

Resources for Having Difficult Conversations

As of November 6, 2023

Having Difficult Conversations

Facing History & Ourselves

Guide: Fostering Civil Discourse: How Do We Talk About Issues That Matter?

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/fostering-civil-discourse-how-do-we-talk-about-issues-matter>

The ideas and tools in this guide will help teachers prepare students to engage in reflective conversations on topics that matter, whether you are in a remote, hybrid, or in-person setting. (Last Updated May 12, 2022.)

Mini-Lesson: Processing the Violence in Israel and Gaza

<https://www.facinghistory.org/en-gb/resource-library/processing-violence-israel-gaza>

Help students process violence, terror, and the loss of life in the wake of the violence in Israel and Gaza. (Published October 11, 2023.)

Queens College's Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding and the Michael Harrington Center

Handbook for Facilitating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom

<https://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Handbook-for-Facilitating-Difficult-Conversations2.pdf>

This handbook, written by faculty for faculty, provides designs, approaches, and techniques to ensure that the classroom is a safe space for students to have conversations about issues that matter.

San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE)

Resources for Educators, Families to Discuss the Events in Israel and Gaza with students

<https://www.sdcoe.net/about-sdcoe/news/post/~board/news/post/resources-for-educators-families-to-discuss-the-events-in-israel-and-gaza-with-students>

The SDCOE's mission is to inspire and lead innovation in education and to reduce the percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch as part of a larger effort to elevate the needs of historically underserved students and families. This link provides resources for educators and families to discuss the events in Israel and Gaza with students. This page includes teaching resources, social and emotional resources, and school culture resources. (Last updated October 7, 2023.)

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Learning for Justice

“Handle With Care: Supporting Young People During Crises”

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/handle-with-care-supporting-young-people-during-crises>

People are continuously struggling to respond when traumatizing events occur in our communities, across the country and around the world. For families, educators and community members who must respond to the needs of children as a traumatizing event unfolds, we’ve gathered recommendations and resources to support you. (Published March 27, 2023.)

Media Literacy

Facing History & Ourselves

Mini-Lesson: How to Read the News Like a Fact Checker

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/how-read-news-fact-checker>

Reading “laterally” is a key media literacy strategy that helps students determine the quality of online sources. This mini-lesson trains students to use this technique to evaluate the credibility of the news they encounter on social media feeds or elsewhere online. (Last updated August 21, 2020.)

NYC Department of Education WeTeachNYC

Media Literacy Toolkit

<https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/media-literacy/>

This collection shares resources designed to inspire students to think critically about the complex messages we receive constantly, through various media. Included find articles, videos, protocols and hands-on activities that offer students the opportunity to analyze and discuss news and “news-y” messages. Most of the resources are for middle and high school students.

Rutgers University Libraries

Evaluating News Resources

https://libguides.rutgers.edu/fake_news

This guide provides information, tools, and tips on identifying and avoiding misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda.