

BUILDING DIALOGUE ACROSS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES: CLASSROOM STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGED LEARNING

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Workshop Purpose

- Outline: core components
- Introduce & Practice: strategies
- Discuss: application and limits

Workshop Process

- Full group presentations
- Small group dialogue
- Exercises in pairs
- Tap into the wisdom of your experiences
- Break around noon ET; end by 2:00pm ET

Workshop Norms



Waynflete Building Blocks of Dialogue

Care: Engage with kindness and respect. Suspend judgment and assume good intentions. Respect privacy. Remember that you will never know another's story fully.

Curiosity: Get curious and listen empathically. Seek to learn and understand, not to persuade or even to agree. Remember that every person, including yourself, has a unique viewpoint that is both valuable and limited.

Courage: Allow yourself to be vulnerable. Speak bravely and trust in the value of your own experience and in the experiences of others. Be willing to be changed by the conversation. Maintain the courage to be curious and caring.

Others?

Viewpoint Diversity: The Opportunity

“Viewpoint diversity exists when members of a group or community approach problems or questions from a range of perspectives. When a community is marked by intellectual humility, empathy, trust, and curiosity, viewpoint diversity gives rise to engaged and respectful debate, constructive disagreement, and shared progress toward truth.”

- Compendium of resources for high school educators, heterodoxacademy.org



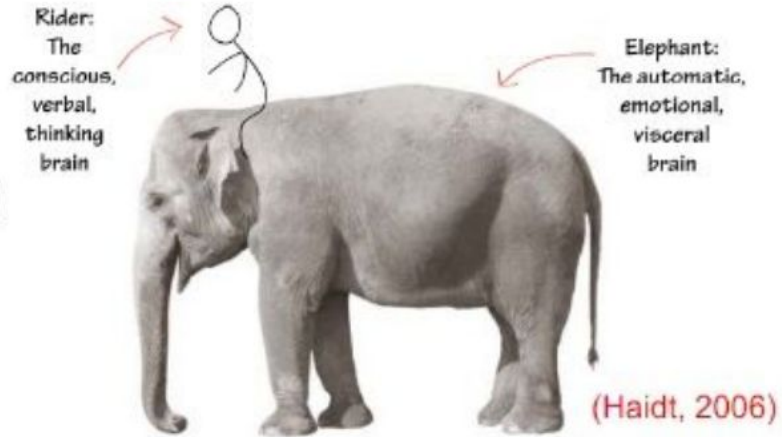
The Viewpoint Diversity Challenge

INDIVIDUALLY: Take a few minutes to reflect on your last meaningful or significant argument. Write down phrases in response to the following questions:

- With whom were you arguing?
- What was the topic or issue?
- What were the feelings you would associate with that argument?
- Were you able to listen to the opposing side or not?
- Where did you finally land in the argument?
 - If you were able to change your perspective, what facilitated that shift or result?
 - If you dug in, why were you so invested in your position?

One brain, two minds

- Elephant = impulsive mind
- Rider = Rational mind
- Path = the environment



Willpower is the strength of the rider

The Human Approach to Arguments



First Thought



Second Thought

The Human Approach to Arguments



First Thought



Second Thought



Third Thought

Humanizing the “Other”: Cultivating Empathy in the Classroom

Building empathy is a crucial but often overlooked step in creating the conditions for productive dialogue.



Narrative 4 Story Exchange

Prompt

- Tell your partner a story about an experience of feeling judged in a way that made you feel limited OR a story about a time you formed a negative judgment of someone else that, in retrospect, you realize limited your understanding of them.

Preparation

- **Where** were you, **who** were you with, **what** happened?
- **How** did it make you feel, **what** was your thought process, **how** did you react?

