Q36 - How do you think the staggered arrival of fall athletes, international students, and non-athlete domestic students during orientation impacts relationships between members of different groups?

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Q37 - How would you rate your orientation experience?

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Q38 - Optional: The College collects extensive data on students’ MiddView trips experience as part of our orientation assessment survey, sent to all first years, transfers and exchange students each October. SGA is interested in how older students view the trips program, having gained some time and distance from it. Please share any reflections you feel are relevant about your trips experience and how it did or did not help you to transition to life at Middlebury.

Optional: The College collects extensive data on students’ MiddView trips e...

I enjoyed the trip. I didn't form any lasting relationships, but it was a fun introduction to college.

It is amazing! The only part of orientation I liked. Imperative this program remains

I don't think I've really kept any of the relationships I made during orientation but I think it was a cool way to have kind of a trial run version of Middlebury before actually starting classes and things getting hectic.

I really liked my MiddView trip because it brought together students from all different backgrounds and gave us the opportunity to engage with each other away from campus. I felt more comfortable on my MiddView trip than during some of the orientation activities and I really valued the opportunity to talk more candidly with other students and my leaders.

I really enjoyed my MiddView trip, enough to lead one this past year. It helped me integrate into the Midd community by exposing me to ways to access the beautiful surrounding trails and mountains. Also, I appreciated being thrown into a situation where I spent a lot of time with both female and male first-year students; it helped me feel comfortable spending so much time with new people, a skill I really needed going forward in my Midd social world.

didn't help me transition, didn't stay in contact with people from it, but i did have fun. (i did backpacking - the most difficult one)

Kind of exciting at first, but once I settled in I found other friends and interests until it eventually became largely irrelevant.

My Midd view trip, although interesting in terms of activities, did not help me form friendships or help with my transition to Middlebury life whatsoever. I don't think the program is effective in fostering community, and I think the school could do without it.

I liked going out of campus and living in the nearby community. However, I sadly did not bond with the students in my midd view trip. I was the only international students and the rest were mostly athletes. Also, I am an introvert so it was difficult to reach out the students in my group. It did not help me transition to the Middlebury life, but rather made me even more distant from Americans.

Middview was the best part of orientation by far. I don't remember a single thing from the rest of orientation, but middview was what made me feel like I knew at least a handful of people well.

Did not take trip

Having been a participant and a leader I think MiddView, when done properly can be so effective. It really allows random groups of students to spend time together, when they normally would not meet. It encourages the communal aspect of the Middlebury experience so well and I think its crucial to an orientation experience.

It wasn't "perfect", but I feel it was a very important part of the transition process.

I do not support SGA funding for MiddView. If the College wishes for the program to continue, they should pay for it.

It did help me transition; it was good to have an experience where I could meet a few people although I don't think I'm close with anyone who was on my middview trip now. But it certainly helped me branch out (especially since I
wasn't very close with my hallmates freshman year. I met other people through Middview trip friends. Also, I think maybe the biggest thing was that it allowed me to know immediately that there was interesting stuff going on around Middlebury in nearby areas-- so I never really felt like Middlebury was completely isolated or boring or anything like that.

My Middview trip was quite unlucky because we had several people that got hurt. Overall, our personalities also did not mesh that well. I also think the Commons system did not allow me to get to know students from other Commons as well as the students in my Commons and I would've liked to meet other students outside of my common more last year.

I thought my middview trip was great, really liked the middview leaders too! Great experience overall!

I hated every second of the trip- but it wasn't until two-three years later that I realized how much each step forward up the mountain helped me grow. Being out of my comfort zone with strangers is productive.

I really enjoyed my middview trips and still share at least a smile with the other participants on my trip.

As a senior, Middview was a complete waste of time. I don't think it should continue as a program. I think it would have been better if it had been trips within your commons as a way to get to know your dorm better.

Middview is a fantastic program, it let me make many more friends than I would have otherwise and connect with people I normally wouldn't, including the upperclassman leaders especially. Please keep middview!!!

It was kind of a weird experience since we were all pretty awkward and didn’t know how to talk to each other, and then most of us fell out of touch pretty quickly after coming back to campus. Idk, I feel like most people didn't make lasting friendships on their Middview trips, but maybe that's just me.

I liked my experience but it didn’t really affect my relationships with my friends.

I don't think my orientation experience is worth 200,000.

I wrote an extensive email to my relevant senators on this topic. Please reference those :) 

It was a great way to meet new people but I also do not keep in contact with them anymore.

I think it would be interesting to have the option to sponsor a dinner for mid view trips to come together again in the future.

Feb. Sounds good though. Wish FOO were before classes start.

It was a very fun experience but I did not attain lasting friendships from it.

I loved my MiddView trips experience! I thought it was a nice ice breaker and opened up the opportunity for relationships to be made with some people on campus before the year began. I thought that it was fun on its own as well, and something I wouldn’t normally get to do!

Middview was great! It was a nice way to meet people outside of my commons. That doesn't mean I'm best friends with them, but it meant that there were more friendly faces around campus at an overwhelming time. That being said, I do know people who are still extremely close with people from their groups and even their leaders. It was because of my wilderness trip that I was inspired to do guide training for the mountain club - I definitely want to be a trip leader in the fall. (I also think that getting rid of these trips or making them optional with a fine would cause people, especially those who are already excluded, to opt out)

I think that this is an imperative part of the transition to Middlebury and one of the defining things that makes the transition really special. While I did not particularly like the group of people that I went on my trip with, it still prepared me for the beginning of my time here. As a MiddView trip leader, I have established relationships with younger students that I would have otherwise not gotten to meet, which I have really valued.

MiddView was extremely important to my transition to Middlebury. Even as an "upper-classmen", being a MiddView leader has shaped my identity at Middlebury!

Going back staggered arrival of students, although there is a positive impact of early friend groups, that is a two sided sword in that right away the students are separated into different friend groups.
I really liked my Middview trip and I think it was a valuable part of orientation. I got to meet people and feel more included in the Middlebury community. I love the outdoors and it allowed me to get a sense of what the outdoors in Vermont is like with more depth. However, I’m not that close with any of my trip leaders or fellow trippees now.

My MiddView trip gave me an immediate group of people to connect with at the start of the year. Although I no longer keep in touch with any of them, it was a meaningful experience for me and made me feel more comfortable about adjusting to Middlebury.

MiddView was great

I enjoyed it as a way to meet people and get off campus during the first week. However, I almost think that it would have been better as solely an outdoors trip for more uniformity of experience among students.

I had a great MiddView trip experience. I'm still friendly with folks from the trip.

I think that Middview is unfortunately too expensive to run. While I had a fun time, I can confidently say that there is nothing there I would do again. Furthermore, my college experience would be exactly the same had I not gone to that because I am not friends with anyone on my Middview trip.

Much Help in providing a support group in these tough first few days. Very Important

I really enjoyed my MiddView trip experience. I really enjoyed my MiddView trip. It was the intensive backpacking one. One of the major reasons I am at Middlebury is to do things like backpacking trips. I have thought multiple times about transferring. My middview is a constant reminder of why I am at Middlebury and love it.

It's fine but not necessary. I don't talk to anyone from my MiddView trip anymore

The trip was imperative to my transition and feeling of the Middlebury community.

