

# The Mid/Med Writing Project: Medical Students and Middle School Students Document Experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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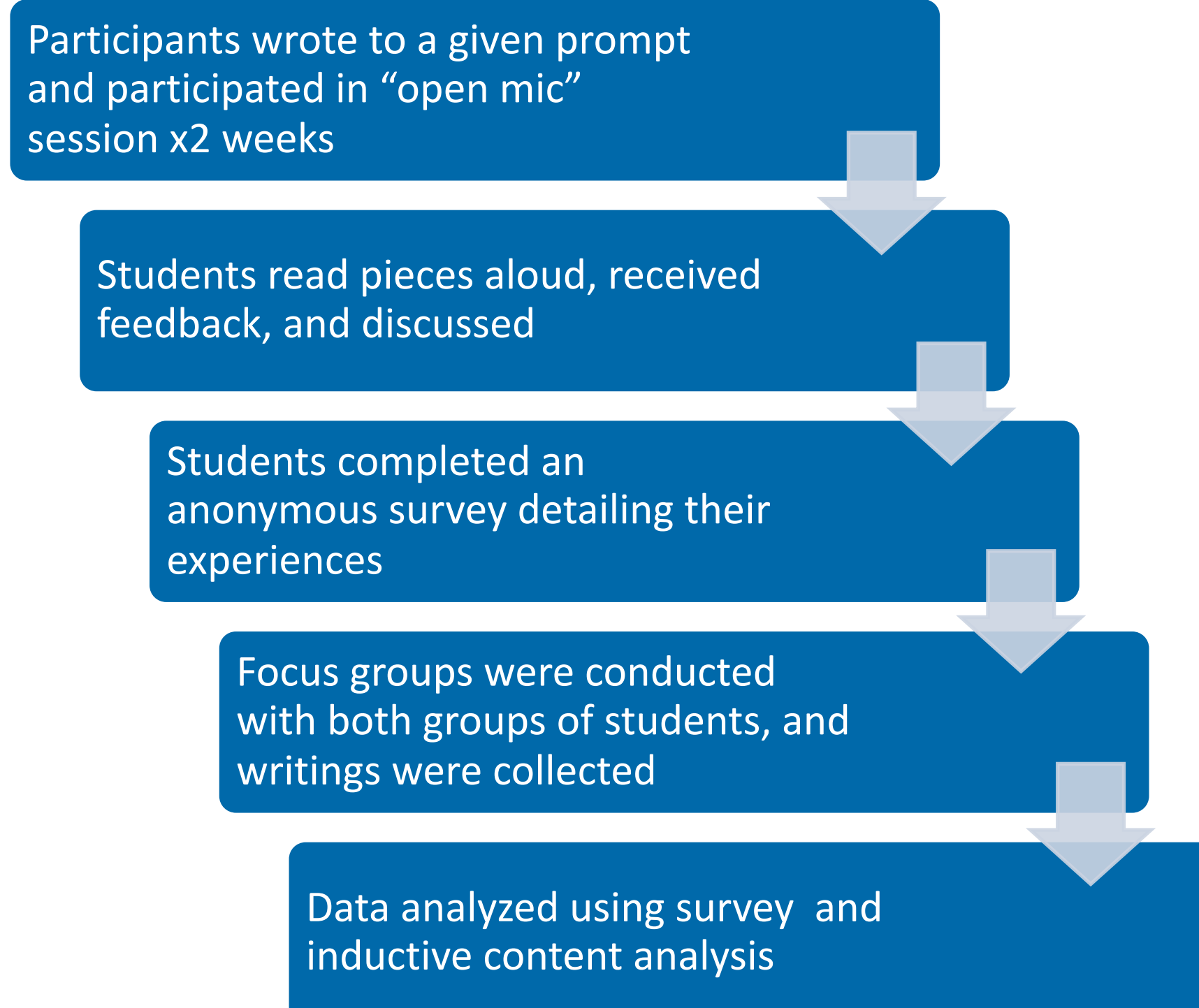
## Background

- Worldwide, students wrote about experiences in the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic
- At the University of Colorado, we brought together medical school and middle school students in a combined writing group

## Objectives

- Explore lessons learned from a writing group of medical school students and middle school
- Compare themes of the student writings

