changing. I loved the experience so much. I met awesome people, learned so many new things, and got a whole new look on my potential and world.

These six weeks have been the best summer of my life.

I loved every second of it

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

I loved it. The classes were fun and insightful but informal. I liked the relaxed feeling in the classroom. Most of the seminars were interesting and fun to attend.

Grand

I would say that I had a good time here. I enjoyed the interactions with different people, and I enjoyed the different opportunities I had.

Fantastic. If I could go again, I would, but I'll have to settle with just going to college. I'm suggesting AGS to all of the underclassmen.

grand

I didn't believe people when they told me how exceptional and life changing this experience is. During my time here I have grown so much as a human being and made dozens of new friends that I will treasure till the end of my days. The seminars were also wonderful and I enjoyed all of them that I attended. Meals were fantastic and so were the lunch ladies. The experience that is AGS is just nearly impossible to sum up in a few sentences. Just know that this is a chapter of my life I will talk about and remember for the rest of my life. Never stop this program.

Very nice. I never had a dull moment and every second of it was worth it.

It's been absolutely wonderful! I feel enriched more than ever in my life. It's great to be surrounded by so many excellent people that are passionate about learning. Almost all of the faculty and staff have also been wonderful!

My summer spent at AGS has been the most diverse and influential event I've ever experienced. Being in ELA, I was exposed to various forms of literature that I'd forgotten existed. In practicing those forms of writing, I learned much about myself. Also, the environment here is accepting, sometimes overwhelmingly so. Here, at AGS, I have been encouraged to further exercise the virtues I hold in high esteem, like patience. The people here have interests, values, and political views that they are quite passionate about. It was a wonderful thing to experience. AGS students became one large family. You could approach anyone and begin a conversation with them. AGS is an experience that will remain in my memory forever.

I found some students to be very disrespectful, which was disappointing. I didn't learn a lot in my area 2 and 3 classes, and the majority of my time here I was very homesick.

My overall AGS experience was life changing. I have made so many life long friends, and become close to all my teachers, in a way that no high school could give me. AGS gave me a taste of college life and I just have to say, I am ready for college. You cannot get this type of experience anywhere else. This is a one of a kind program and I hope that AGS continues to stay a six week program and give high school seniors the chance of a lifetime.

It was great.

Honestly, I thought there would be much more pencil work but gladly there was not. I loved coming here, and if I could do it again I would.

Life changing. Coming here has really taught me how to be myself and opened my eyes to a whole new world.

AGS has been by far the greatest experience of my life. Not once have I felt so fulfilled and so accepted as an intellectual. The environment created was one of extreme comfort. I never had to put up my guard and I wasn't persecuted for my religious beliefs (except for the Area II debate on religion, obviously). I have truly enjoyed my time here and I would definitely recommend the program to any juniors at my school.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

<p>I thought it gave me a great sneak peak of college life. I was able to participate in class and share my ideas, I met wonderful people and re-met some old friends. I felt inspired by teachers and classmates and hopefully they were inspired by me too! My overall experience at AGS was AMAZING! I was even able to learn a little bit more about myself. I feel that AGS encouraged me to become a critical thinker of world wide issues.</p>
<p>I loved my experience at AGS. The first 2 weeks were rough, but the following weeks were awesome.</p>
<p>AGS was really fun. I learned how to think critically, and encountered a lot of new people who share the same interests as I do.</p>
<p>It was good. I enjoyed being around some of the smartest kids in the state and have made connections that will hopefully last for a lifetime.</p>
<p>I would say that I have had a very positive experience at AGS. I feel like my ability to think critically has been greatly increased, and that I have formed many positive relationships during my time here.</p>
<p>Amazing and wonderful and every other word that could be used to describe something great. I don't want to leave. This environment is a wonderful learning environment and it was awesome.</p>
<p>I will never forget this experience, totally the best summer I've ever had. I have learned so much and have grown as a person.</p>
<p>It was awesome. The people/environment was just great. I would not mind at all if I could do this all over again!</p>
<p>Positive. I enjoyed meeting new people, and the classes were decent at worst, and I enjoyed my Area II and 4:10ss/6:10s very, very much.</p>
<p>My overall experience here at AGS has been the highlight of my life. I have made many new friends that I will probably be in contact with for the rest of my life.</p>
<p>Honestly, I don't want to go home. I have created a family here that I don't want to leave. I loved all of the activities and events! Not only have I learned about the world and life, but myself as well.</p>
<p>great</p>
<p>I had an overall good experience. I got a little homesick, but there were so many intellectually and socially engaging activities going on. There was never a dull moment, and I met a lot of wonderful people.</p>
<p>I had a fantastic time here at AGS. I am glad that I took the time and effort to apply to AGS. It was worth the time to be able to come to AGS. This experience has opened me up to new ideas and opportunities.</p>
<p>It was eye-opening, but after a while it began to feel like a liberal echo chamber.</p>
<p>I feel like my experience was a good one, though it could have been better. Not for any fault of the staff but rather my own unwillingness to go and try 4:10's and 6:10's earlier in the program.</p>
<p>I really enjoyed my AGS experience, help me learn and explore new and amazing ideas which I know will make me a better person in the future</p>
<p>I thought that AGS was a wonderful experience! The teachers were fantastic and dedicated to making sure that we learned something and that we felt that we could apply what we learned to our daily lives. The activities were fun and I made lots of new friends :)</p>
<p>It was a wonderful experience with supportive and open minded students.</p>
<p>Amazing. I learned so many things here that I couldn't even begin to describe how much this program has effected me in a positive way.</p>
<p>moderate.</p>

