

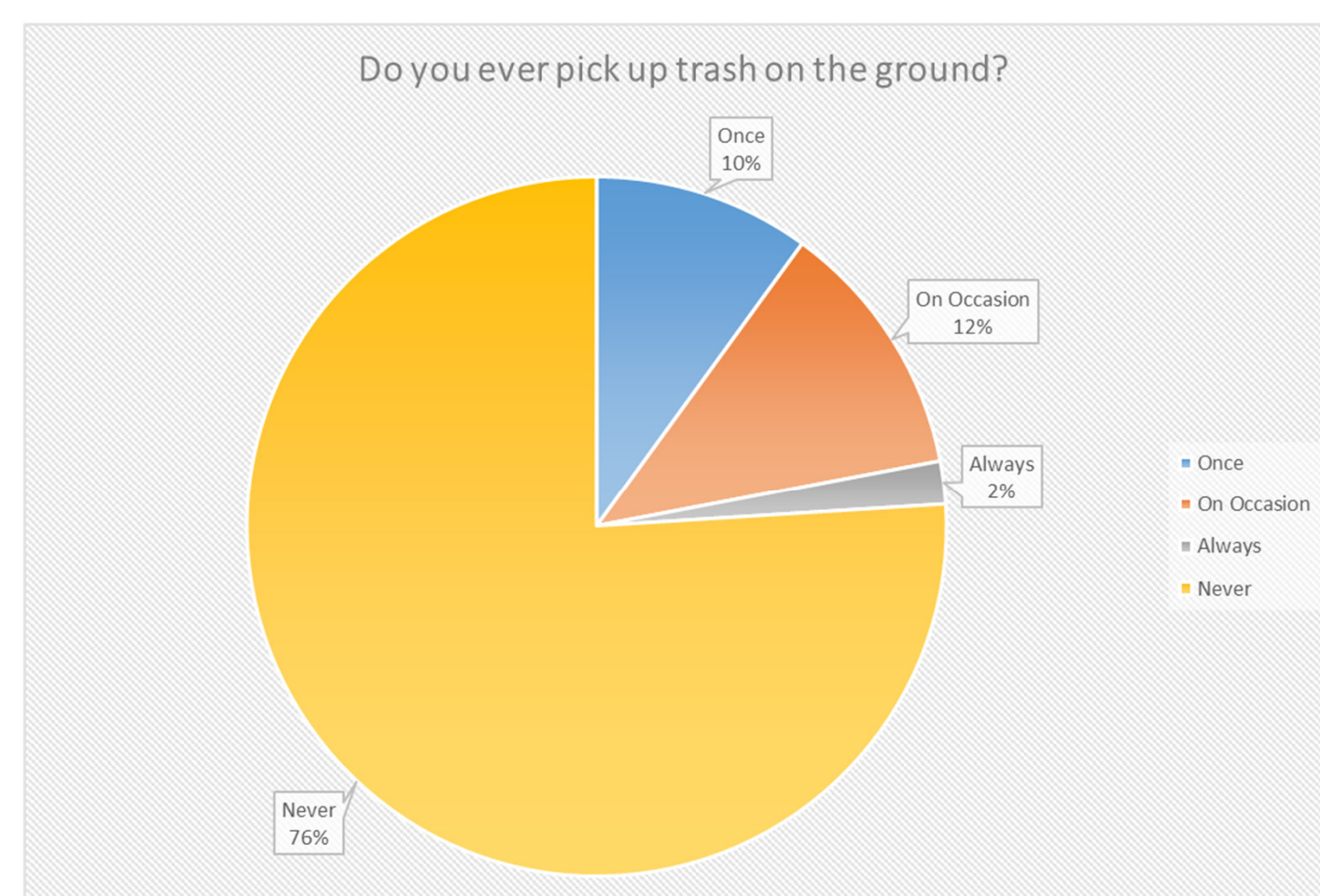