My Middview Trip was fun but not integral to my transition process. However, I will say that having a shared experience with many other students was unique and it helped me to feel more a part of this campus at the time. At the same time, it’s hard for me to justify extra spending on Middview Trips instead of, say, increased financial aid, which is something I personally depend on to be able to go here.

I thought it was fun at the time but definitely not necessary and I didn't make any friends that I otherwise wouldn't have made. I wouldn't do it if it wasn't mandatory.

I absolutely LOVED my MiddView trip. It was laid back, relaxed, and friendly. We ended up finishing our activity (biking) earlier than anticipated everyday, because of how fast we were going. That left time for socializing, learning more about each other, and playing games.

My middview trip was important in my adjustment to life at Middlebury and feeling like the college had some connection with the surrounding community.

I don't think it made much of a long-term difference, but in the short-term, it helped me feel more acquainted with the campus and meet some new people.

I think it is crucial that they are mandatory, helping set a tone that athletes must engage with the community.

I think the midd view trips are a good concept however, the activities themselves do not need to be so expensive if the school is trying to save money by doing them. You could offer fewer options or make the groups a few people bigger and the trips would likely be the same.

Orientation was exhausting. Students need more down time. The midd view trips are just a way to get freshman off campus while upper class men arrive. Cute. But exhausting.

I really loved my MiddView. Though I don't really keep in contact with but a few people from my trip, the experience of having explored Vermont in ways I would not have even as a third year was really amazing.

I think it was overwhelming, as in I did not have enough time to rest. I still remember Tess as my leader and how cool she and Felix were. I became a trip leader after that, and it's certainly been a big part of my Midd experience. The trips are a big way I have gotten to know Vermont / gotten me off campus.

I was a Feb, so I did not participate in my FOO! trip. Having FOO! the first weekend is a terrible idea...students are overwhelmed by work, exhausted and do not want to miss weekend activities. I'm surprised anybody went at all.
It meant nothing to me.

I hated my MiddView trip- it was all athletes on my trip (I am also an athlete) and I found them all very unpleasant and was stranded with them. It also down-poured.

I look back on my trip very fondly. Made some life long friends. Got comfortable in this new environment. Got guidance from my leaders. Got to escape the move-in and orientation chaos.

My MiddView trip was the only positive moment of my orientation.

It helped because my trip leaders gave me SO much insight on Midd, and it was extremely helpful. I also made friends which was fun.

It was a wonderful experience but the Middview trip at the end of the orientation program made me very tired.

I never took a Middview trip (I'm a Feb) but I led a trip this year and I think it is an incredible program. My classes FOO trips were not mandatory, and to me it seemed like a lot of people wanted to stay on campus and go to a party on their first weekend at college. I thinking that since Middview is mandatory it brings everyone together on a level playing field with people they might not meet otherwise. Middview also shows incoming freshmen that everyone feels a bit vulnerable starting college and that to do so is totally normal. Lastly, I really noticed how my Middview group came into the program nervous and uncomfortable with each other. When we finished, however, they were the best friends that they had on campus. They also seemed to feel more relaxed about starting school. I love Middview!

I believe that the MiddView trips were a beneficial experience, but I found myself not viewing it as very helpful in creating meaningful relationships as I did not have much in common with the other students in my group.

I really enjoyed my MiddView trip and it proved a well-needed break from the overwhelming and anxiety-inducing orientation.

I took part on an Abe backpacking trip for my MiddView, and it was a wonderful experience. I got incredibly close with my group, and everything seemed to fit together to make the trip work for everybody. I hope everyone could have such a great experience; it was truly a wonderful way to become part of the Middlebury community.

It was my first experience backpacking and I fell in love. I can't afford to do trips all the time at home, so this was a great start to that aspect of my life.

The trip was a great way to get away from campus for a while, meet some new people and try new experiences.

My MiddView trip was a cool experience. It was nice to get outside and away from campus for a while after the orientation blitz. I wish I had a little more time before classes started though (as in we got back, had convocation, then classes started the next day).

The college wants to cut corners in their budget. There is no reason to cut MiddView.

I don't believe the trip had much of an impact on my transition. It was a fun couple of days, but I am not particularly close with anyone from my trip. In all honesty, I think I probably would have been more able to transition if I was on campus rather than in a mountain with 6 people. I believe the Middview trips should be optional.

I am a Feb so I didn't get to do MiddView and shouldn't have to pay for the school's mistakes with money.

personally it was helpful because it introduced me to organizations in the community I am still involved in

NEED MIDDVIEW TRIPS

It was nice to leave campus for a bit after the insane busyness of orientation. I did not make any friends on my trip, but it was an enjoyable experience for me. I got to try backpacking for the first time.

I loved my trip! It helped me meet people with whom I am still friends.

It was so great

I strongly believe that the middview orientation and trip were an essential part of my introduction to middlebury without a doubt.
I really enjoyed my trip experience. I felt really close to and comfortable with the other students in my group as well as my trip leaders, and it was really fun to be able to interact with strangers in that setting, distanced from the hectic and stressful nature of the rest of the orientation week.

Feb

It was interesting but ultimately I did not make lasting connections and it wasn't really necessary. If they want to cut it because of funding issues, maybe they should make it optional like other schools do?

I feel like Middview was a very valuable part of orientation. It was a way for freshmen of different dorms/social groups/experiences/sports teams to get to know each other and was also a reprieve for students during the street of orientation. I was a Middview leader this year and I really do think it is necessary for all students to go through. It allows them to meet upperclassmen and other freshmen while learning the values held by the Middlebury community before they start school.

I don't think midd view trips are necessary. They didn't have enough of a positive impact on me for me to want to advocate for keeping them.

I casually know people I met on my MiddView trip, and that has helped me have a slight anchor socially if the need arises. It also changed my perspective on the subject matter involved. I think it's necessary to have a trip that prompts you to think critically about what you see and experience, and to have it when you still have energy in the tank--that means having no more than two days of orientation events beforehand. When they blur together, you end up going into your trip tired.

Middview was my favorite part of orientation

One of my best experiences before entering Middlebury academic and social life altogether!

i loved middview

It was fine. It was a cool way to start the year, instead of just going right into the school year. The people were also cool, but I really talk to them after the trip. So I guess it was a good way to talk to people and start the year with having some social aspect.

I do not think it was overwhelmingly relevant to my first year it Middlebury. It was valuable to move into the dorms before classes began so as to meet my hall mates and make some friends. It was valuable to speak with my FYCs and older students about my worries, questions, etc. The MiddView trip was fun, in that I spent four days on the move getting to see Vermont. And while I do think it valuable to show new students the beautiful state that have just relocated to, the actual activity I did on the trip was less relevant.

It was a good experience, but it didn't feel like an essential part of my orientation, especially because, as a feb, it happened a few weeks later.

My trip was fun, but didn't have a lasting impact on my Middlebury experience

With all of the rushing around during orientation and the many different activities with different groups of people, I personally thought that the MiddView trips were the best part of orientation. They provided the opportunity to form better connections with fellow first-years and to get valuable practical advice from the trip leaders.

My Wilderness Middview trip was the most valuable part of orientation.

It was terrible.

I barely remember it. Glad I can say I backpacked but I also never tell people that I've backpacked so honestly, don't consider MiddView a very worthy experience. But maybe if I had chosen a different activity. My leaders were really cool!

