

# What Attracts Law Students to Teaching Law at Schools in Street Law Programme and How Teaching Law Changes their View of Law and Lawyers in Society

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# Why was this research done?

“Street Law – or clinics in general – change students' perception of law, they rocket students' motivation, they change their future orientation, if not lives as such” *A clinician*

BUT

Isn't it just our belief?

# Goal of the Research

- Learn motivations of law students to teach law at secondary schools
- Gather feedback regarding students' perception of their teaching experience
- Identify issues to concentrate on in next years of Prague Street Law programme

# How was the research done?

- Questionnaires sent to all Street Law II. participants, but not to Street Law I. participants
- Most of the questions were open-ended (students could provide *any* answer and their answers were later – for the purpose on the analyses – transferred into categories)
- Pilot research only (June 2011)
- Unique regarding the subject

# Street Law I.

- 15 law students from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year
- Every semester
- One month of preparation – one month of teaching – one month of reflection
- 8-10 taught lessons
- Closely observed by the teacher

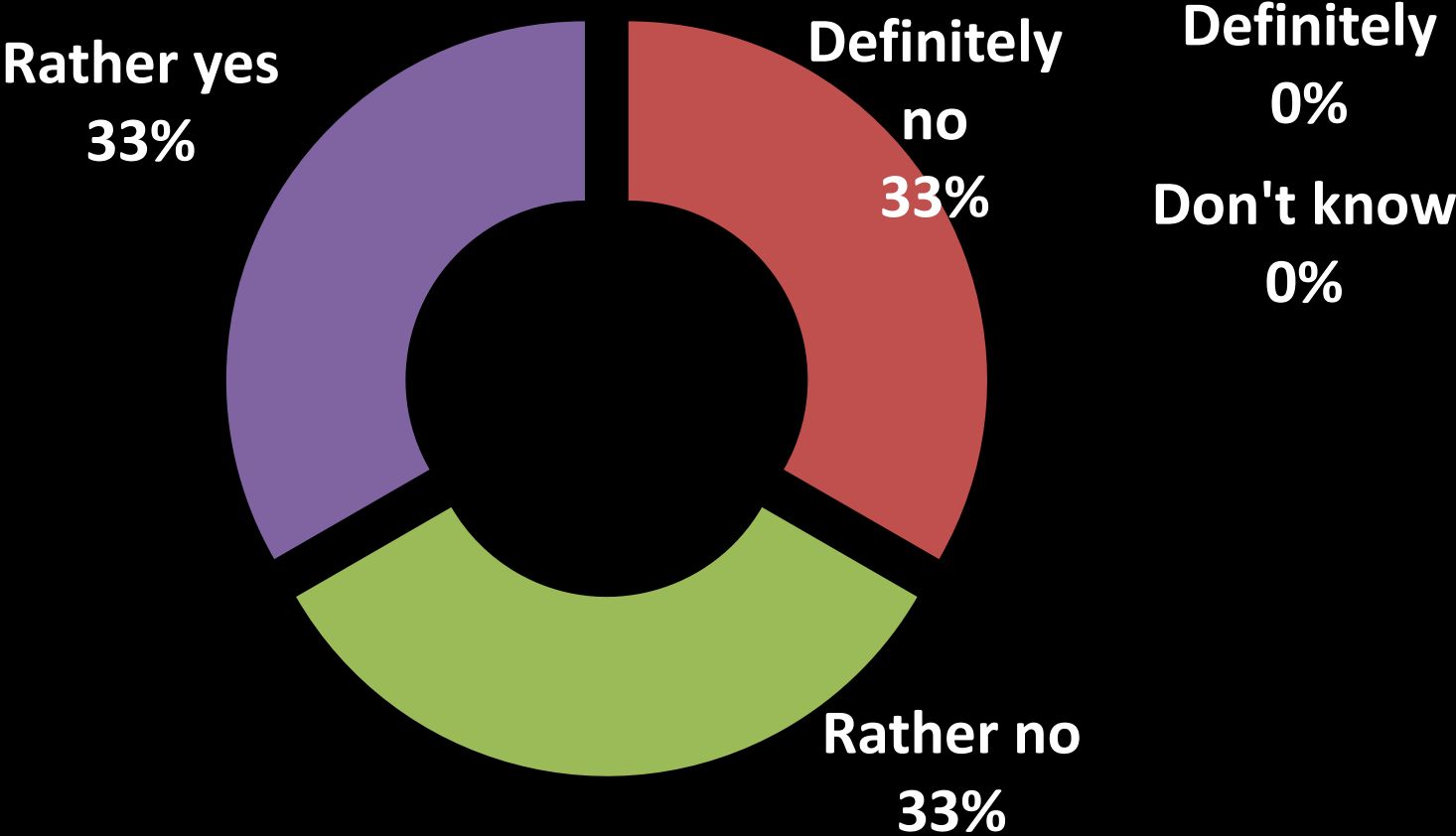
# Street Law II.

- Cca. 5 law students from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year
- Every year
- One year of teaching
- Cca. 60 taught lessons
- Very rarely observed by the teacher

**What do future law students want to do after graduation?**

**Do they know it when they enter the faculty?**

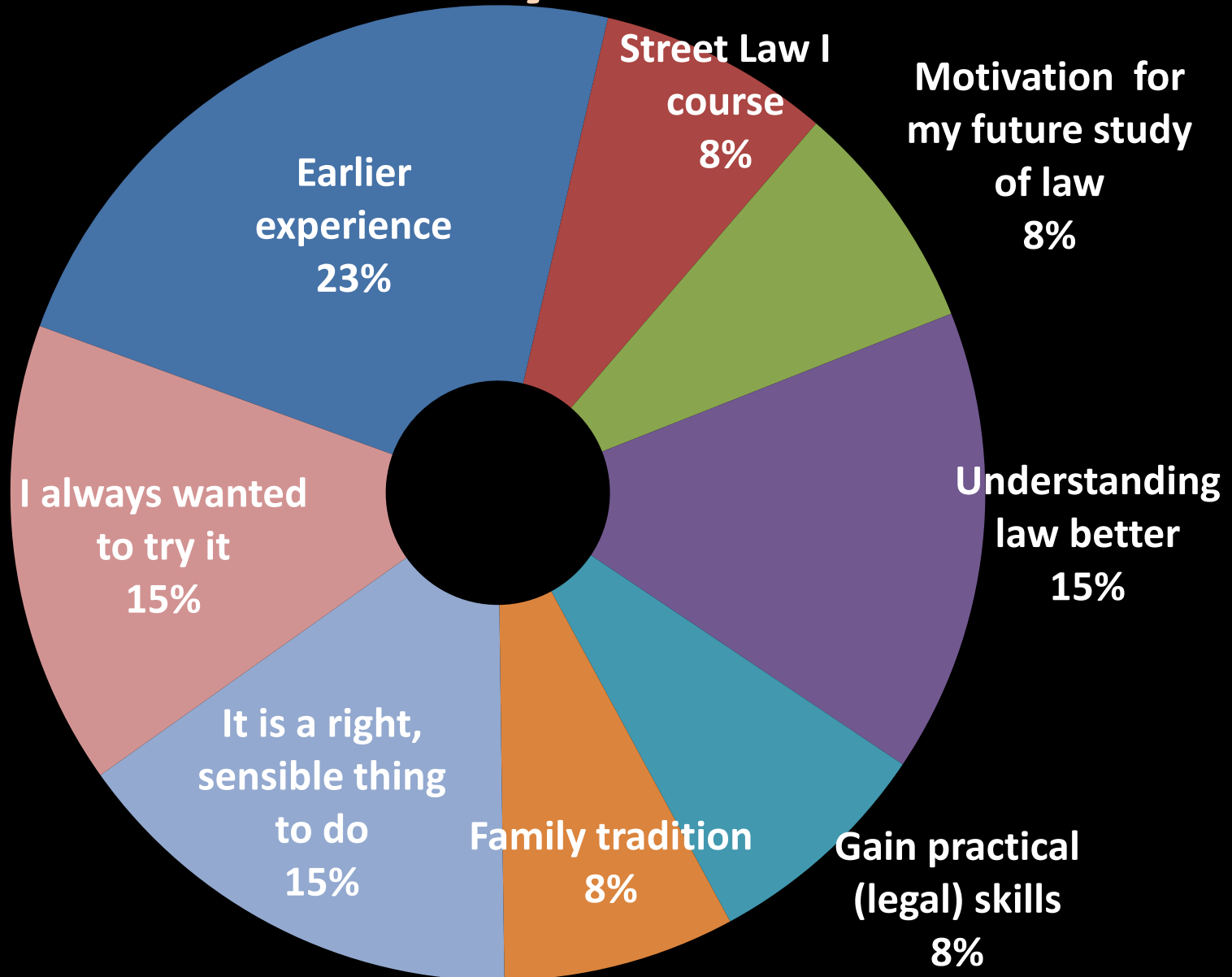
# Did you know what to do with law before entering the law school?