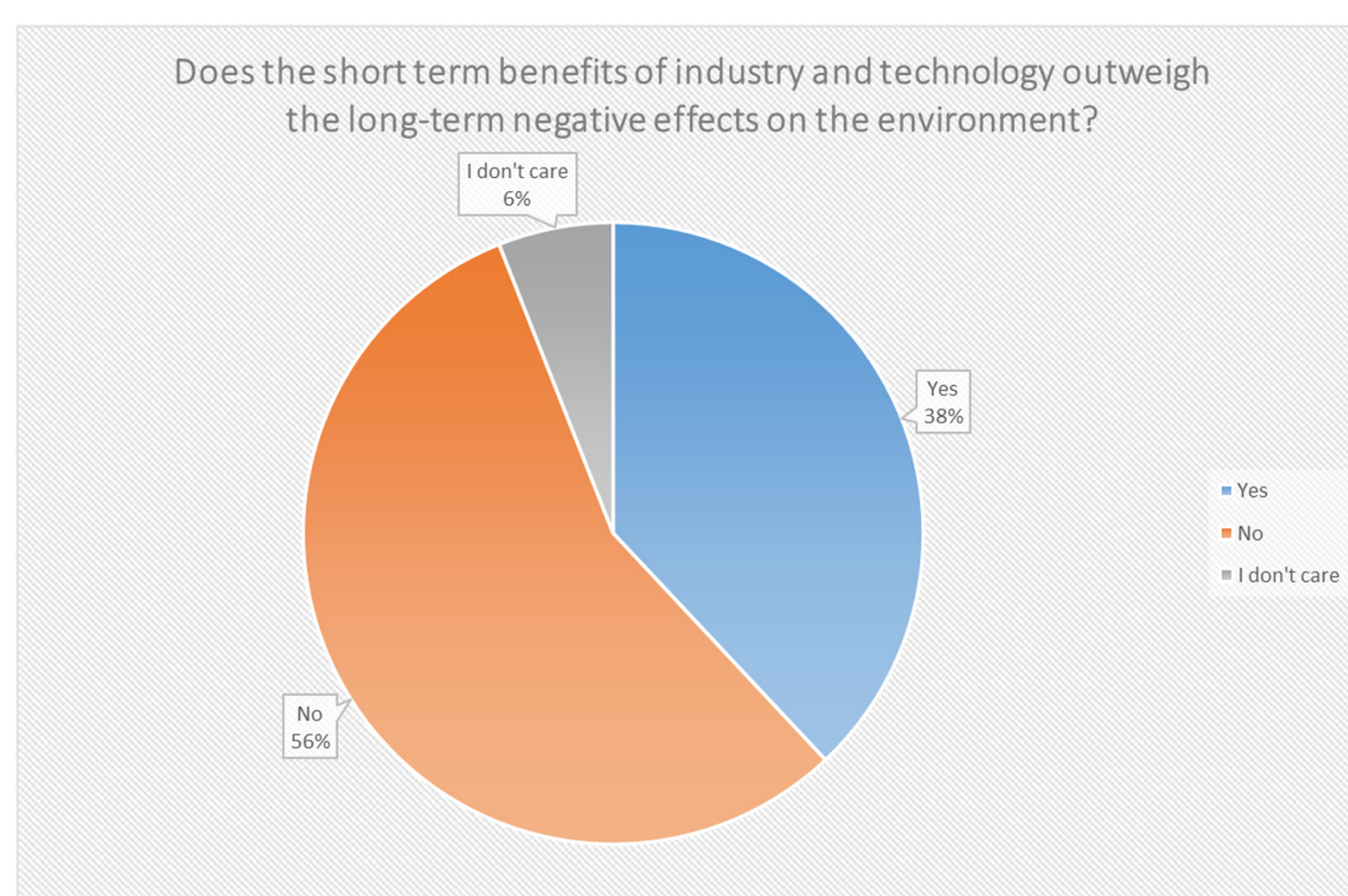
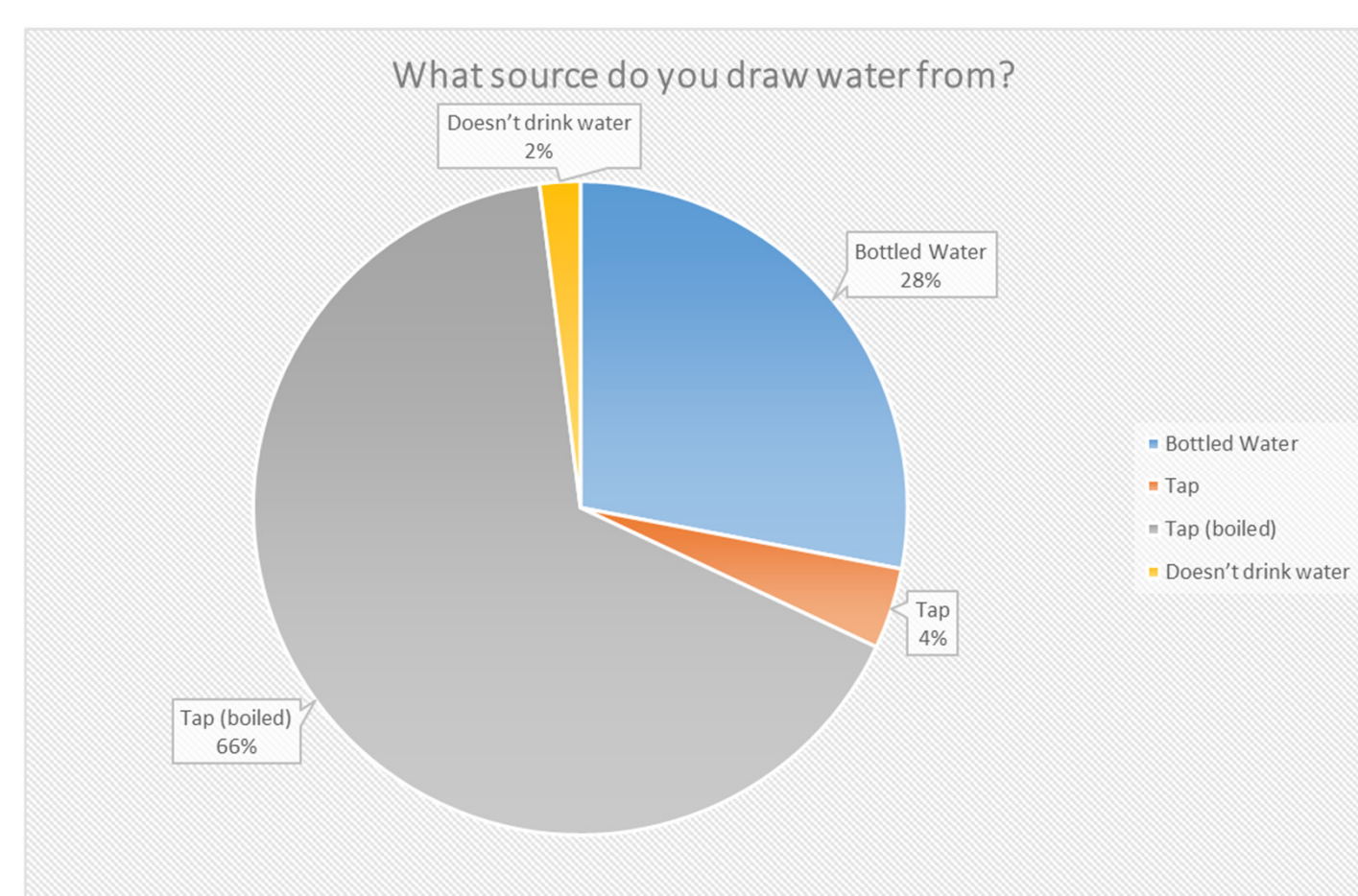
