

Have you ever felt this? →



Awe is a complex emotion composed of an appraisal of vastness and a need for accommodation [1]

**Abstract**

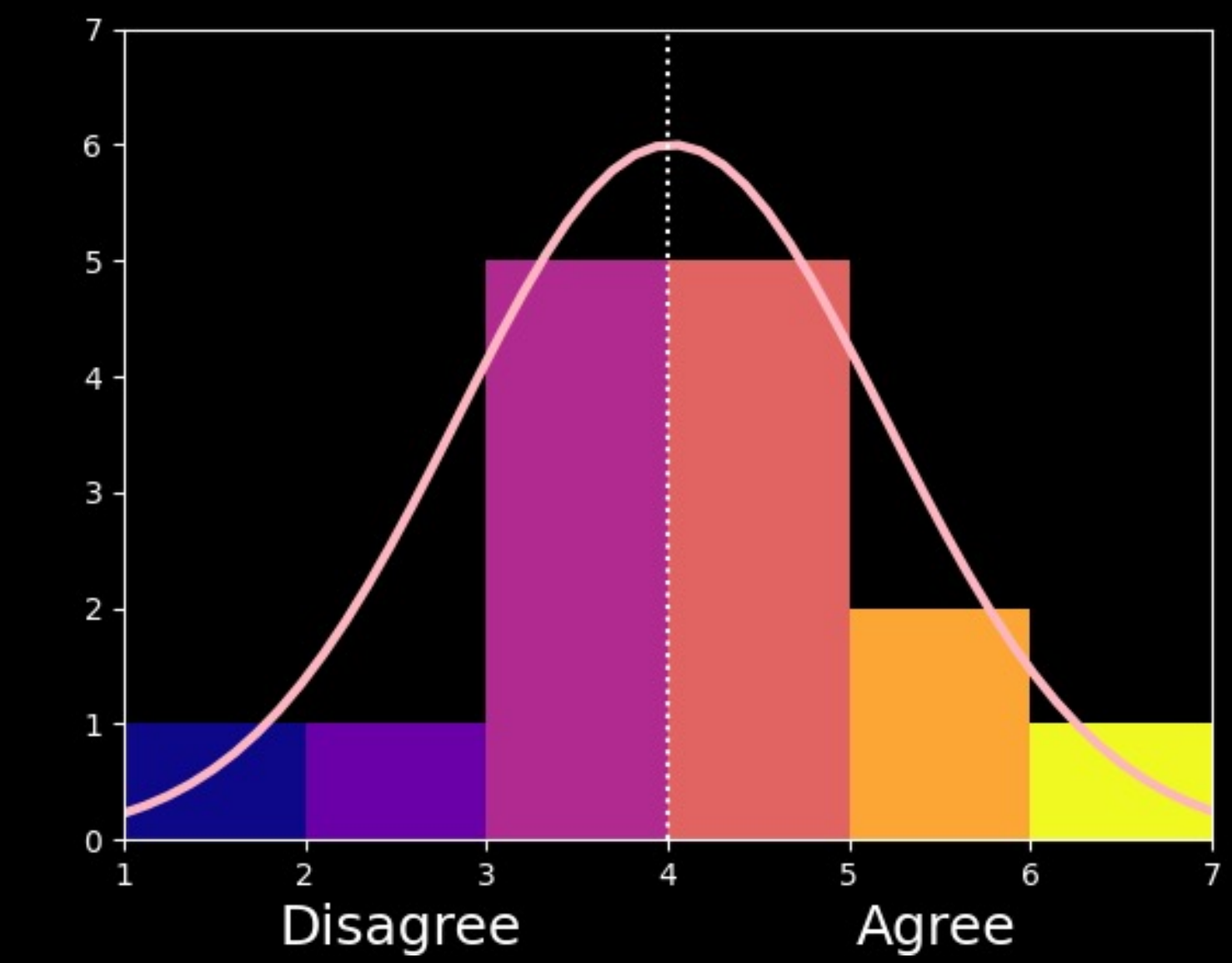
Have you ever felt the world was so big you just couldn't take it all in at once? Did you change your outlook or behavior after that feeling? If so, you may have experienced the emotion of awe. Scientists have implicated awe as a motivator to persist when studying complex topics, and awe has shown promise in helping students learn science. Before seeing if awe motivates students, we wanted to find out whether students experience awe in course activities during an introductory-level astronomy course. We gave students two surveys developed by psychologists: one to determine prior experiences of awe in nature and the other to determine experiences of awe during class activities. We found, on average, no awe experiences prior to class in nature and slightly elevated reports of awe in course activities, focused on sky observations. This suggests we look further into the effect of awe on student learning.

