Overview
The Fall Term reading week (November 9-13 this year) is one of the UASU’s most visible advocacy victories. Two small surveys on the UASU Perks platform explored the value students see in reading week, and how they spend their time.

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<th>SURVEY</th>
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<td>Survey 1</td>
<td>Nov 9-15, 2020</td>
<td>2 multiple choice, 1 text field</td>
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Survey 1: “This reading week, how much school work do you have to catch up on?”
Survey 1: “Without reading week giving you a brief break, do you feel like you would be falling behind on your studies?”

- Yes: 88.6%
- No: 11.4%

Survey 1: “Overall, are there any specific ways that you think having a Fall reading week can benefit your mental health?”
Survey 2: “Did you know that fall reading week at the U of A is a relatively new thing and that it came about through a lot of work from the Students’ Union?”

40.5% no, 59.5% yes. Many ‘yes’ and ‘no’ respondents added appreciative notes. Unprompted, some linked reading week to burnout and suicide. A handful of ‘yes’ respondents noted sentiments like “It’s the only thing I hear over and over again from [the] SU.”

Survey 2: “Help us get a sense of how respectful profs are being about reading week. (Select all options that apply)”

- I have a major paper or project due to be handed in directly after reading week that significantly affects my grade. (Final draft, milestone, etc) - 54.5%
- Assigned readings and stuff like that. - 34.6%
- I got given assignments to ‘fill the space’ that are due during reading week. - 32.2%
- I was encouraged to do extra work, but it doesn't feel forced. - 32.2%
- I had a prof explicitly clear out reading week so I'd have no extra work in their class. - 27.0%
- I have prerecorded video lectures I'm expected to watch. - 19.0%

Survey 2: “What are you up to during reading week? (Select all that apply)”

- Trying to destress. - 77.3%
- Spending time with family and friends. - 56.9%
- Filling out dumb surveys on an app. - 54.5%
- Reading. Duh. - 54.0%
- Working on a group project for class. - 47.4%
- Going on a vacation or trip. - 4.7%
- Hoping that I get my preorder XBOX or PS5 early! - 1.4%