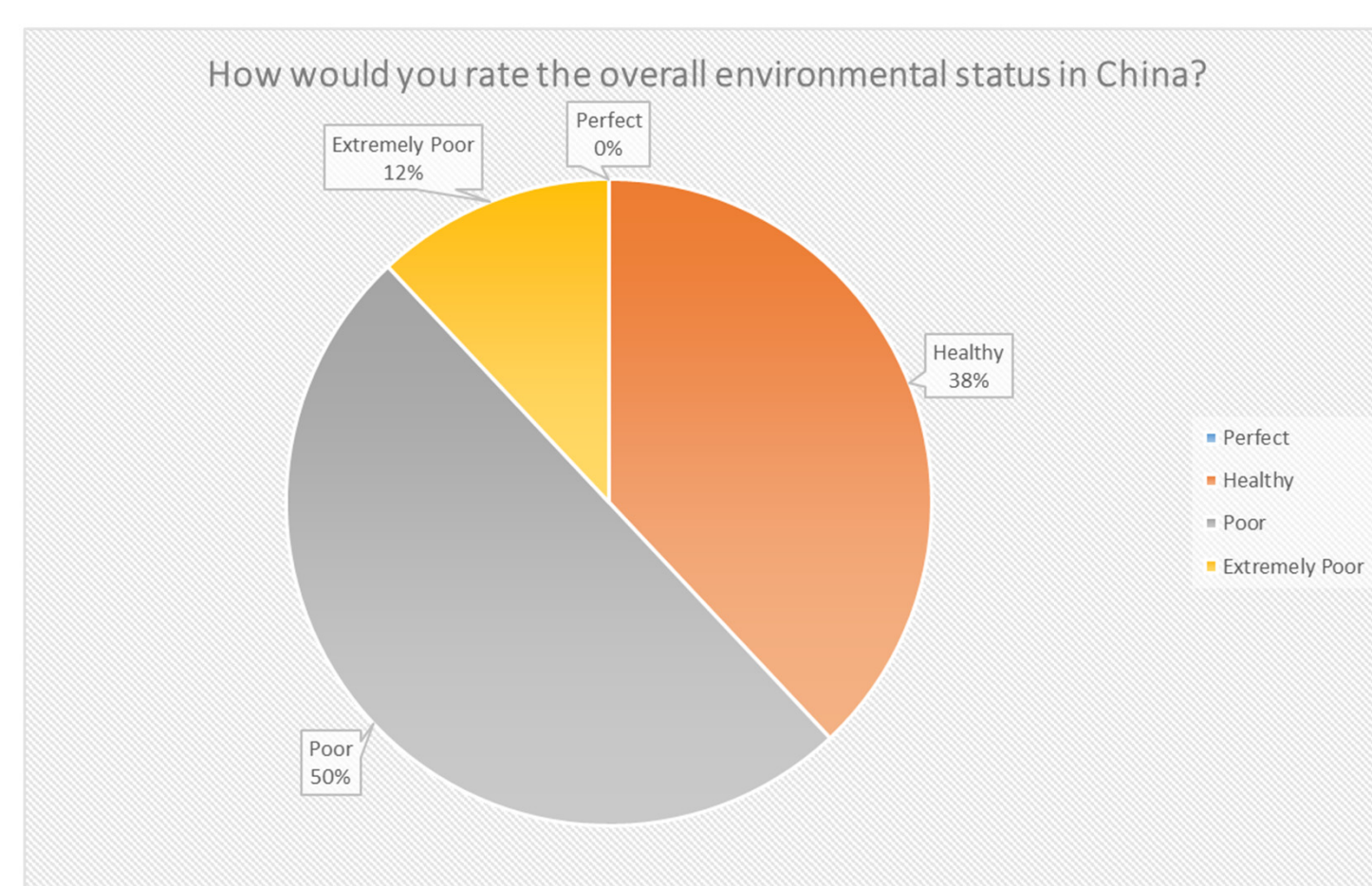
## Program Description