I did a Foo trip. Only 3 other Febs went. If this trip were not on the first weekend, but instead before orientation, I believe there would be a lot more participation and the trip would be much better.

It was a fun trip, but I do not have much of a relationship with the other students on my trip or my leaders. It comes at the end of a long, exhausting week. It's a great opportunity to try something new free of charge, but if looking to cut costs it should be considered on the chopping block.
I haven't done a MiddView trip, but I did a FOO trip and enjoyed that.

I very much enjoyed my MiddView trip, which had to do with Food systems in Vermont. I am still close with the people and leaders from my trip, and I feel like the trip helped me get to know a side of the community (the farming community) that I would not have known otherwise.

Good way to really get to know a small group of people before being thrown back on campus.

I was a Feb/ could not participate.

I am a Feb so I never went on a Middview trip - you can disregard my answer above because I didn't experience staggered arrival of athletes and others but there was no option to indicate you are a Feb.

Middview and Midduncensored were the only aspects of orientation I enjoyed. All other activities were unnecessary. My middview peers are some of my closest friends.

I thought the trip was great.

I know almost no one who still actively engages with more than one or two people (MAXIMUM) who were on their MiddView trip, and I'm only a sophomore. It seems like they don't create lasting bonds, but they could if more resources were dedicated to bonding on the trip and reunions afterwards.

I think that MiddView trips are extremely helpful in transitioning into Midd life. I have learnt so much from my MiddView group. I am friends with all of them; not full-time friends but enough to grab a meal together and talk about things that could potentially bother me at Midd and life in general.

MiddView was nice but not an essential part of my transition to life at Middlebury. It was fun, and a good experience, but not friendships developed out of my MiddView trip.

GREAT GREAT GREAT- backpacking is the only way to go.

Crucial.

I think the MiddView trips were awesome programs, but I think perhaps too much money is being spent on them. If there were a way to have the mandatory programs but at a lower cost to the school that could be allocated to other funds, I think this would be extremely beneficial.

My Foo trip was cancelled due to weather. But I feel it important to mention that my orientation experience was amazing, but it was Feb orientation, and I realize that can be quite different! I also don't feel much affiliation with my Commons because of my Feb status.

I think it was very essential to my orientation experience. I made friendships I still have today and I really needed three days off campus doing something different to ground myself. I hope that Middview stays because it is one of the things that makes Middlebury unique and it helps students.

My trip experience was overwhelmingly negative, and left me feeling uncomfortable and waiting for it to end. I am not the sort of person who relishes the chance to be tossed into any situation with a group of strangers, and in my particular case those strangers and I ended up having little in common and less to say to each other. I suppose that perhaps that experience "built character" but if building character really justified that much discomfort, I would simply throw myself in a briar patch. To be fair, in retrospect I think I picked the wrong trip for me, and might have done better had I picked an activity that was more physical, so my discomfort was partially my own fault.

I liked MiddView.

I have not stayed in contact with anyone from my middview trip. I thought the relationships with the leaders were forced and not productive.

I was a transfer student so my experience was a little different. Overall great transition.

My experience was very positive, but I don't think it really helped with transitioning to life at Middlebury. It was just a fun experience.

I appreciated middview, it didn't change my world but it was helpful in integrating me into the campus/ community.

MiddView is amazing! I am a Feb so I did not get MiddView, but I have led a MiddView trip for the past two years.
and strongly believe that it is an important part of entering the Middlebury community. Please do not cut its funding!!!!

I loved middview. It was an integral part of my orientation process.

I loved my Middview trip and met a lot of difference people

MiddView should be free for all students

Best part of orientation. Still best friends with people I met on the trip.

I think it was a really great way of easing into meeting new people at the start of freshman year. It can be very overwhelming to meet so many people, but spending a concentrated amount of time with one group of people on a trip can help you connect with others on a deeper level. I also think it's fun to meet older students and know that they are there to support you throughout the first few weeks if you need them.

I think it's an important part of the orientation process

It was a great way to be introduced to Vermont!

I think it was a nice touch, but didn't drastically impact my transition to Middlebury.

You know, I really appreciated the trips. They gave me a space to really distance myself from my home life for a weekend and I think that positively impacted how much I called home/home friends/boyfriend at the time (as in, less). It forced me to become more a part of the community and helped me go out and make new friends, even if I didn't really open up much until the end of the trip. Yeah, I really appreciated it and its a really nice way to see Vermont.

I loved my middview trip. I feel middview is hit or miss

My middview trip was instrumental to my experience of transitioning to middlebury. My trip leader was incredible and served as an example for me for middlebury life, and two of my closest friends are still those that I met on my middview trip and probably would not have met otherwise. I do not think you should get rid of midd view. The only reason I had a negative orientation experience was because I was a fall athlete and very isolated/had difficulty attending orientation events. I felt nervous because I could not be around as much to participate in orientation and therefore felt left out of vital relationship building time.

It was a fun weekend, but I never saw those people again. Ultimately I would rather have spent that time with people from my hall or dorm so I could start building actual relationships. I think that head start would have made everyone's transitions easier.

Middview was very important to my transition into life at Midd. I became friends with my leaders and used them for advice often throughout my first year. I was able to meet people outside my normal circle and have an adventure that made me feel more at home in Vermont. I strongly support the SGA funding MiddView again.

Orientation week is ridiculously stressful and middview is necessary as a time to get to know new people away from the stress of campus. Whether you loved your trip or you hated it, almost everyone holds it as a crucial part of the Middlebury culture. It's a rite of passage.

It was a fun trip, made some friends, definitely a positive experience and a cool part of Middlebury's orientation. Seems especially good for non-fall athletes and non-int'l students to meet fall athletes and int'l students and for them (the athletes and int'l students) to break out of their teams/group of int'l students/

I believe that in order to be a strong Middlebury student one needs to understand the values of the Middlebury College community and harness those values while engaging in the community outside of Middlebury College . Therefore, I think that MiddView trips are extremely important because they expose Middlebury students to the context by which the Middlebury College is functioning, how the beauty and challenge of the mountains serve as a second home to the students and locals who desire the outdoors, where the food in our dining hall comes from and who is producing it, how the low temperatures effect community members who are below the poverty line ect. In addition, to the importance of soft and social knowledge that students learn from attending MiddView trips, I believe that they are equally as important for students who lead and organize them. As a MiddView leader, I
seriously value the medical, social and physical training that I gained in the weeks leading up to my trip. I believe that it’s very important that Middlebury equips students with the skills needed to safely lead a group of people into somewhat unknown territory. Through the challenges I faced while leading my MiddView trip, I learned to practice confidence, positivity, initiative, and trust in high stress situations. I believe that these soft skills are what make Middlebury students so effective and if we lost or down graded this program we will not only loose something essential to the relationship between Middlebury students and the surrounding community but we weaken the soft skill traits that are essential to the Middkid.

Don’t ever get rid of the Middview trips, although very few of the kids in my group became really good friends, it was a great opportunity to get to know people in a more intimate setting and on a deeper level

HAVE THEM!

I quite enjoyed my middview trip. The Middview trips gave an opportunity to meet people who weren’t in my commons or who weren’t on my sports team. It also gave us the opportunity to talk to leaders about Middlebury and ask questions before starting classes.