## Methods



## Survey Results

### Representative Comments:

#### Middle School Students:

*"I am self-conscious about my writing, but I improve my writing when sharing."*

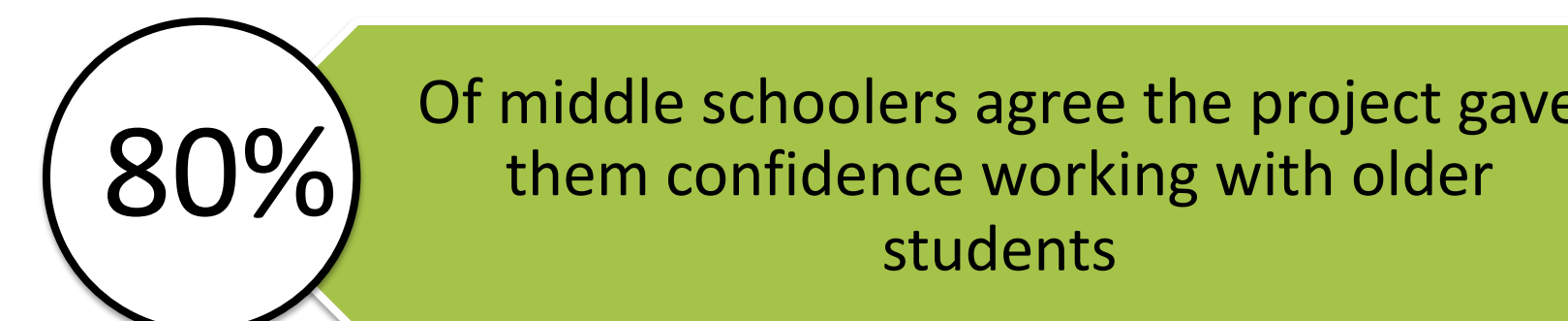
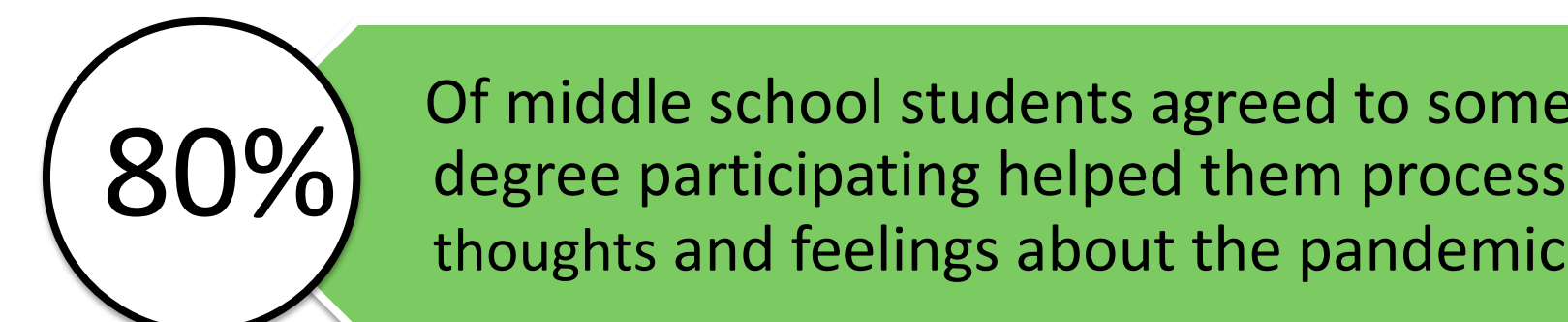
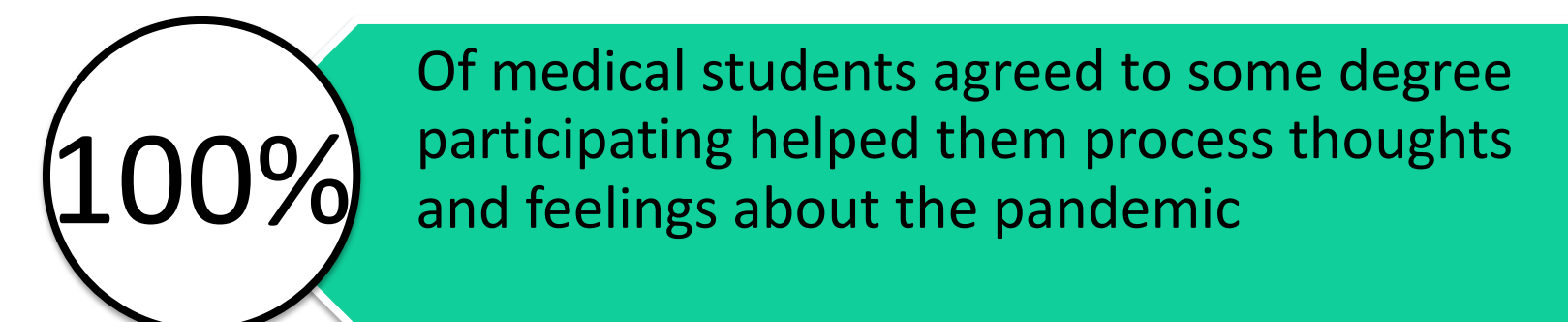
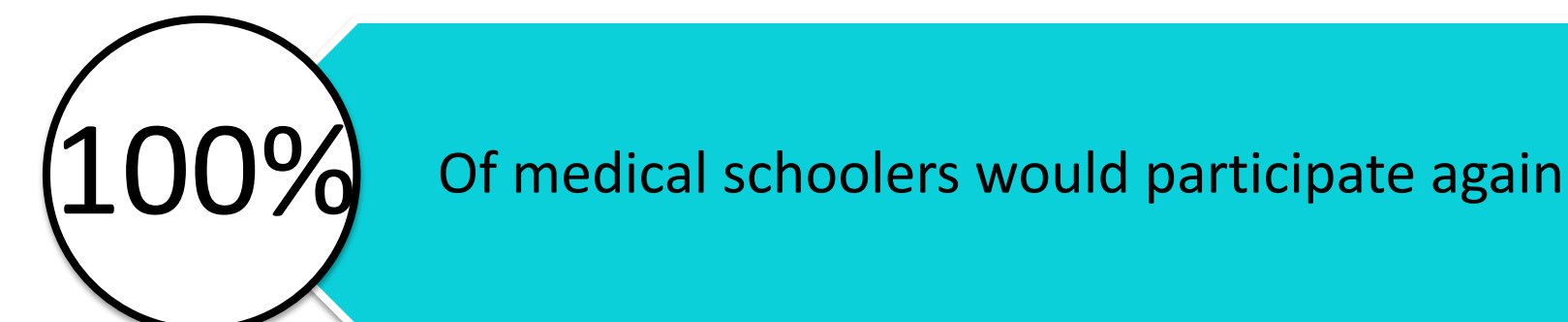
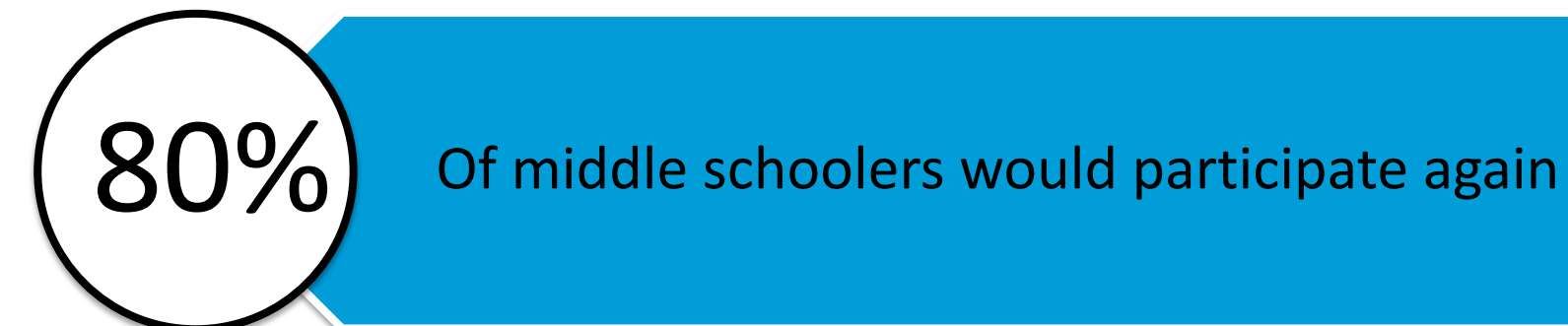
*"Everyone was so supportive!"*

#### Medical School Students:

*"They (middle schoolers) had just as much to bring to the table as the medical students."*

*"I was surprised at the emotional maturity the younger students showed."*

*"I learned to be more comfortable with myself and some of the negative thoughts I was having related to the pandemic.... Through this I was able to become less critical of myself."*



## Discussion

- Despite differences in age and experience, both groups of students wrote about similar themes, feelings and archetypes
- By creating, sharing and discussing reflective writing about the pandemic, students gained self-confidence, perspective and empathy
- Both groups gained understanding of the other group, as well as themselves, through participation
- Next steps include a writing group with medical school and middle school students over a longer timeframe to evaluate changes in writing and development of near-peer relationships and mentoring

## Content Analysis Results

### Themes Common to Both Groups of Students

Pressure to succeed	Friendship	Family
Hope for Future	Memories	Hobbies

## Disclosures

None of the authors have any disclosures to report.

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