**Why did the law students decide to  
teach law at secondary schools?**

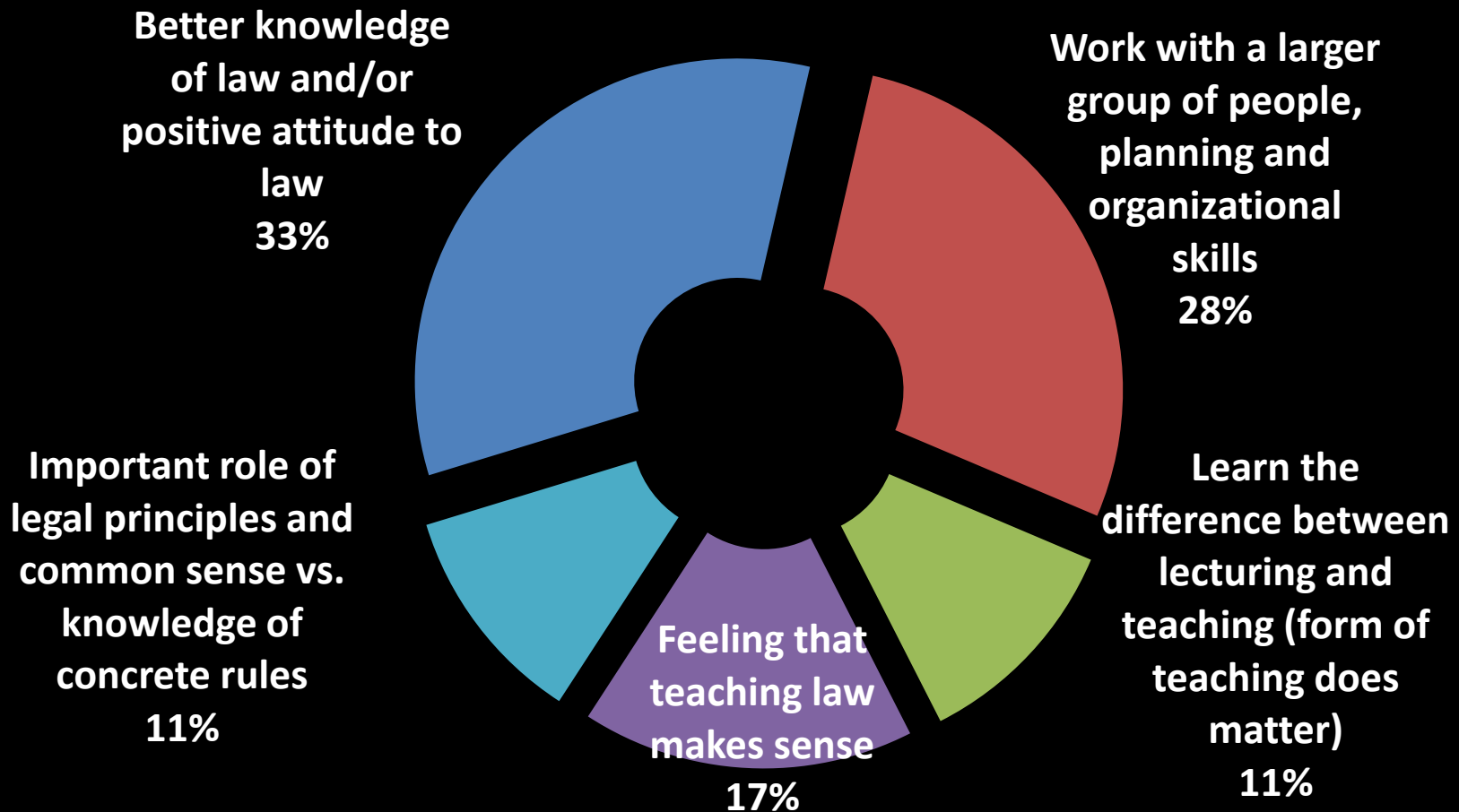


# Why have you decided to teach law at secondary school?



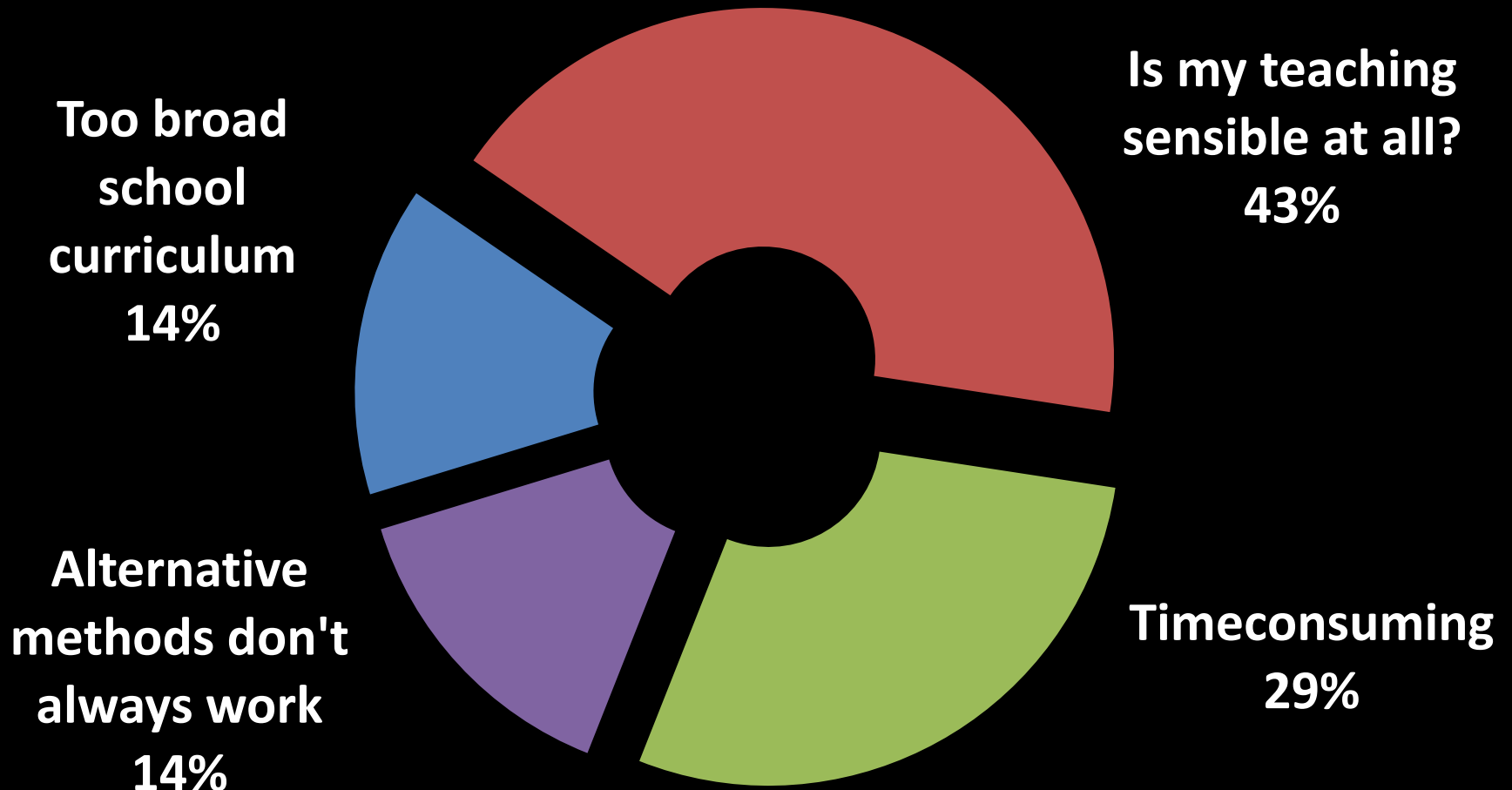
**What are the 3-5 most POSITIVE things that the teaching experience has brought to you?**