My trips experience was probably the single most valuable part of my orientation experience. To be honest everything else seemed like more of a waste of time. Being able to get off campus, and be mixed with a group of students from all over campus, as opposed to just people on your hall, is incredibly beneficial. In addition, it was so important for me to have leaders that were less formal and I felt like I could open up to about my worries and ask questions about things at Middlebury that I wouldn’t feel comfortable asking my FYCs, Dean, or CRA.

Though no one on my trip became a great friend, I do think I benifited from my MiddView trip. I got to see Addison County and engage in the local community. This began my relationship with the greater town of Middlebury, and I am very happy that I had this experience.

I loved my trip but it didn’t help me make friends it just provided me with a cool experience to talk about with other people I met

MiddView is an essential part of the orientation experience. It provides students with new friends, other than those that are in their freshman dorms. It also allows new students to get in touch with their new college environment around Middlebury, which is important since we all live here for 4 year. Additionally, being able to give back to MiddView by being a leader and showing new students Vermont is extremely satisfying and super fun! The MiddView program must be continued at Middlebury in the format that it is now, mandatory and free.

I felt that my middview trip was an amazing and formative experience. I think that was fairly unique because my middview group is still close and at least one of them became my current best friend. I don't know anyone who believes middview should be optional. I am not sure I would have done it if it were optional but I am so glad I did in hindsight.

I didn't like my trip.

I think the trips were a good way to get to know people in a smaller group and have mentors throughout the process. I definitely experienced/did something that was out of my comfort zone and something I still talk about today.

I think the MiddView trips were an interesting way to try to connect students, however, I did not particularly enjoy mine. I'm not close or friendly with really any of my tripmates anymore. I think there is a better, less expensive way to connect students during orientation. Maybe Middview could be transformed into a day trip experience instead of an overnight experience.

I think that the trips are valuable and allow students to connect with people beyond their commons. It also introduces them to an older student.

I enjoyed my trips experience, although I did not feel it was particularly vital or memorable looking back on other memories made at Middlebury. It was also a bit exhausting coming off a week of orientation and it seemed like I was being whipped around left and right before being thrown into my first week of classes.

Have never talked to the people or my leaders since. no contact after trip

It helped me get to know people in other commons and extend my friend group!!
My experience with MiddView was definitely an important part of my transition to life at Middlebury. It was a chance to meet my new peers on a positive and equal footing while doing a series of fun and interesting activities.

MiddView helped me get to know people I otherwise wouldn't.

Middview was awesome. Without Middview orientation would have really sucked. The trips program was pretty much the only highlight of orientation for many of us. It should be extended.

It was good for the first month but I don't think it's necessary

Some people I guess really love MiddView -- I don't think it's really necessary. I think people have been making friends at college since college existed, and the Commons system itself is a good way of building community. In all honesty I think MiddView overhypes its importance; it doesn't hurt, really, but it doesn't add anything to the college experience and creates an odd temporary social climate that quickly dissipates when people begin to find friends through other methods.

The trips program was the ONLY worthwhile aspect of transitioning to Middlebury during orientation week. IT MUST BE FUNDED IN FULL! Even try extending it!

It was nice to have a smaller group and get to know Vermont. I'd like to think that there are more cost effective ways to do these trips, perhaps day trips, volunteering, etc.

i really like middview trips because my leaders were super nice and funny, and made us comfortable and gave us very good advice

My Middview trip was an incredibly important aspect of my orientation to Middlebury. It helped me so much and I loved bonding with people and exploring Vermont. As a leader this year it was still incredibly valuable and all of my freshmen had positive things to say about it. I love Middview trips

I'm a feb, but my.foo trip was fun. I am still friends with the people I went with, but I was friendly with them before and the experience was not catalytic in the friendship. It was definitely an experience I was fine paying for.

I am not really still friends with anyone I met on my trip, but it was a nice, easy, relaxing time that allowed people to hang out in a low stress environment, and at the least provided good talking points when we all got back to campus.

I loved my outdoor backpacking trip. I unfortunately haven't kept in touch with just about all members of that trip.

As a feb I thought that MiddView was entirely unnecessary, and I know that that opinion is not unique to me at all: many febs in my class chose not to go on MiddView because the feb orientation program was so strong that they just wanted to be on campus for their first weekend here.

Orientations was long, boring, and full of unnecessary things. The only part of it that was worthwhile was MiddView. Please don't take it away.

I didn't go on a MiddView trip after an exhausting (both emotionally and physically) orientation, and upon the other students' return definitely felt excluded and less-than for not going, but I do not believe I could have physically made it on the trips.

The trips were a fantastic way to get to know people on a less superficial level

My MiiView trip was one of he coolest things I've ever done and it was definitely the best part of my orientation. I met my 2 best friends on it and 4 years later we're still best friends!

Didn't make any best friends at Middview but it was still fun

I very much enjoyed my middview trip experience. It was a great way to start off my first year. I have led trips for two years because of it.

MiddView was the best part of my orientation experience. It was a nice time to get to know a few people more and not feel pressured to do everything. I think this experience can vary between trips and can depend on the leaders and group members, because when I led my own trip it was hard to recreate the same experience.

MiddView trips are incredibly important! The presence of upperclassmen leaders on campus helps welcome first years to the community, and trips provide a way to connect with other students for more than a short activity period and to have real conversations. Plus, as the outdoors are a big part of student life at Midd, but outdoor spaces are historically exclusive towards many, MiddView WE trips are a great intro to the outdoors for all. I had very positive experiences on my trip and as a leader. DON'T CUT MIDDVIEW FUNDING!! And if you do, tell us where
the money is going! We still pay an activities fee, right??

MiddView trips were the best part of the orientation process - they provided a much needed breather from the stress of the rest of orientation. It was especially helpful to step back from Middlebury right before the start of classes. It was also very helpful as an incoming first-year as I oriented myself to the area surrounding the college. However, there could definitely have been improvements to the trips: there was definitely a disconnect between the student athletes, international students and domestic students on the trips however. The separate groups tended to cluster together, which didn't much help the overall group dynamic.

Awesome experience! Helped me acclimate a lot to middlebury and make me feel like it is home.

MiddView trips are an extremely important part of orientation. I think that its budget should be held constant.

I didn't like how I had to miss my first game for midd view

It was amazing and the highlight of my orientation. I've heard word that funding is low, I hope the SGA ends up donating some funds to it!

I think the trips portion of orientation was INCREDIBLY beneficial to my time at Middlebury! I am still close friends with one person from my trip and I am still friendly with many others.

My Middview trip (focusing on medical volunteering) was easily the most enriching and helpful part of my transition to Middlebury

I didn't become very close to any of the people on my trip but it was a super positive experience. I'm glad I had the opportunity to go on my trip and I had a ton of fun while getting to see some really beautiful parts of Vermont (I did day hiking in the Northeast Kingdom).

Please consolidate this program into larger groups. My MiddView experience was socially isolating because of the small group size. It was also disorienting to leave campus for a weekend after having just arrived.

Orientation was a waste of time and funds. It should be much shorter (why do we need a whole week?!?) with fewer activities.

Orientation is so jam-packed with events that it became stressful for me. I also did not like packing for my MiddView trip so soon after arriving at college.