Do Students Experience

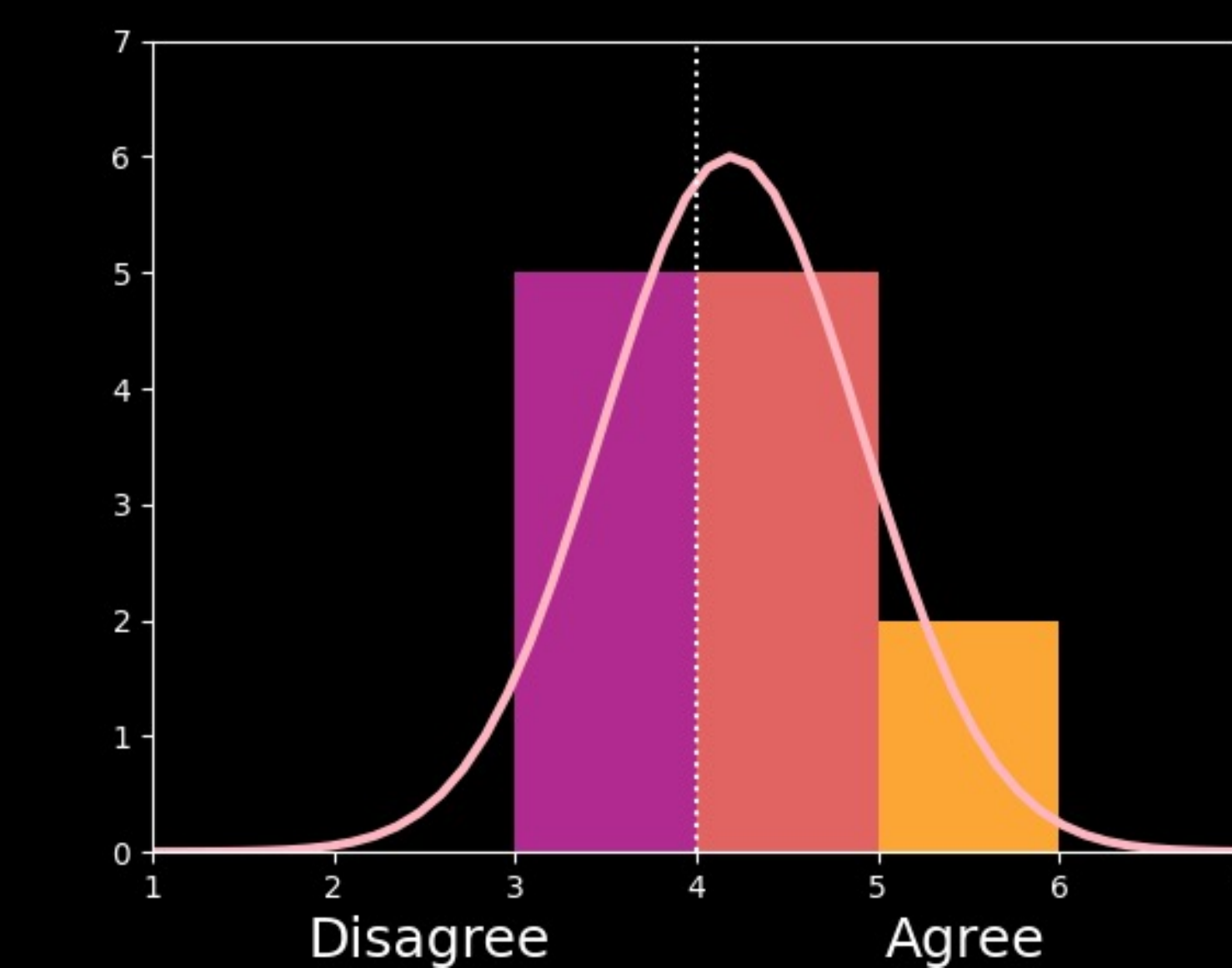
**AWE**

In Introductory-Level Astronomy Class?

Before Class:



After Class:



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**References**

1. Yaden, D.B. *et al.* (2018): The development of the Awe Experience Scale (AWE-S): A multifactorial measure for a complex emotion, *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 14:474.
2. Bethelmy, L. C. & Corraliza, J. A. (2019) Transcendence and Sublime Experience in Nature: Awe and Inspiring Energy. *Front. Psychol.* 10:509

**Acknowledgments**

• The Wisconsin Teaching Fellow & Scholars (WTFS) Program through the University of Wisconsin System Professional & Instructional Development funded this work.

Survey Responses by Factor