# Positive things teaching experience brought to students



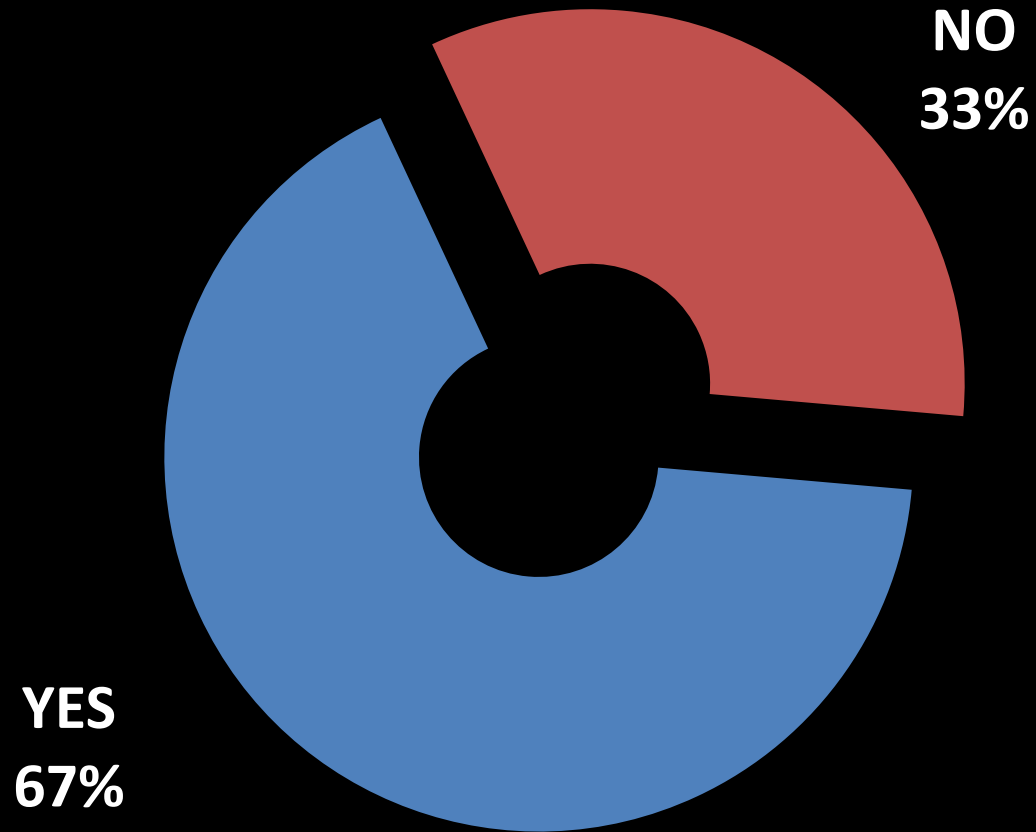
**What are the 3-5 most NEGATIVE things that the teaching experience has brought to you?**

# Negative things teaching experience brought to students

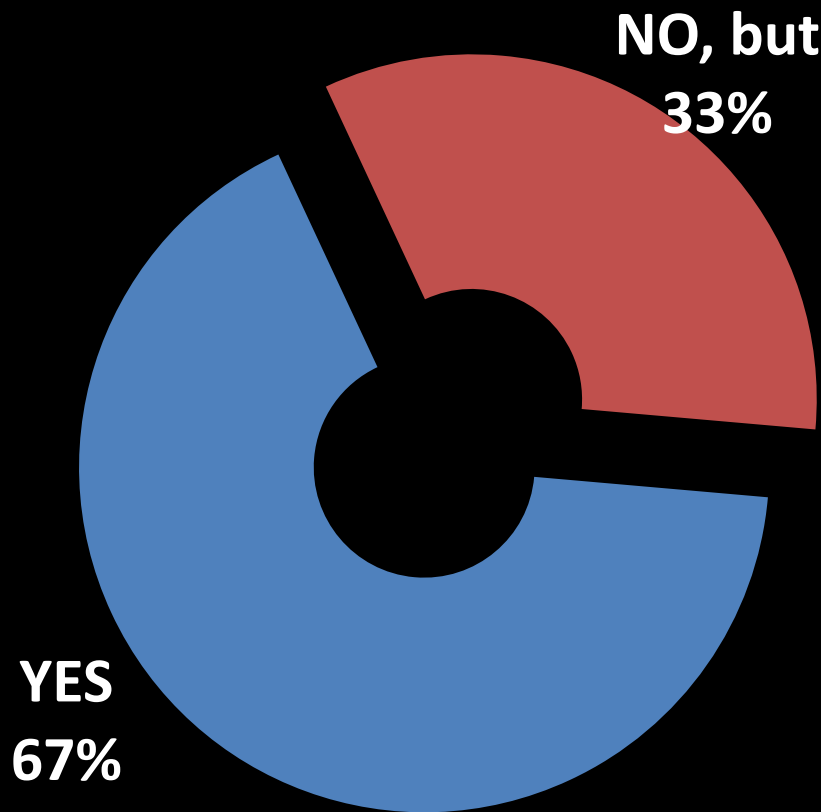


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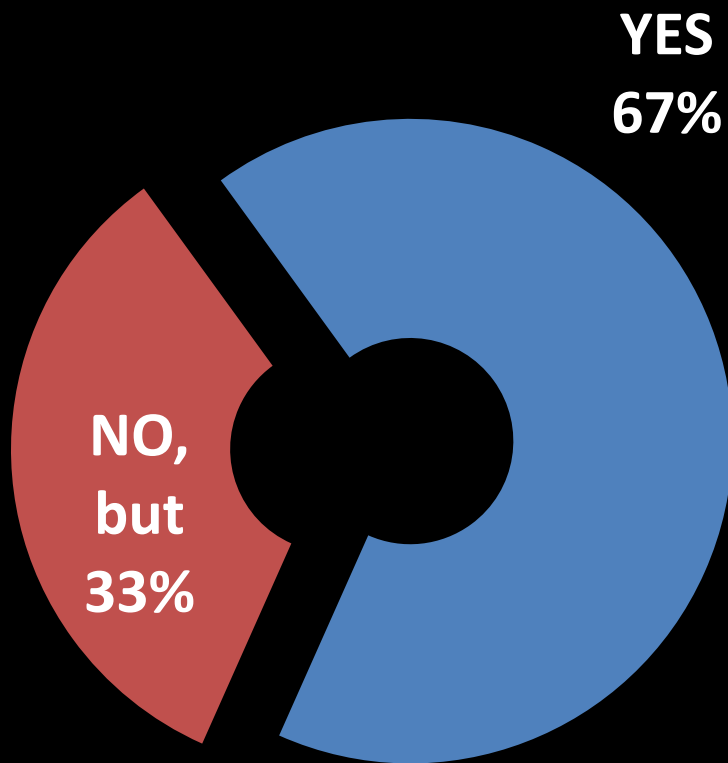