Keep Middview, Midd. It allowed me to go hiking free at cost for the first time in my life. Hiking is an experience I believe is associated with upper class white people. It was amazing being able to be involved in the activity.

As a current senior who led a MiddView trip this past orientation week, I reflected a lot on my own MiddView experience and I think it was extremely valuable to me. I met people that I would not have known otherwise for a long time at Middlebury, and I got to know them in a much deeper way than the surface-level interactions that make up most of orientation week. I also got to know some upperclassmen students (especially my 3 leaders) who turned out to be valuable student resources to me. I absolutely feel that my MiddView trip helped me transition to life at Middlebury.

Wasn't sure what the purpose of the trip was to be honest so can't say for sure whether it met its goal or not, but I personally did not enjoy my trip and thought it was a waste of time.

I think the trips were the best part of orientation.

My MiddView trip was a fantastic introduction to the area around Middlebury, and a way to get to know different people. I appreciated it, but would have enjoyed some JusTalks-esque social justice work incorporated into those trips/orientation at large.

Great to have more people to know in the dining halls and walking around...did not have as much lasting impact in terms of friendships for me, but I still remember parts of it frequently!

I lead MiddView for 3 years. It was a great experience for me as a leader, and hopefully a great experience for the participant. Even if people don't get a ton out of it, it's still nice to spend time after orientation with a small group. Making it optional takes away the magic of it.

While my experience was very good, I find it is very dependent on the leaders and trip taken.

I'm a feb -- I didn't get a MiddView trip.
MiddView definitely gave me the opportunity to start meeting new people & getting to know their interest. Overall an amazing and imperative experience for freshmen.

I think my MiddView trip was definitely the most positive part of my orientation to the college, and I think it is awesome that everyone had to participate. I still say hi in passing to everyone who was on my trip with me, which I think is a really cool thing.

Middview was an important way to start to integrate into the vermont context and social life at Midd, I don't think it would have been that way if it was only available to some students. It is important to me that Middview is a part of every student's orientation experience

I loved the midd view trip program and it is an excellent way to actually get to know people

I'm a senior now at Middlebury, and I transferred from another school after my freshman year there. My previous school had an orientation program similar to MOO and OINK, in that it was fee-based, only a certain number of students participated, and each program was very separate (wilderness, community, etc.) Although I was lucky enough to participate in a wilderness/hiking trip, I found that this system socially stratified the campus before students even started classes. Only those that were able to afford to participate could, and the nature of each program determined who participated in it - orientation determined social groups as the "outdoorsy" people, the "community" people etc. etc. With that in mind, as I transferred to Middlebury I was eager to see how the college organized orientation. I was thrilled that everyone (even transfer and exchange students!) got to participate and got to participate on an equal level. To me, MiddView became an equalizing force that provided a common experience for all first years, allowed them to take a breather from the rigors of on-campus orientation to connect with peers in a new way.

While I am no longer that close with the people on my MiddView trip, going hiking and camping and learning about Midd in that setting was a fantastic way to transition into college life. I am very supportive of those trips.

Enjoyed it. Think it was valuable.

I loved my trip even though I did not get my first choice. It was great to have a group of friends to know from the start and ease into life in and around Middlebury. I think it is especially necessary for a variety of friend groups to be made throughout the time at Midd.

My middview trip was incredibly important to me because I had spent most of orientation week feeling relatively alone, isolated, and inept at making friends. My middview trip allowed me to finally feel connected to other students and feel less stressed than I had during orientation week. It was also really wonderful because our group was able to be out on a farm- weeding, milking cows, planting cover crops, etc, and all of that was therapeutic and allowed us to get to know one another. I still say hi to the people who were on my middview trip even though we only spent three days together five months ago.

I was on the yoga trip that stayed in Breadloaf. It was really nice, relaxing, and gave me time to get to know my group and hang out and talk! A good break from a busy week of orientation

MiddView did not have a lasting impact on me, I met some people, I say hi to two of them now and that's it.

Middview trips were definitely, and still remain one of the integral parts of my Middlebury experience to date, and my trip (WE Abe Backpacking) did help me transition to life at Midd. I was a Middview leader last year, and that experience was also rewarding.

The experience is great! At best when it functions as it was intended, you get closer to a number of students with similar interests; at worst, you get to travel to a space outside of campus before having to do the bulk of schoolwork.

I really appreciated having the experience after registration and having older students that I felt connected to on campus and could reach out to.

I loved my back packing trip. It allowed me experience something I usually would not due in a well-led and organized environment.

Coming to college was quite nerve-racking, and MiddView allowed us time to relax and get to know other people while doing something that we enjoyed. I think it had a positive impact on my transition.

My trip could have been planned and managed better. I think MiddView trips are very important but could be better
developed. Trip leaders could be better selected/trained. (Though this is only based on my experience!)

The trips were a valuable part of my transition to Middlebury, however they did not have a first generation orientation the year I started. The past year there was one, and I believe this is absolutely crucial for these students. Having a support system for those who do not receive support from there family can have a extremely positive impact on one's transition.

I think the trips are a valuable experience - they do not create lasting friendships but create a more comfortable atmosphere for the short term period after arriving at school.

I loved my trip and made amazing friends that I am still close to today. It is one of my favorite things about Middlebury and I hope it stays!

I thought my trip played a huge part in making me feel like a welcome member of the community. My leaders were wonderful people and very helpful, and I still am friendly with all the member of my Middview trip. It was also a great opportunity to appreciate the surrounding area.

I liked my MiddView trip a lot because I met people with common interests outside of my Commons, people I still talk with today as a senior. It also enabled me to meet upperclassmen, the leaders, that also became friends of mine and support systems for later on down the road. It was good to get off campus and explore Vermont, and particularly for inner-city students I think seeing rural Vermont and what it has to offer in terms of outdoors/cultural points is also important. It can be easy to get stuck in the Middlebury bubble and I think MiddView trips work to burst that bubble a bit, at least it did for me. I think Midd should keep them as a free service to students.

I enjoyed my trip but there was no follow up. I am not friends with anyone from my trip now.

Middview was a critical part of my orientation experience and should be a part of the program in years to come.

I thought it was a valuable experience that helped me form friendships and get away after international orientation which was quite helpful.

I really enjoyed my MiddView trip and am still close with many of my other trip members and my trip leaders.

I loved my MiddView trip. I think that without it I would have felt very lost my first few weeks at Midd.

I had a really awful MiddView trip.

I believe that MiddView was the best part of orientation, but, on the whole, orientation was an awful experience for me because it prevented me from settling in and starting a routine on campus.

I love MiddView. I was in the first freshman class where it was required / available for all students and then proceeded to lead trips for the next 3 years. The trips are where incoming first years get a glimpse of how genuine and supportive relationships can actually be at Middlebury (not just, where are you from, what's your dorm, what's your FYSE?) It's absurd that the best part of orientation isn't being funded by the school itself and the cost may have to come out of the SGA's reserves and/or be incurred onto the students themselves. With a school that advertises itself on being able to form a strong community, it's quite hypocritical to threaten the continuation of one of the first experiences first years have of this strong community.

Bonded with a swath of students with whom I would have never spoken to, otherwise. Cross-section of the distinct members of Midd community, united by a commonality--essential!!