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

It was a wonderful source of adventure, though I must state that in our Area III class we were taught about who we are. The most relevant trait we learned about ourselves was whether we are introverts or extroverts. Once we put a title to how we gain and give off energy, our environments and schedules failed to suit our needs. As an introvert, I found very little time to be alone and wind down. This program seems to be better suited for extroverts.

Overall, my experience at AGS was wonderful in many ways. It expanded my knowledge to things that are not discussed in regular schooling.

I had so much fun this summer. I've made so many new friends and have learned in a college setting. This program has made me extremely excited to attend college next year. I'm so glad I was selected to attend Arkansas Governor's School because I have no idea what I would have done without it. Sure, the weather was hot and humid, but my experiences here more than made up for it.

My experience at AGS has helped me to more widely open my eyes to new ideas and people. I will always remember these unfortunately short six weeks because of the impact that they have had on me. I would come back if I could.

Enjoyable and a good summer experience to have.

I feel that this was an experience that is simply beyond words.

The first week was pretty rough. The only people I knew were the kids from my school but I soon made new friends and the classes became more stimulating and it's been real. I love it here. I love all of the activities that are available and the seminars are sometimes really fun and cool to learn about and I'm sad I have to leave.

I loved it. My Area 1 classes were very informative and they were also a lot of fun. I love being able to exclusively learn about what I am interested in. I feel like Governor's school really fueled my passions. Area 2 and 3 were also very insightful and gave me a better understanding of myself and the world around me.

AGS has been absolutely amazing. I was very lucky to have an opportunity to meet so many diverse teachers and students.

It was overall positive, even if the last two weeks or so became rather draining due to the sheer number of required events. I enjoyed the classes, the speakers, and the atmosphere of the program.

AGS has been a great time for me. I have had the most fun that I have ever had. The experience is almost too short in my opinion. I loved almost every second of my time here.

AGS helped me find myself. I was tasked with thinking about things that I would have never even considered thinking about before. It sharpened my social skills as well as my academic skills. The best educational experience of my life.

Ehh, I don't know. I'd like a lot of the restrictions to be relaxed. It feels a bit like prison here. Sometimes, I would think I was having fun, but then I would go home where I have much less restrictions and I would have way more fun. Why can't we go to Purple Cow? What the heck. Are we like three your olds? Supposedly, we're some of the best kids in Arkansas, and we can all legally drive a car, but we can't be trusted to walk 30 yards or so to a Panera Bread. What the heck.

I loved AGS. It helped me learn things that I'd never be able to in a normal classroom setting. It also allowed me to question my beliefs and helped me realize why I believe the things I believe. I have also made a ton of friends] that I will definitely keep up with after we leave.

I had an amazing time and learned a lot about the person I am and the person I could be.

10000/10.

I really loved my experience here. Meeting all these new people and feeling safe while doing it really helped me learn and grow.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

Good!! I've grown and matured as a person and artist, and I feel like my summer has been thus far well spent.