...I learned to perceive law as rules that not only I, but the whole society has to be taught

... I hoped already before that law is not just in books, but also living among the people



# Has the experience with teaching law changed your view of law?



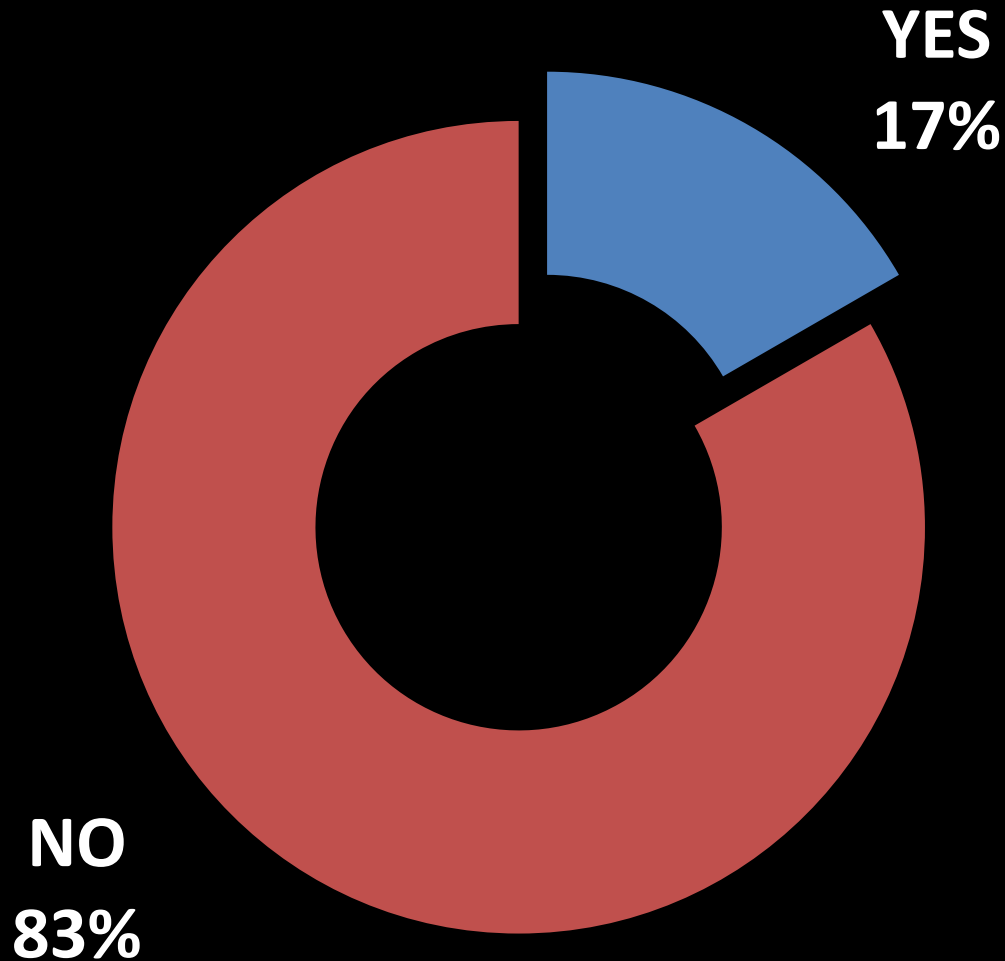
... young students made me think about law in a more general, human and not so technical and selfish way, as it is typical for lawyers. I now better understand context of law and connection of law with the real world. My view is now more philosophical and relative, which I perceive as a positive thing.

...I understand better now that the sense of legal norm is more important than their actual wording.

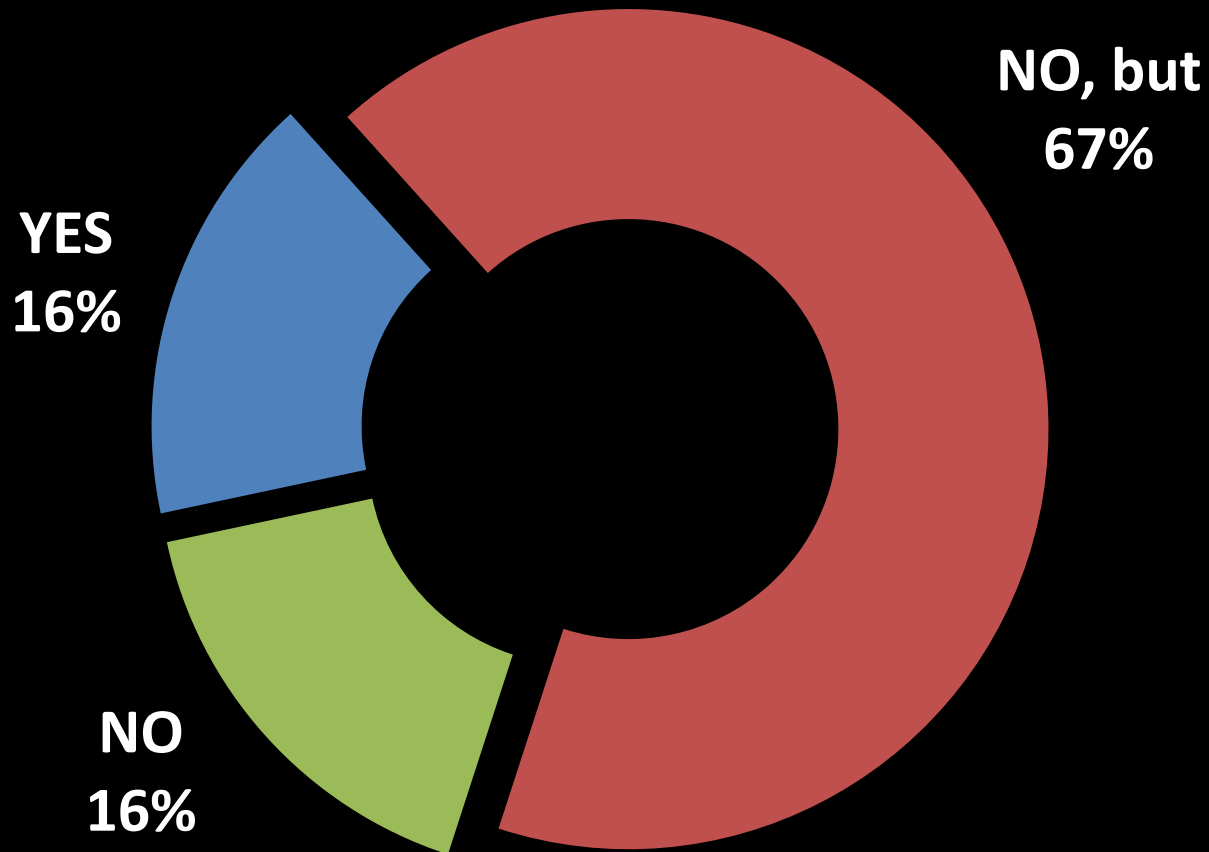
... I discovered "love" to law, understand law as one system and not many separate legal branches

**Has your perception of lawyers' role  
in society changed?**

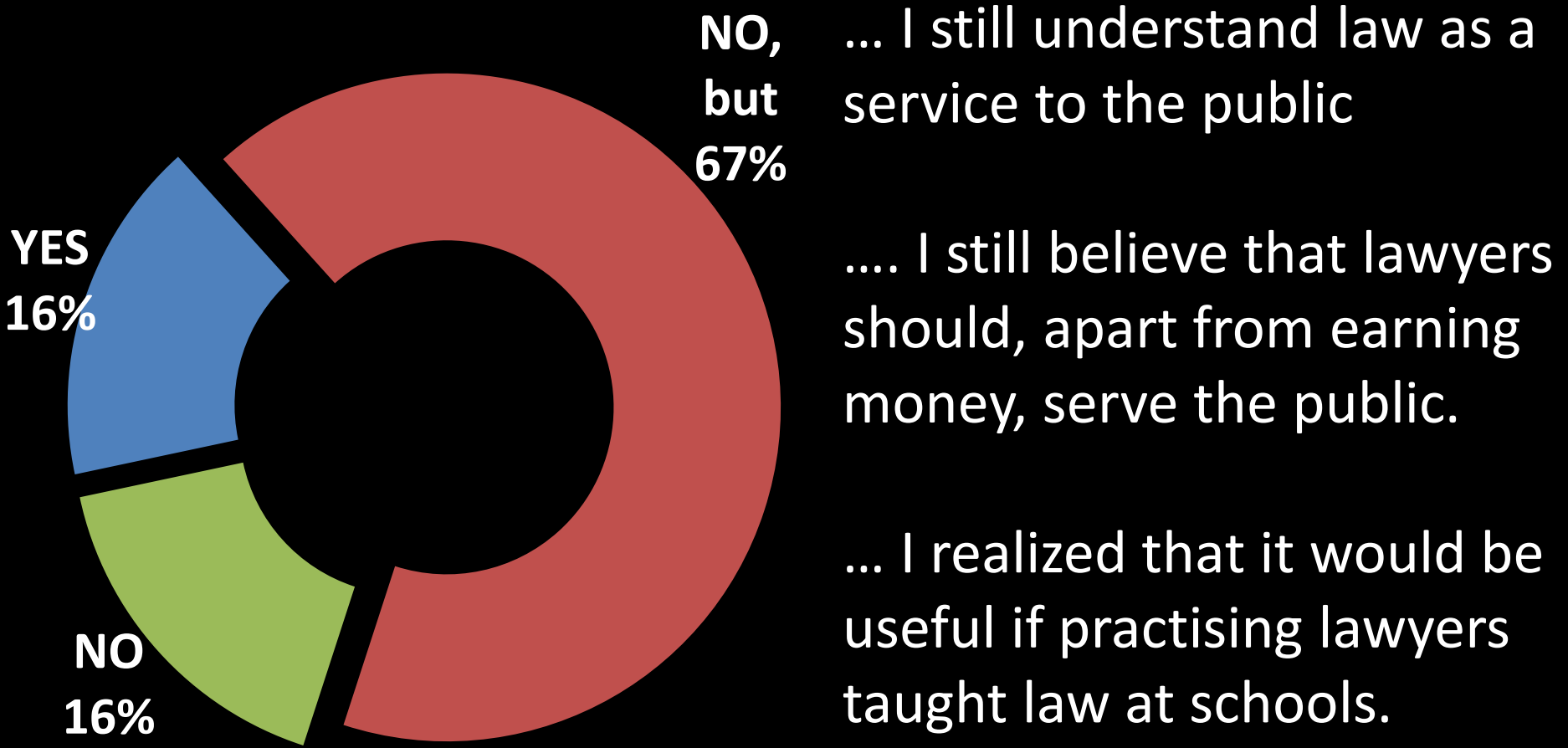
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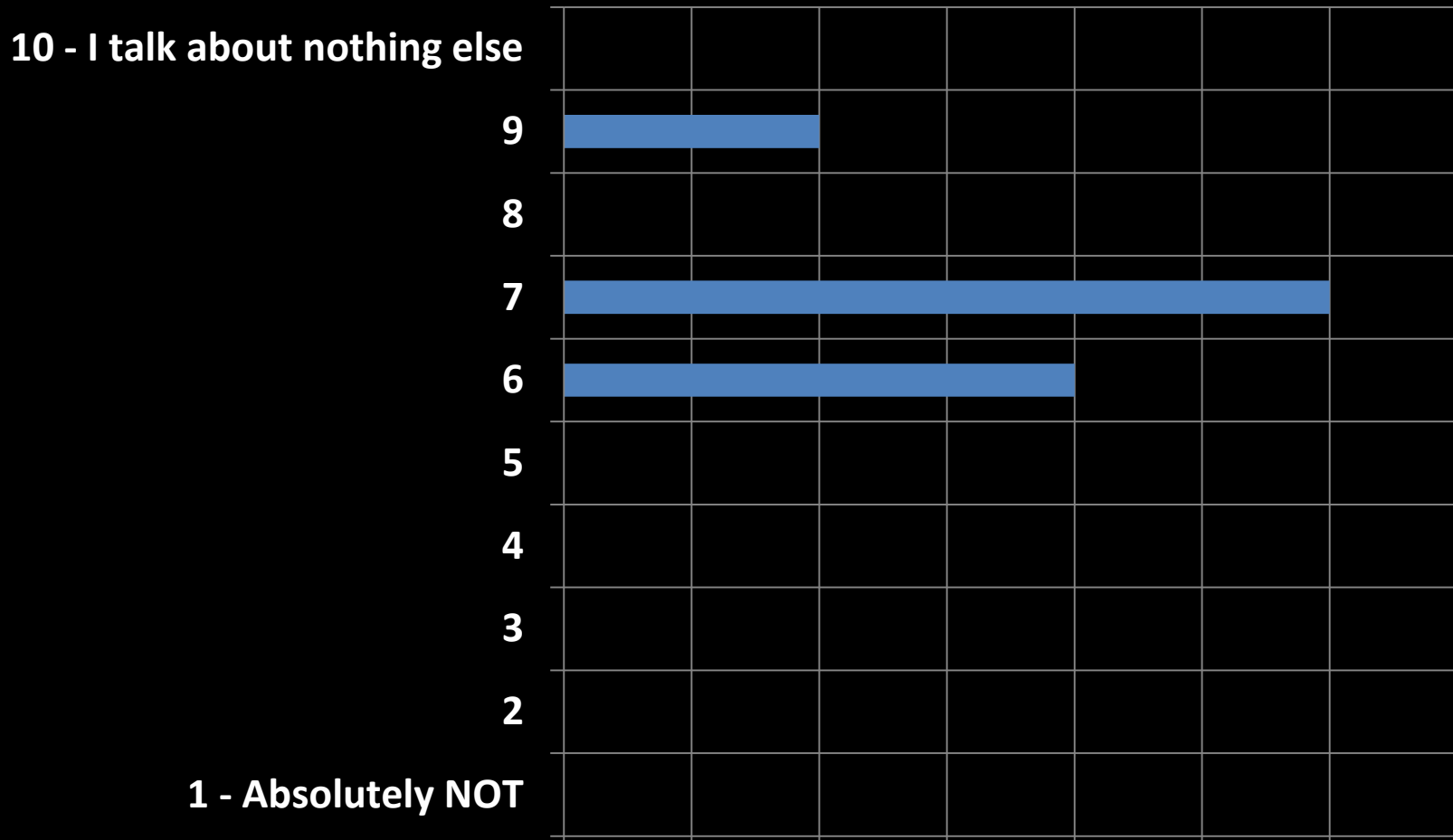