I have been a MiddView leader twice as well as a participant and I feel like it is a very valuable program that is probably the single most important event that happens during middlebury orientation. As a participant, this was the first time that I began to truly feel connected and a part of this campus and it was one of the only opportunities we had during orientation to connect with people on a deeper level. I also think it is really important that this part of orientation remains free and required for all students. By having students pay we would be limiting who would be able to participate and reducing the diversity. The same goes for making it required. I've heard there are currently financial difficulties with keeping Middview running, but I must stress that if anything should go, it should be other parts of orientation and not MiddView trips.

it was fine but maybe not worth the money the school puts into it. that is, the cost is not equal to the benefit gained from having it
MiddView was a way for me to expand the number of people I knew on campus who weren't necessarily in my classes or in my commons. Without MiddView I can guarantee that I would not have met most of the people on my trip nor would I have become friends with them. I'm not sure I would have had a decreased amount of stress about starting college if I also didn't have that time away from campus to decompress from the intensity and vibrance of on-campus orientation.

I am a Feb so I did not get middview. Foo was great though.

My Middview trip was the only stable thing I had in my first two weeks at college. I had never before experienced a collegiate environment before (boarding/day school) and my comfort after Middview was much more positive than the few days before.

I think the trips program is integral to orientation. It was the first time during orientation that I got to actually have a conversation with people beyond what is your name and where are you from and unwind before heading into my first year of college. I have been a trips leader for the past two years, and I have seen first years relax and enjoy themselves after a hectic week. It has also proved a good time for first years to ask questions of upperclassmen in a more relaxed setting.

Even though I did like my trip I think it was isolating. By this I mean I got to see Breadloaf, which was nice, but I didn't necessarily make lasting connection with anyone at the trip. If anything I feel that these trips could be something that people can sign up to voluntarily not mandatory. And instead make more on campus events available.

The middview trios were awesome. By far the best part of the week next to the square dance.

Didn't attend FOO and thought it was not inclusive because we had to pay to sign up. Would have loved opportunity to do a non outdoors Feb orientation trip.

Middview trips helped me feel like a part of a community outside of my New York bubble for the first time. The fact that it was free for everyone made it less worrisome.

I personally liked middview. Gave me a way to connect to Middlebury in a different way and meet new people.

I'm a Feb so I didn't have midview. Foo was fun, though.

The trip itself was fun, but I didn't really connect with anyone on the trip and it hasn't encouraged me to continue exploring the outdoors. (My outdoorsy friends have, though.)

It was terrible awkward and forced.

I really did not want to participate on mine.

I found middview and orientation overwhelming. Those were not the spaces where I found it easy to make friends because there were so many people around and you had to be overly social.

It's a good program and you should keep it.

I think it was nice. There are some people I would have never gotten the chance to talk to if I had not been part of the trip.

I think my trip was fun but there was no conversation afterwards and I didn't feel like I had formed a relationship with my trip leaders (I actually forgot one of their names!). As far as the orientation week prior to, I think it was too many things all at once with a huge gathering of students that didn't allow for more bonding and conversation. Perhaps something like justalks right in the beginning would be great (midduncensored felt like too big of a group).

Did not go.

Middview trips are a great idea - but there is little to no continuity afterward. Middview trips could provide an instant community for freshman if the group continued to meet afterward in some way, check in, and do non-academic things together. FYSSs are a great resource for freshman, but it is difficult to form the sort of community Middlebury needs in a strictly academic setting.

I met a lot of nice people who I never saw again. I don't really know what administration could conceivably do about this.
I think they are a really essential and beneficial part of your trip because orientation as a whole is super overwhelming with all the people you meet and new names and faces, so I think it’s nice to get away from all the craziness of MiddView and be with a more intimate group of people and meet peers in a more relaxed way. Hopefully the College doesn’t nix this program as a way to lower budget deficit like they’re doing with other parts of Midd like CRA position, meal plans, etc. >:(

I happened to have a bad experience on my middview trip - great leaders but very unfriendly and disinterested fellow students - sadly. however, the international arrival was wonderful and I have made friends there who I have known continually since.

I enjoyed having a MiddView trip. Even if it was not the most fun thing I had ever done, it was a good point of bonding during the beginning of freshman year and helped me get acquainted with the community.

It was nice to meet people, I made some good friends. It was also nice to spend time with the same people for an extended period of time.

It was interesting in content and helped me to get to know some new friends, but it was tightly scheduled and exhausting.

It was great but no follow up. It's a great way to just do something fun and take your mind off of all the stresses that you feel at Midd.

I am still very close friends with one of my class mates that i met on midd view. In the past two years we have travelled to South America and i don't know if we would have become friends otherwise during freshmen year. I think that is an exception though, as i am no longer close with anyone from midd view or orientation

I think the trips make it easier for student-athletes to meet students that do not participate in varsity sports at Middlebury, which I find to be an important part of orientation.

I was sick during MiddView so I couldn't go on my MiddView trip. I didn't feel like that impacted my experience and my transition to college, but I know that a lot of people thought their MiddView trips were really great ways to start college. I didn't enjoy the rest of orientation because there was a big divide between the athletes and the non-athletes in my hall, and there was too much empty time with not a lot going on.

Getting stuck with your group for the first weekend at midd can be such a terrible experience especially if you do not like the group or if you do not bond with anyone there. It kills the benefit of the entire generation being together and people finding those who they like.

Loved my trip. Please keep MiddView.

I feel like it was very valuable and helpful for my adjustment to the new location and the different kind of diversity of students here.

I loved the experience even though I did not love my group. I think it is a great idea because students can do something totally new to them(or not) and meet a few people so they know a few people once school starts.

I was so busy with all the mandatory trainings during orientation week I felt like I didn’t have time to fully prepare before classes started. Also, the middview trips were fun at the time but didn't have a lasting impact on me.

These trips served as a nice way to meet other freshmen who were in different circles / arrived on campus at different times (ex. sports, international, etc.). I would make them very highly recommended instead of mandatory. I don't think this change would significantly affect participation, since most freshmen are eager to get on campus and meet other students, but it would offer some flexibility to those who are constrained by travel, costs, and/or other obligations.

I thought it was fun, and I really enjoyed it.

Still friends with the people I went with on my MiddView trip. Thought it was good.

For my MiddView trip, I went on a canoeing/camping trip and lemme just say that it was THE BEST PART OF ORIENTATION. I think it’s really cool that Middlebury offers these trips because they provide a chance to destress from orientation with a smaller group of students. Plus, a lot of kids never had the chance to experience what MiddView trips can offer, and I really appreciated the opportunity. I know that MiddView trips is struggling financially, but I think it is a necessary part of Orientation at the least. In fact, the week of Orientation itself was kind of long. I wouldn't mind if some of the Orientation budget was cut and given to MiddView trips instead. My
MiddView trip will always be one of my favorite college experience, hands down.

I did not participate in Trips my year; it was optional and was also pay out-of-pocket for each student.

fun but not effective in building relationships - at least my trip wasn't

It was a key part of my middlebury experience and it helped shape all 4 years here.

It was great as a freshman, and while I am not friends with my trip members, it was a great introduction to Midd and I learned a lot about the College from my leaders.

PLEASE keep trips. They are integral to the success of the college adjustment period. I have been a leader and a participant and have seen how it has affected me and others in great ways.

