

Activities

Students will practice engaging in a civil classroom debate on a disputable topic.

Complete the Viewpoint Diversity Experience at Heterodox Academy:

<http://heterodoxacademy.org/resources/viewpoint-diversity-experience-menu/>

Conversation scenarios with students generating civil responses to substitute for in civil ones:

You are discussing the minimum wage with a classmate when she tells you you are just a privileged bigot. Write a few civil responses to this.

You are discussing the current election with a classmate when he tells you you don't know what you are talking about. Write a few civil responses to this.

You express your discomfort with secret, all-male societies on your college campus to a friend who is a member. He scoffs at your concerns and labels you a "feminazi." Write a few civil responses to this.

You are debating economic policy with a classmate when he informs you that you have no right to your opinions because of your ancestry. Write a few civil responses to this.

You are handing out flyers to participate in a diversity awareness event, when one student throws it back in your face and calls you a "stupid social justice warrior." Write a few civil responses to this.

You are interested in inviting a certain controversial speaker to campus but several classmates inform you that doing so would be promoting "hate speech." Write a few civil responses to this.

You are offended by a teacher's comments in class that made you feel uncomfortable. When you inform your roommate, she says, "Don't be a snowflake." Write a few civil responses to this.

You would like to attend a speech by a controversial speaker on campus, but several of your hallmates inform you that this person is a fascist and no one should be allowed to hear him. In fact, they are going to go to the speech and try to prevent people from entering the auditorium. Write a few civil responses to this.

You support one of the president's newly proposed initiatives, but when you inform your roommates of this opinion they call you an "idiot." Write a few civil responses to this.

You are opposed to changing existing civil statutes in your state, but classmates tell you that your opposition makes you homophobic and transphobic. Write a few civil responses to this.

You believe that fraternities have a right to exist on your college campus, but several classmates inform you that this view is sexist and supports violence against women. Write a few civil responses to this.

You are a female who supports the right of males to belong to fraternities, but several of your female classmates tell you this makes you an enemy of feminism and a traitor to women. Write a few civil responses to this.