It was amazing. The punishments are fair when needed and the meals were good, all the staff are super nice.

It's hard to use any words to describe AGS besides life-changing. The effects are slow and gradual at first, but near the end (which is now) I really feel like I have a new outlook on life. I have the drive to work harder and to really try and enjoy every experience that life throws at me. Also, I've made absolutely incredible friends.

It was a very positive learning experience that has prepared me for college.

It was wonderful. I can't think of anything else I would have rather done this summer.

It was a different experience. I felt very engaged both intellectually and physically. I enjoyed having the opportunity to attend talks outside of my area. It was fantastic to meet people across the state who both shared my beliefs and didn't. I would say having to do projects was very hard, the computer lab was often reserved for Area III and there wasn't much time to go in the afternoons, especially with all the 4:10s. I wish it would be easier but other than that my experience was fantastic.

It was wonderful. I was really nervous that I would waste my summer here, but it's definitely my favorite summer so far.

I loved it! We should add another week! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE!

AGS has given me one of the best summers of my life. I never expected to meet so many wonderful students here who were so unique, talented, and open-minded. It was easy to make friends who cared about you here. If I could, I would come back to AGS every summer.

My overall experience at AGS was incredible. I loved it here, and it helped me so much with figuring a lot of things out. It was a great experience to have; I'm glad I got to have it.

I enjoyed my time here at AGS. I was weary of the length, but it proved to be a part of the charm. It was the perfect amount of time to make connections past the surface level and still allow students to be engaged and interested the entire 6 weeks. Although there were times when exhaustion set in, the activities were worth it. I learned a lot in my classes, and there are little, if any, things I would change. I did feel as if the program was catered more to the extrovert, but maybe that was just my personal experience. I felt uncomfortable in class debates and discussions where teachers implied I was required to speak out as opposed to just listen actively. I did, however, enjoy the little moments throughout the day where I was able to take some time and appreciate the campus in solitary. Overall, my experience was unforgettable. I will definitely encourage future students to apply.

I was a bit skeptical that AGS would be as amazing and life-changing as those who had gone before me said it would be, but I now realize that this experience was truly one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I was constantly surrounded by kind friends, teachers, and staff members. I always felt welcomed, encouraged, and rarely bored.

I was anxious the whole time I was here. I feel like this program does not provide enough options for people with anxiety and introverts. I understand the purpose of trying to make us interact but it is unreasonable to not meet the need of people with mental illness. Although I feel that if this was addressed I would have very much enjoyed my experience here. I grew a lot as a person and as a student.

My experience here at AGS has been very great. I have learned so much and have attained a new way of thinking. My views were constantly challenged and that was wonderful because I have been able to develop stronger arguments to support my views. Also I believe I have come to better appreciate the views of others. AGS has been a place where I have met a diverse selection of people. I enjoyed that we all got along despite our differences.