My MiddView trip was a great bonding experience, and the friends I made on my trip are among my closest friends at Middlebury. I felt as though the experience of mutual discomfort allowed all of us to engage in deep conversations and to support one another while addressing difficult topics. I'm still connected to one of the farms that we visited on our trip. MiddView helped me create lasting friendships and connections outside of Middlebury.

MiddView Trips were an essential component of the orientation experience. It is imperative that they remain the cornerstone of a student's first week at Middlebury. They reveal the boundless opportunities to become engaged in Vermont and facilitate interaction with new people.

The Middview trip was probably the most important aspect of orientation for me. My class had a day off before classes started after the trip though, which I think was important in making the trips a success.

I liked my MiddView experience because it was cool to go on a hiking trip. BUT the administration is delusional and blinded if they truly believe MiddView trips bring people from different backgrounds together. They don't! People of different backgrounds may physically be in the same space or on the same trip, but they don't interact with each other.

Middview is an important experience because it's where I met people outside my commons and also participated in an activity I never thought I'd be doing. It's allowed me to feel more confident in doing more nature activities.

My MiddView trip was by far the best part of orientation. It was actually the only part that I enjoyed.

This survey is geared toward Regs and I, for one, do not appreciate it. But Feb Orientation and FOO were pretty dope. Be pretty cool if the commons could figure out how to be useful/supportive/actually there for Febs though. K thanks.

MiddView trips were a great introduction/transition to Middlebury. I stayed in touch with a few people from my trip, and I'm still friends with two of them now (1.5 years later).

It was terrible.

MiddView trips were a great introduction/transition to Middlebury. I stayed in touch with a few people from my trip, and I'm still friends with two of them now (1.5 years later).

It was fun but not necessary to my transition to college.

I think that middview trips are the most important aspect of orientation. Though I am currently friends with none of the people that I took that trip with, it was a fun and exciting way to meet people and make connections with students from all parts of campus. The rest of orientation is very commons specific and middview trips helped push students outside of the confines of their commons. More importantly, they're just a lot of fun.

Although it didn't help much with my transition, it was very great to have an opportunity to do something that I don't get the privilege to do at home.

It was nice to know some people in a group, but I did not like the trip I was in. Also my group did not stay in contact so we just shifted so I felt isolated when no community was formed.

It wasn't essential to my orientation experience. The week of getting to know the people on my hall before the rush of classes began was more imperative than the 3 day trips we had.

My MiddView trip had a huge impact on my college career, but I'd guess this is unusual. I happened to have met my entire group of friends through a friend I made on my trip. One of my friends found her major through one of our trip leaders. Additionally, MiddView trips were the only part of orientation that was not miserable for me. While I think the trips program was great for me, I think many people came away from it with more neutral feelings, not having made great friends. Ultimately, I don't know if it's worth allocating the SGA budget towards it. Don't get me
wrong, I think it's a great program, but budget cuts aren't going to be easy, no matter where they come from. I'd rather the trips get cut than student organization funding, I think this could have a far greater impact on student lives than cutting the trips.

I loved my MiddView trip and feel that it set a nice stage for what I wanted in college and love about Middlebury. It was so great to explore Vermont and fall in love with it before starting school. It gave me a set of friendly faces to see on campus and a topic of discussion for new people I met. My MiddView trip was really important for transitioning into life at Middlebury.

I think the trips program is integral to starting Middlebury and very valuable.

The staggered arrivals of athletes and international students is detrimental to student relationship building, particularly for first years. After the first year, staggered arrival is good, but as someone who arrived early, it was difficult to assimilate with international students who'd had extra time together and with regular arrival domestic students because of preseason.

I don't think I gained much from the MiddView trips

Midd View trips were a unique way to bond with a small group of students, and they were a fun way to explore Middlebury/the surrounding area.

The FOO trip did not do much for me in terms of community-building, but my night on the top of Mt. Mansfield in February did freeze me half to death.

MiddView was entirely unnecessary in my opinion. Fun but not needed, especially at what it costs.

MiddView was an overall good experience for me. I was a MiddView leader last year, and I felt a lot of responsibility in creating a cohesive community amongst my participants. Good leaders --> good MiddView experience.

It was very interesting but was my first taste of the general student body (and in this case dislike of the general student body). The trip was fun was I probably just did not meet a group of people I was comfortable with.

The trips were good I thought.

The trip itself was okay; however, I didn't get a chance to create strong relationships from it. It didn't leave a lasting impression of what the Middlebury community had to offer.

I think MiddView is bullshit because I am a Feb and therefore MiddView was not something that I had the chance to partake in. FOO trips, the Feb alternative to a free and mandatory MiddView trip, cost $75 and often times not everybody goes on them. This was something that I was really mad about at first, since I felt that it was a form of inequality between the regs and febs (mainly since the febs had to pay for an experience that was an integral part of every reg orientation). But once I got over that, I realized that I had so much fun during my orientation process that I didn't need to go on one of the FOO/MiddView trips. I felt like I had already made friends, I already had things that I could've been doing, and I already felt a part of the community here at Midd without going on one of those trips. I know that the SGA is struggling with funding right now for MiddView, and I think that instead of taking money from other groups and organizations to continue on this reg-only privilege and tradition, they should just work to make reg orientation more welcoming, community building, and special so that the students won't feel like they need that extra experience to have a good time.

Middview is the single most important part of orientation. Everything else was largely useless.

While it was interesting in that I got to see aspects of Vermont Media that interest me, I can definitely say I was in the minority.

I wouldn't consider myself "older" as I'm a freshman, but I have discussed MiddView with sophomores and upperclassmen before and I find that my opinion is similar to theirs: While MiddView was a great deal of fun and maybe helped the transition into college, it could be done away with and life would go on. It would free up money to be used in clubs and other parts of Middlebury. One catch is that it would be unfortunate for locals who receive money from MiddView.

It was the only beneficial part of Middview for me, however after leading Middview twice, I have seen that this is
not always the case.

I wish they paid for my FOO trip

I certainly enjoyed my MiddView trip and look back at it fondly, although none of the relationships made on the trip were lasting. It did provide a nice transition into college, although it never felt vital, just a nice addition. I would not have done it if it wasn't mandatory and was not excited about it at all. Nevertheless, I have made a friend or two that I would not have met otherwise.

As an athlete, the middview experience was largely negative. Orientation was a huge burden during an already tught pre season schedule, and the trip added stress and exhaustion.

I did not like my MiddView trip. I thought the transition to college was difficult enough, and then I was thrown into the woods with people who were not really welcoming. I found it an awkward and unnecessary experience.

The middview trip was fantastic! I do think that the other time spent on campus before classes went on a tad long. Its nice to get to know some other people that you'll most likely never be friends with. And backpacking is fun. I guess if there are ways to reduce the expense that would be great. If it exists, it should not be optional for a fee. But my guess is that there are a few really expensive trips.

I think it is a valuable college experience and it definitely was a wonderful way to start college.

MiddView was my favorite part of orientation by far, it was the first time I felt like I was able to get to know people beyond the typical "what's your name, where are you from, where do you live, what seminar are you in," it was just a really refreshing and beneficial experience.

I really enjoyed my middview trip and it definitely helped me adjust to life at Midd. That said, I'm not really close with any of the students on my trip. I would still recommend having something similar even if they decide to do away with middview - even the chance to go to breadloaf, get off-campus, and talk to older students was crucial.