I was fortunate enough to have my first international experience to Fuzhou, China be both personally and academically rewarding. Located in Southeastern China Fuzhou is the capital of the Fujian Province. Known for its mountains and coastal cities, Fujian province is home to one of the major ports in China. Being a cultural and economic hub this was a great place to learn about the local culture and see how the rapid industrialization is effecting the environment.



## Program Objectives

This BESC program was designed to provide an immersed learning outcome that allowed for collaboration with FAFU students and faculty in China. The coursework and projects that were covered paralleled our trips and experiences as to allow for the application of our knowledge toward the class. In doing so, we created a QA/QC Water Sampling SOP designed to inform people of the proper procedures and techniques. I also conducted a small survey on campus over a few environmental contamination issues, the results are listed below.



## Lessons Learned

This Study Abroad program was a great opportunity for me to challenge myself both at a personal and academic level. Never having traveled outside of the United States I had many preconceived notions as to what I would expect and experience during my time in China. What I came to realize is that although our cultures and societies are vastly different we all share a common necessity, and that is wanting a clean environment that yields clean water. After traveling around the Fujian Province it became very evident that there was a battle going on between nature and man. Although there are thousands of small villages located across the countryside that have little impact on the land, China as a country has become the industrial capital of the world. With the rapid rise of urbanization, people are flocking to the cities in search of better lives. The problem that has emerged from this is the lack of oversight from the national government on the environmental impacts of such a drastic change. Now leading the world in both Industry and population I believe that China is on the brink of a paradigm shift, one in which the people are starting to see the importance of environmental sustainability.

## Relationship to Career Goals

Environmental degradation caused by contaminants or pollution from industry is what I have become interested in as I would like to soon become an environmental consultant. I was able to gain firsthand experience of the impacts caused by industry on the environment while in China. Being able to compare our health and environmental standards in the United States to the ones here in China has given me a better perspective on the pros and cons of different government systems ability to protect and ultimately change the environment. I also gained a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture by immersing myself among its people. In doing this I believe I now have the ability to better understand the core issues facing environmental protection. In our ever-growing relations with China I feel that my experience and mindset will prove to be an invaluable asset as a future environmentalist.

## References

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