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**Do you talk about your teaching  
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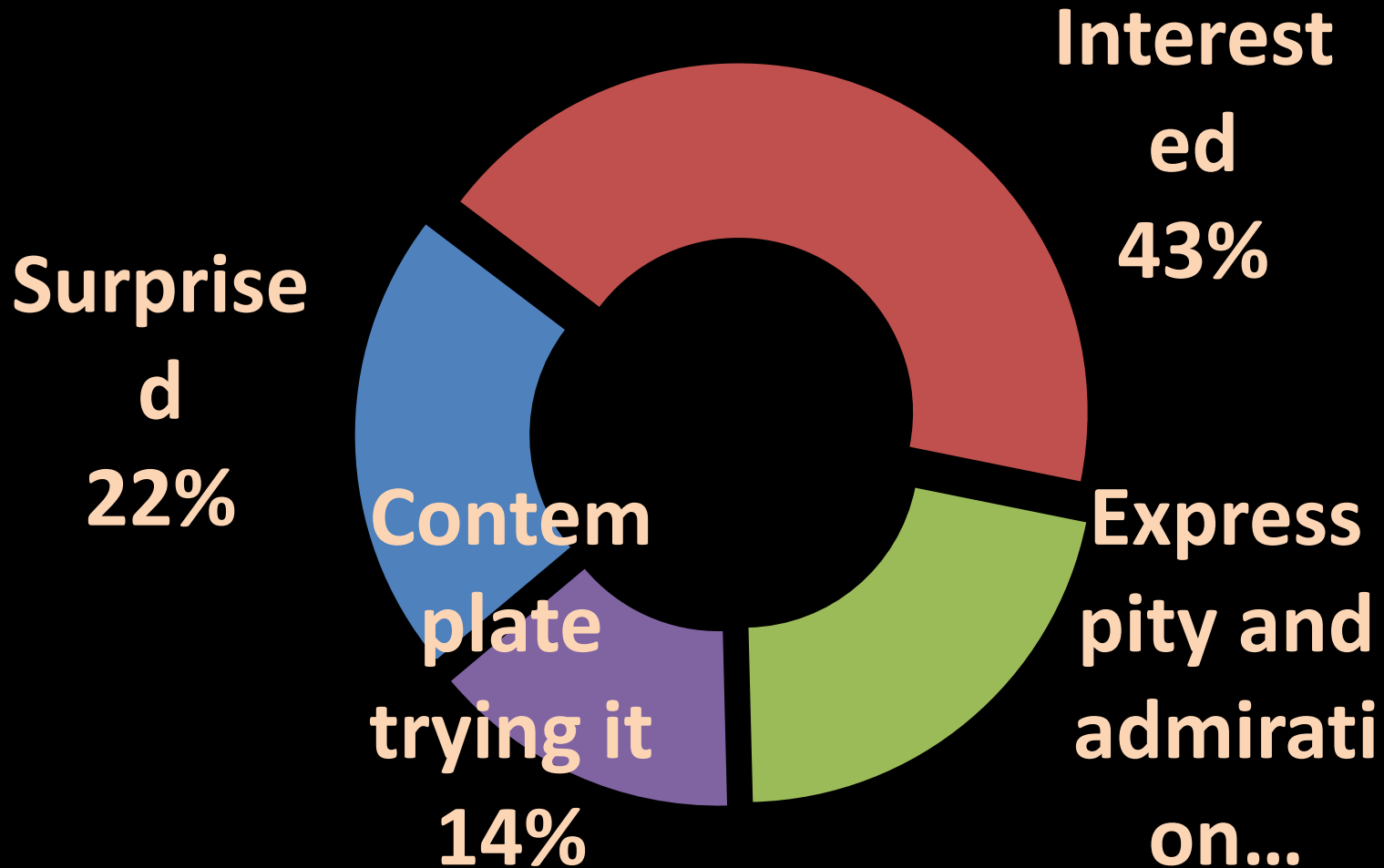
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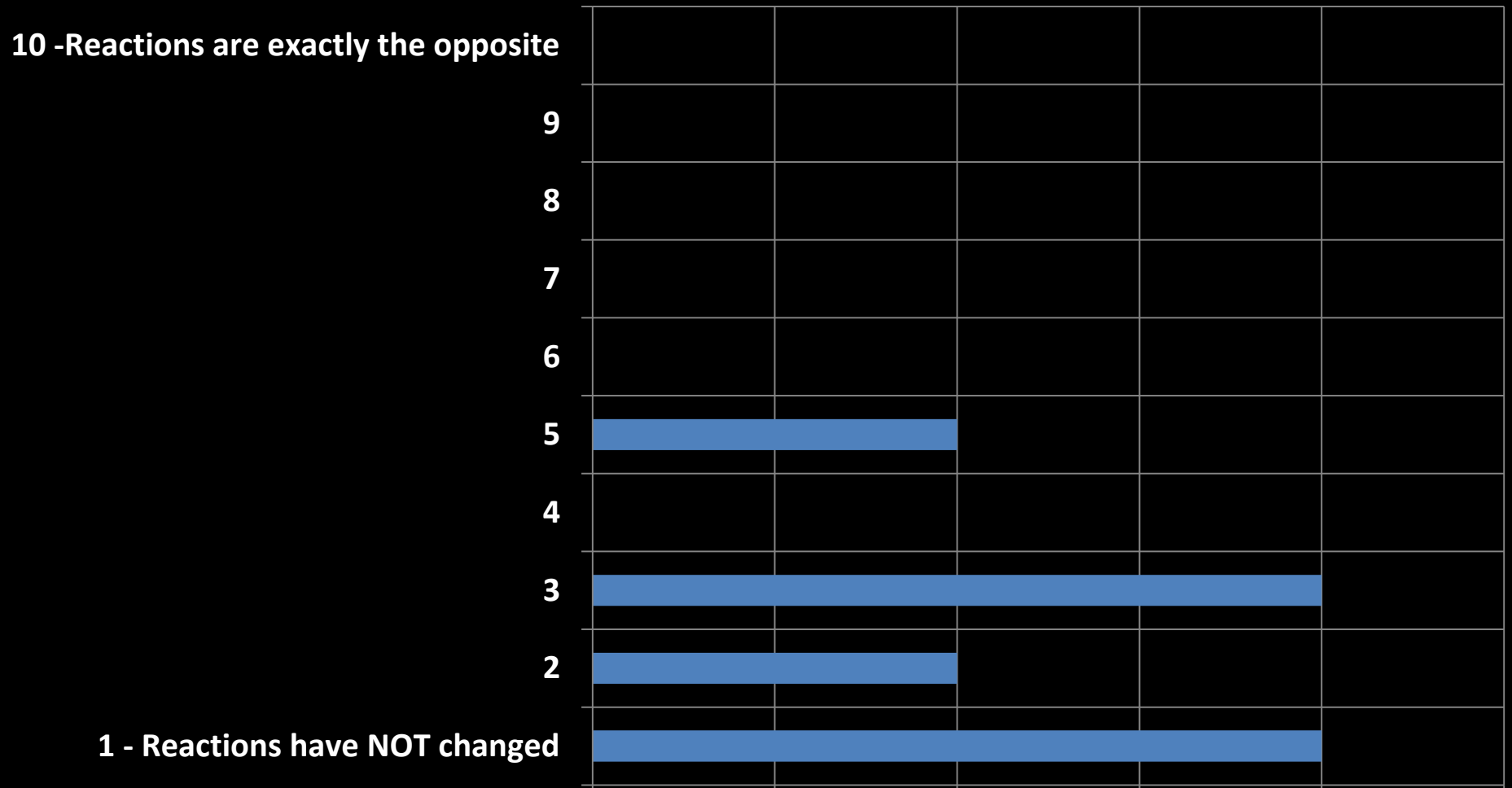
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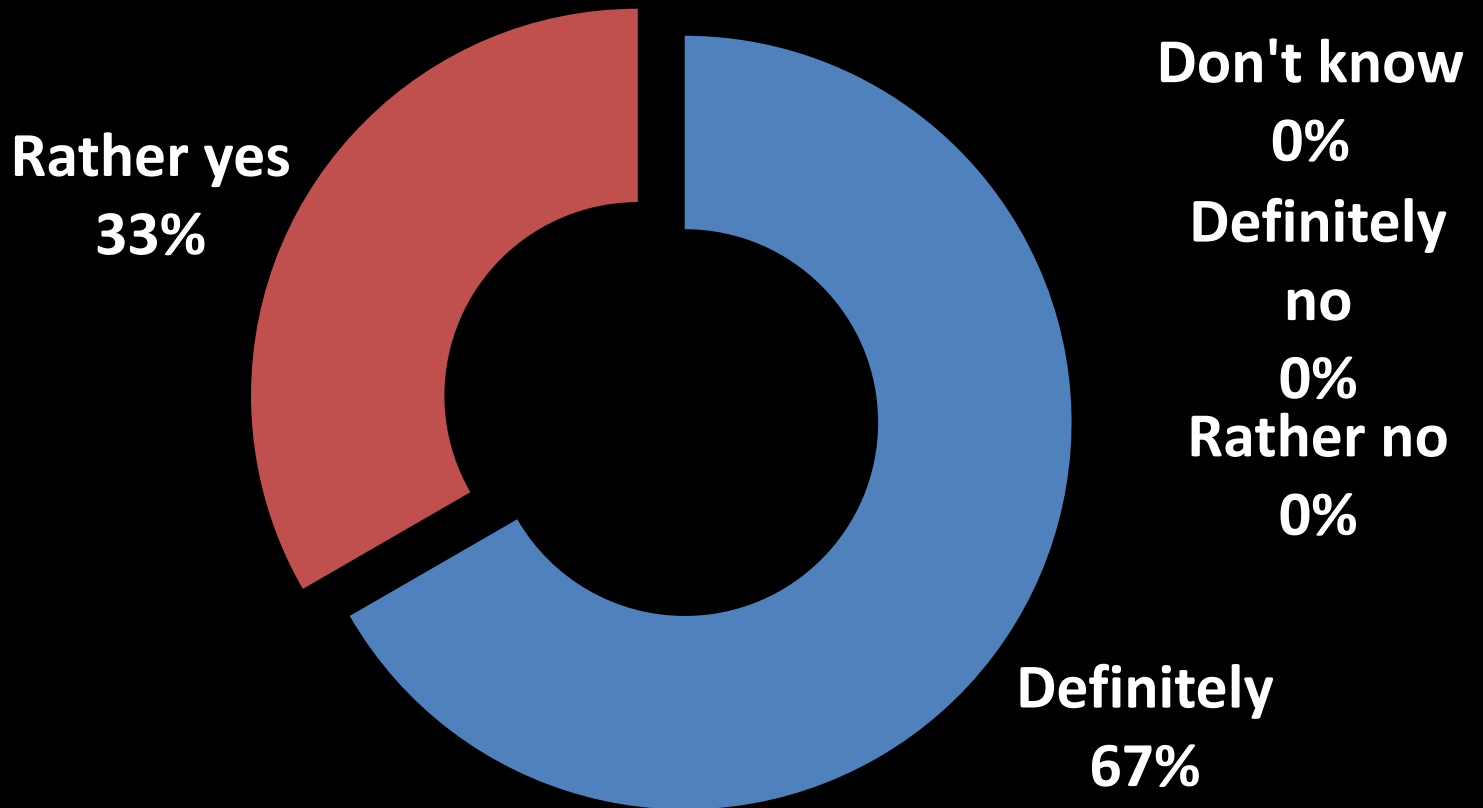