It's great and it should be funded by the college and continue to exist in its current form. Don't let mismanagement of the college budget lead to cutting this program.

I thought the MiddView trip was a great way to experience Vermont, especially for people who are not familiar with the area, and to get to know a few people in our grade very closely for a weekend. Can I say those relationships have lasted? Maybe 1 or 2 have, but I feel like that wasn't the point. We did something fun that was new or interesting to me, and I learned a lot about the local climate around Middlebury and I think it was worthwhile. It was a funny experience to look back on and smile about, even if it didn't go perfectly. I think it's a great introduction into the active atmosphere of Middlebury and should be kept a part of MiddView.

I loved my middview trip, it made me much more comfortable in my surroundings and I got to experience a backpacking trip that I wouldn't be able to experience otherwise.

Vital to the Middlebury experience, and needs to remain 'free' to remain this way. If you enduce a fee, then students who have the ability to pay may chose not to, which would be a loss. College needs to make this experience a priority, regardless of cost. From my point of view, orientation could/should be expanded to last longer than just 1 week. Too crammed.

It was fine, but I only remember one person, and I don't really know how helpful it was. It was nice to have people to talk to for the beginning though.

MiddView was an incredibly important experience during the hectic week of orientation. I did a wilderness trip, and the ability to get off campus and into the woods made the chaotic transition easier. I still consider myself to be friendly with many students that were in my trip and I am thankful for the opportunity.

I was overall satisfied with the experience. That being said, the second night, when our tents flooded, it would have been a lot nicer to yield to the popular vote and return to campus rather than sleeping in soggy tents.

The trips program is easily one of the most important parts of Middlebury, point blank. I know the school is trying to defund it, and that's absurd.
Definitely helped me transition!!!! It was a smooth transition.

It was great. Challenging, but it was a nice break before classes and after a long week full of informational sections.

There was a lot of downtime during orientation

I think this program is absolutely crucial in orientation. Almost all colleges offer some form of overnight trip/activity. It is embarrassing to me that the college is unwilling to financially provide for such a necessary experience for incoming first years. It definitely helped me shape my orientation week and expanded my social circle outside of my commons.

MiddView was great - not an essential part of my college experience but I am glad to have done it

It was very helpful in my transition. It made me aware of some resources available, like the outdoor gear room.

My MiddView trip was AMAZING. My group STILL has reunions all the time, and we are all best friends. MiddView really made my transition into college so much less intimdating. Because now there was at least a group of people that I could “fall back” on so that I wouldn't be alone during meals or activities. My trip changed my life and I am so, so grateful for it.

I think that the staggered arrival, although beneficial in creating initial friend groups, leads to an exclusive sense of a community where you are less likely to build strong relationships with others.

they are essential to the orientation experience. it was the first time i had had a real conversation in a week.

I really enjoyed my MiddView trip and felt like it gave a me a group of people I knew well, even though I didn't happen to maintain friendships with most of them. It felt great to be off campus and focused only on the trip's activities between the stress of moving to college and the stress of starting classes.

I think it's hit or miss with your trips group, but I think that the experience of being off campus for 2 days before you come back for classes is crucial. It gives you time to think about what you're about to begin and hopefully gives you a group to connect with that is different from the friend group you will end up in at Middlebury. Basically, keep MiddView. It's important.

I've been a MiddView leader for two years now and planning on three, assuming everything works out. I don’t have many opinions on how exactly these trips should be funded, but I do think that they are an extremely important part of each first year's experience. As for me, it’s probably been my favorite part of being at Middlebury, both for myself and how I’ve grown because of them, but also how I've seen people grow on the trips. I know that not every trip is always successful for everyone, but I think by not funding the program, we would be getting rid of something that changes the way first years and returning students view Middlebury. I don’t know about everyone involved, but for some of my friends that have been leaders and me, MiddView trips have provided us with a completely different perspective of Middlebury, one that is positive rather than stressful and discouraging, as the school can often become during the semester. I don’t think that orientation week without MiddView trips would be successful in making the first years feel comfortable with being in this place. I just wanted to share how much it’s meant to me and to all of the students that I’ve gotten to know through the program.

I am a feb and went on a FOO volunteer trip. I don't know that it had much of an effect on my transition

It helped me get off campus and meet new people. Now, a year later I've started to reconnect with people I was on the trip with.

I think the trips are an incredibly valuable experience precisely because everyone has to go on one. I think it helps a lot of students to meet at least a couple upperclassmen ~ and the midd view leaders do a great job of demonstrating comfort in their own skin, which I think first-years can be comforted by. Plus the trips show off Vermont, which is amazing.

i enjoyed it, the trips program made the transition smoother

It was really rather unpleasant for me. I learned a lot, but it also meant I was already exhausted going into my first week of classes. The sleep away portion of it just isn't necessary unless you're doing an outdoor trip. The emphasis on outdoorsiness is also rather obnoxious.
I did not participate in Middview

I loved MiddView! It encouraged me to continue meeting new people. I wish there were a senior MiddView

WE NEED MIDDVIEW FOR FREE FOR EVERYONE IT IS ESSENTIAL AND UNIQUE

The trip was the best part because it was time away from campus with a focused group you could get to know well. The rest of the Middview week can be overwhelming and you only meet people for a short period of time.

It was really really valuable to me as it was really special to share an experience with 8-10 people after such a busy and chaotic orientation. That being said, it seems unnecessary for Middlebury to spend so much money on some of the trips as the program could be just as valuable and special if they were all wilderness experiences (of a range of skill level)

It was fun, but I didn't feel like my leaders really emphasized a connection between us and we all felt awkward.

The MiddView trip did nothing to help me make connections with the people on my trip (I do not continue to interact with them whatsoever) and all in all felt like a waste of time and money. The money should go to on campus activities or needs. I would have been fine, perhaps even happier, if I had not been on the Middview trip during orientation. Orientation was all-around awful.

MIDDIVEW IS SO SO IMPORTANT! I was incredibly nervous coming to college, and still unsure if Middlebury was the right school for me even in the upcoming days of moving in. My MiddView trip made me realize Midd and Vermont at large were where I wanted to be the next four years. Leading a trip was just as rewarding. Coming back to campus early helped me transition into my sophomore year and it was an amazing way to meet new, like-minded people, just like I did on my own MiddView trip. Midd is special because its orientation trips are mandatory, which I think is incredibly necessary.

Maybe make the trips optional. I think the people who wanted to be there got something out of it but not others

I felt Middview Trips were the best part of orientation. They helped me find friends at the beginning, learn from the leaders, and when I got back to campus it felt more like home.

I don't think MiddView is a magical time when rich white athletes befriend impoverished immigrants and they respect each other forever. Rome wasn't built in a day. Life experience is what changes people's paradigms.

As a Feb, I did not participate in MiddView. I believe that my transition to college through orientation alone was sufficient.

I wish the trip had been optional. I did not find it helpful as a transition; it merely delayed full involvement in the College community.

I loved my orientation trip, and made some really great friends that continue to be some of my closest today. It was also a great way to be involved in the community of Middlebury, and to meet other students in my class, as well as upper class men.

Coming from high school abroad, I was anxious about entering a new environment at Midd. The MiddView trips immediately made me feel at home and I enjoyed it thoroughly.