Dialogue Mindset



Waynflete Building Blocks of Dialogue

- **Care:** Engage with kindness and respect. Suspend judgment and assume good intentions. Respect privacy. Remember that you will never know another's story fully.
- **Curiosity:** Get curious and listen empathically. Seek to learn and understand, not to persuade or even to agree. Remember that every person, including yourself, has a unique viewpoint that is both valuable and limited.
- **Courage:** Allow yourself to be vulnerable. Speak bravely and trust in the value of your own experience and in the experiences of others. Be willing to be changed by the conversation. Maintain the courage to be curious and caring.
- **Others?**

Building Empathy: Alternative Strategies

Free-Write: non-stop, no editing, whatever comes to mind

- What other strategies have you used to develop empathy, humanize the “other,” and cultivate curiosity about people with different viewpoints?
 - Alternative: obstacles, questions, concerns about incorporating empathy-building in your specific role or in your campus environment

Beyond Empathy: Cultivating Dialogue as a Keystone Habit

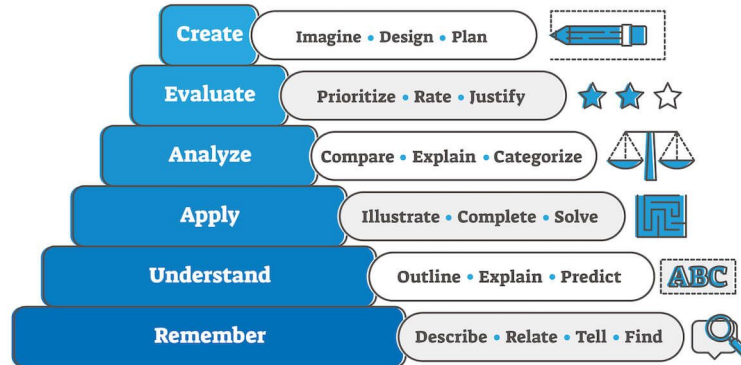
According to Dr. Brion-Meisels, success in developing a habit of dialogue depends on:

- Modeling by adults
- Direct instruction
- Ample opportunities to practice

MODELING



BLOOM'S TAXONOMY



DIRECT INSTRUCTION



Building Blocks of Dialogue



R.E.A.L.[®] Discussion

Adaptable Dialogue Protocol

Ladder of Inference

PRACTICE



*Don't be fooled by
media bias & misinformation.*



0

40%

Welcome

Misinformation

Disinformation

Why you should care about misinformation

Avoiding misinformation

Wrap Up

Glossary

Announcements

NLP Home

Checkology virtual classroom

What is misinformation?

Misinformation is information that is misleading, erroneous or false. While misinformation is sometimes created and shared intentionally, it is often created unintentionally or as humor (for example, satire) and later mistaken as a serious claim by others. Sharing stories that are untrue or misleading contributes to the pollution of our digital environment.

Trends

National Trends

#NationalSneakyDay

Celebrate with your favorite Hershey's classic!

Planned by HERSHEY'S

100 Tweets

WhatAreTheyHiding

64 Tweets

able Dreams

1 Tweets

IssueTheRecords

1 Tweets

200 OurCare

1 Tweets

200

100

2019


100

Jason Michael

@jogg1

Follow

Believe it or not, this is a shark on the freeway in Houston, Texas. #HurricaneHarvy



1:00 AM - 28 Aug 2017

68,820 Retweets 149,430 Likes

Video transcript

A graphic of a pause button with the text 'PRESS PAUSE' below it.

Symphony
(The Civic Network)

The logo for 'third thought', with the words 'third' and 'thought' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the words is the text 'Initiatives for Civic Engagement'.

Small Group Discussion

Your successes in getting students to their third thoughts:

- What was the topic?
- How do you know?
- Why did it happen?

What challenges and opportunities do you anticipate in creating dialogue as a keystone habit in your school and classrooms?

Next Steps

1

Thing you are/school is already doing that you can build upon to deepen dialogue

2

People with whom you want to discuss the workshop content

3

Biggest questions you have now

Thank You!

- Survey feedback form
- Workshop resources:
MaloneSchoolsOnline.org



Building Dialogue Across Political Differences:
Strategies for Engaged Learning