

Facilitating Classroom Discussion around Charged Topics

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WAKE FOREST
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- **To provide Participants with**
 - (1) Tools and strategies for moderating and managing difficult conversations around topics such as race, gender, and campus climate.
 - (2) Experiential activities that simulate charged topics and difficult dialogs, using case studies and scenarios
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- Regardless of setting, what are some difficult dialogs?
 - What makes them difficult?
 - What is it about the classroom setting that makes difficult dialogs more difficult?
 - What's conflict got to do with any of this?
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- Conflicts are “super-sized disagreements” where one or both parties perceive a threat
 - If ignored, conflicts tend to get worse
 - We respond to conflicts subjectively more than objectively, with multiple influences
 - Conflicts tend to trigger strong emotions, rooted in life experiences
 - Conflicts tend to be the seeds for personal and professional growth
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- Strive to manage stress quickly from an attentive and level perspective
 - Strive to monitor your own feelings and actions
 - Strive to hone in on the emotions of the individuals speaking to you and/or each other
 - Strive to respect and validate differences
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- Tips for Diffusing Conversations
 - Ground Rules for Civil Discourse
 - Tips for Active Listening
 - The Use of “I” Statements
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- **Place Holder**
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- **Place holder**
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- **Place Holder**
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- Over the next several slides, we will address a couple of different scenarios in the classroom
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- **Perhaps a disagreement between students regarding a controversial topic**
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- **Perhaps a disagreement between the faculty member and a student regarding a difficult topic**
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- <http://www.crnhq.org/>
 - <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/fightingfair.html>
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