# Has the reactions of your fellow law students changed over the year?



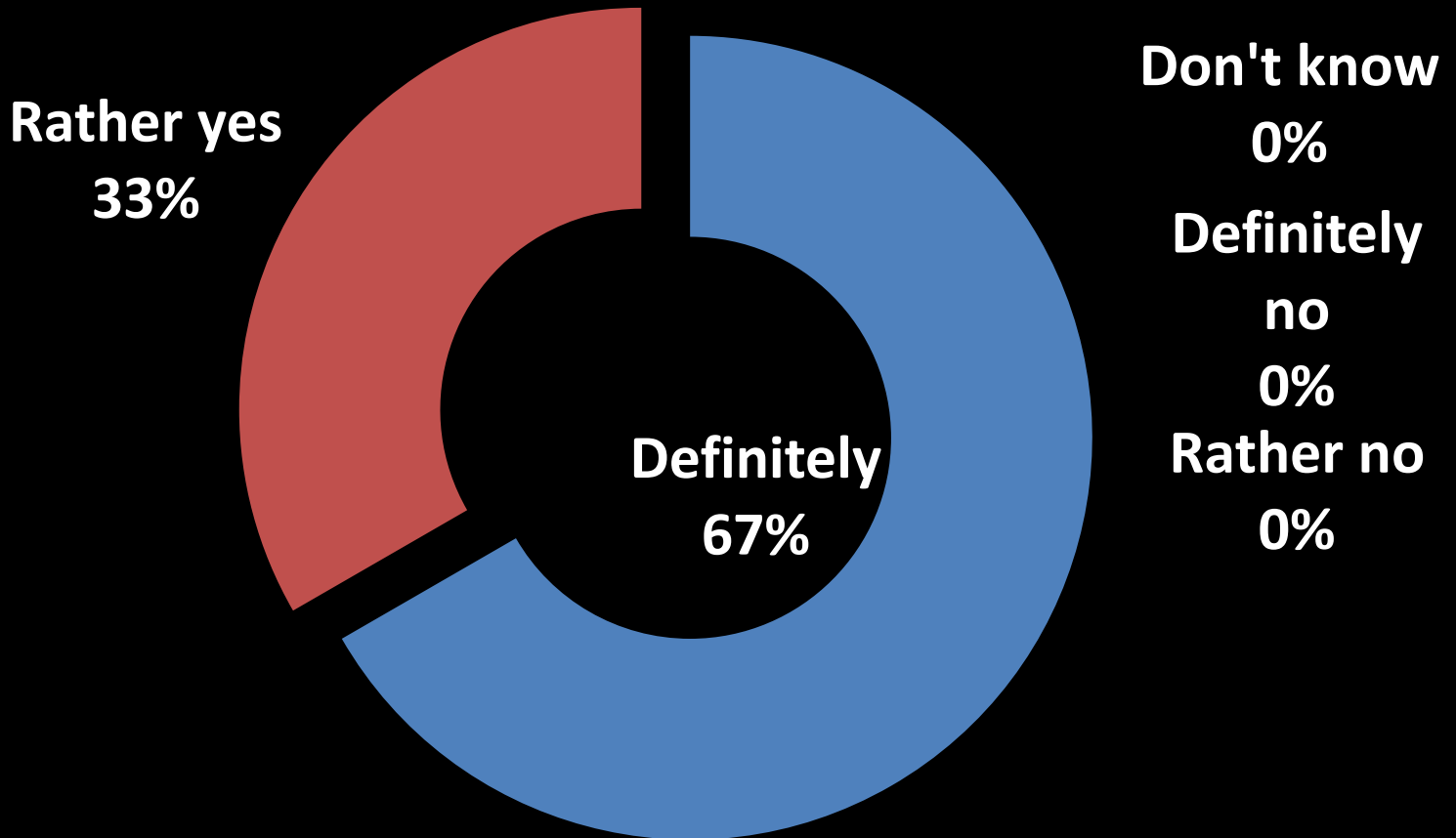
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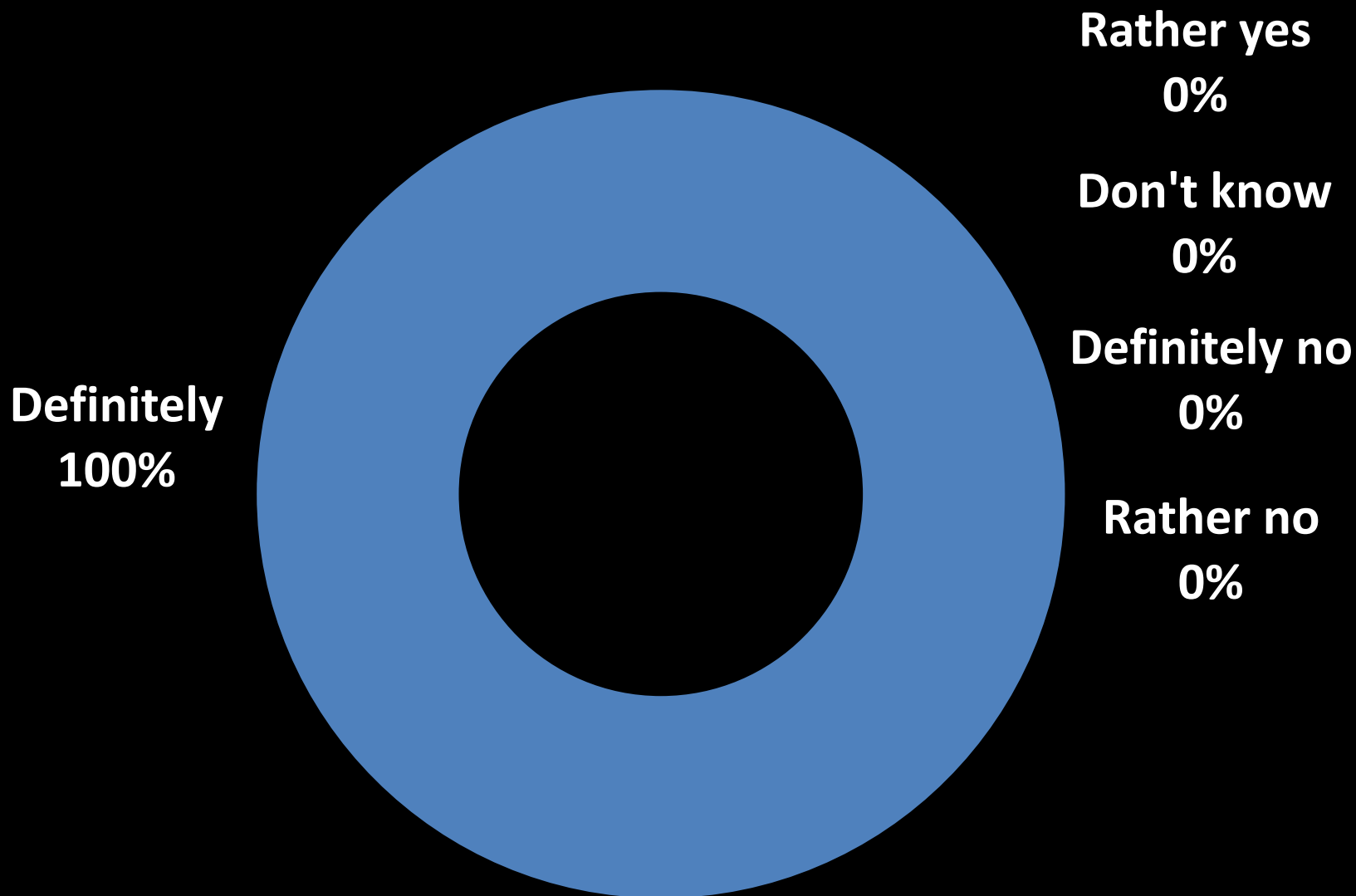
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**Did Street Law help you to answer the  
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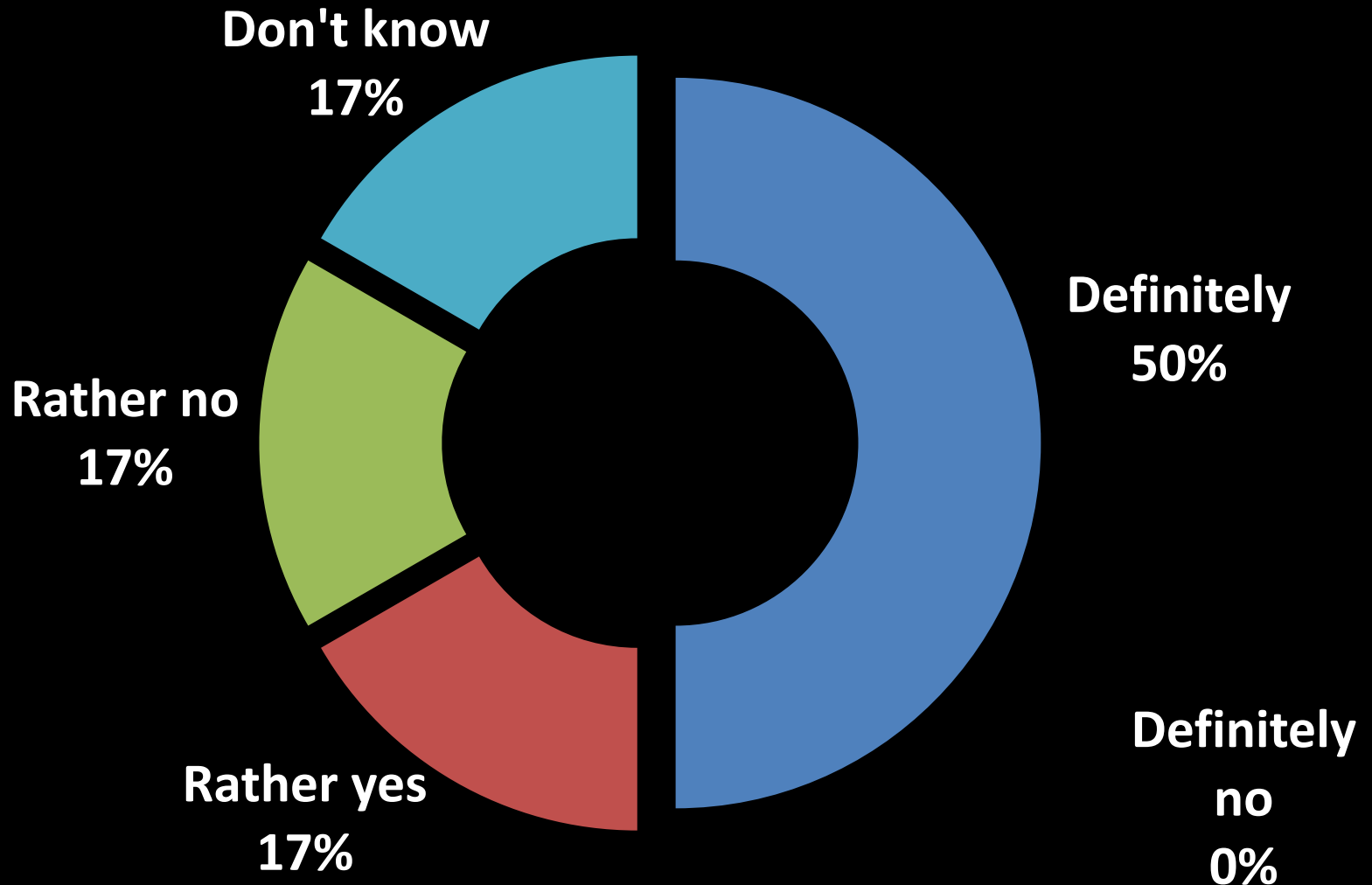
# Did Street Law help you to answer the previous question?





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# General Comments

- Small sample (6 students), but there are no more Street Law II. students
- No student can remain untouched by Street Law
- Street Law makes students realize aspects of law that regular, non-clinical legal education (completely) fails to teach
- Attracts non-mainstream law students

# Where to go next?

- Make this survey a regular part of the Street Law programme
- Include the survey of secondary school students
- Collect data at the beginning and the end of the school year
- IDEAL: collect data of law students AS WELL AS secondary school students at the beginning AND end of the school year

# Points to discuss

Have you come across similar surveys?

Did the results differ in any way?



# Points to discuss 2

What questions did you miss in the survey?

Where any of them unnecessary?



# Points to discuss 3

Would your students respond in a similar way?

Are the answers culturally determined?



# Student good-bye quotes

“Who else should guide secondary school children through labyrinth of law other than those who have already passed through the labyrinth?”

“Teaching is always a bit of a trip to the ZOO for me”



A dark, atmospheric photograph of the Prague skyline and Charles Bridge. The scene is dominated by silhouettes of Gothic architecture, including spires and domes, against a hazy, overcast sky. In the foreground, the cobblestone path of the Charles Bridge is visible, with several figures walking across it. Ornate street lamps are positioned on either side of the bridge. The overall mood is quiet and historical.

Thank you for your attention

*Gracias por su atención*

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