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

<p>My AGS experience was fantastic. I learned so much from everything, even the things that I didn't perhaps enjoy. I definitely would say that the program helped me grow as a learner and an individual, and I'll always think fondly of it.</p>
<p>My experience was truly eye opening. The horizons of my mind were expanded in ways I could not have even fathomed before attending Arkansas Governor's School. The most beneficial repercussion of attending this year was building friendships with people of my same intellectual superiority yet also have varying oppositional standpoints.</p>
<p>I had a fantastic experience here at AGS, and I'm not ready to go home! I made so many new friends, had so many meaningful conversations, and attended seminars about subjects that interest me. The environment here is so positive and supportive of all the students here. Over the six weeks, the students and faculty have become one big loving community.</p>
<p>AGS was an amazing experience. I can say without a doubt that AGS has given me one of the best summers of my life. The people here are so open, talented, and unique. It is so easy to make friends here and be creative. AGS has made learning fun for me, something that I had begun to think was impossible for me. If I could, I would come back here every summer.</p>
<p>To be completely honest, the first week of AGS sucked because I had a hard time making friends in my classes. I had an internal conflict of wanting to make new friends, but constantly defaulting to my friends from school. Then, week two came around and I started making friends. Now, AGS is coming to a close, and I have some great memories because I have gotten closer to the friends I already had, and I've made many new friends.</p>
<p>My experience here was everything I wished for and more. So, thank you for accepting me.</p>
<p>AGS was an excellent, eye-opening experience! I loved it! However, the curriculum was not very challenging (especially Area 1) and I had hoped to gain more knowledge that would be applicable in schooling. Area 2 and 3 did enlighten me a lot and I was able to broaden my horizon of thinking.</p>
<p>My experience is life changing. I was going through a miscarriage a couple months before I came. everyone here and the teachers especially helped me and showed me a better way through this. I learned to love myself and everyone else. I learned how to deal with stress and way to conquer what life throws at you. the food here is also amazing! All of the staff has been so sweet and caring. So this changed my life in all new ways, and appreciate being here.</p>
<p>AGS was amazing, I'm so glad I got accepted! I've learned so many new things. Discovered more of myself, and have made life long friends. I will never forget this experience!!!</p>
<p>It was so great and I enjoyed the experience immensely. I wish this was a school I could actually attend because I would apply here and never look back.</p>
<p>AGS was an enriching experience that opened up a new perspective of thinking. It promoted new social relations and a way to get used to what living in a college dorm will be like. New experiences and wonderful people made AGS feel like an utopia of sorts.</p>
<p>My overall experience at AGS was eye-opening, I had an amazing time learning new things and experiencing new ideas. If I had the possiblity to come back I would every summer.</p>
<p>Coming away from AGS I am happy that I came, but there are a lot of things that I wish had been done differently. It did give me a good experience concerning what college will actually be like. I made quite a few friends here that I would not have made otherwise. Some of the speakers were really good while others were just ok. Some of the required events, I feel, should not have been required.</p>

## AGS 2015

### How would you assess your overall experience at AGS?

To take six weeks out of my summer to spend it with 399 kids that I don't know, I'm a thousand percent sure this was the best thing I could have done to get ready for college. Not only was it fun and a great opportunity to make new friends and memories, but I have learned more in these past six weeks than I have in an entire year of science.

I loved it here. The faculty and staff were all very nice and respectful, and I feel like I've learned many things that I wouldn't have had the chance to learn had I not came.

I really enjoyed it and wish to come back later as an RA or as an Area 1 Teacher

It has been pretty fun. I wish the classes were a little shorter because it is difficult to sit still and focus for an hour and twenty minutes.

It was amazing!!! I've met so many new people and have made so many new friends. I was very skeptical at first coming in for a whole six weeks but it flew by, and I honestly wish it were a little bit longer and that we could have our phones more often so I could get everyone's numbers so I could stay in touch with them afterwards. I'm going to miss all my new friends too much.

I loved it here so much. I wish it was longer.

AWESOME except BUGS

I loved AGS. I can honestly say I have learned more from this experience than I could have ever imagined. I have made great friends, and if I could redo my experience, I 100% would.

It was a great experience. I will never regret coming here these 6 weeks. I can say I met a lot of wonderful people, and if it wasn't for governor school I would have never met them.

Overall the AGS experience is one of a kind and life changing. Everything that is offered in the program was beyond my expectations, and because of that, this has been one of the best summers of my life.

Great:) it allowed me to explore fields that I would have never considered before.

I truly loved it here, and am greatly appreciative of this experience. I will highly recommend this program to future students.

I enjoyed the first couple of weeks, but I was ready for a break, and now I am ready to go home. It was enjoyable in some parts, some I absolutely hated.

It was great. I was not a fan of the extreme bias towards liberal ideals though. if you can improve the neutrality of the program, more rural students will apply. I love how much free time we got to connect with friends.

I loved AGS, it has been one of the best experiences of my life and I really loved being here.

I really enjoyed my area 1 classes but not my area 2 or 3. I really enjoyed the people here, new friends

It was an amazing experience and I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend

My overall AGS experience was fantastic! I loved every minute of it! I am ready to go home because I miss my family, but I wish that I could stay here forever because it's such an awesome program!

It's been an amazing experience and it has definitely prepared me for living away from home in just a short year and a half.

Beneficial to my applied area (art) as well as my personal and social development and critical thinking skills. I am very grateful I was able to participate in this years session and believe it will have effects on my life for many years to come.

Amazing, but I miss my family.

It was great, but I wish the Area 1 academics had been stronger.