

The Hot New Offering at U.S. Colleges

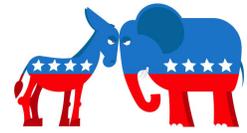
SEE WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM 8/15/2018 BY MELISSA KORN



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASPIRATIONS?
A NON-NEGOTIABLE SKILL



WHEN WORK CONVERSATIONS GET FIERY
NAVIGATING WITH COMPOSURE



FIGHTING FRICTION
HOW TO HANDLE "THAT ONE FRIEND"—AND STAY FRIENDS

CIVIL DISCOURSES

Not Your Everyday Presentation

What am I asking you to do? Have a conversation! Really. It's that simple.

We encounter big questions and tough issues all the time—in the news, in our classes, in casual conversations, on social media. Unfortunately, these moments all too often turn hostile, and we miss out on the opportunities to build communities, gain understanding, and pursue the good. Following the lead of colleges around the country, then, I've designed these exercises to allow you to explore challenging issues with your peers. They are also designed with the hope that you will pick up the confidence and composure to engage in conversations like these once you leave Fordham, too. (Plus, I had a hunch that you'd appreciate a periodic break from listening to me...)

Dishing the Details

In case "Have a conversation!" as the sole instruction sends chills of horror down your spine, fear not. It is still a graded assignment, after all, which means that it can be unpacked and formalized.

THE MOVING PARTS

- You and your team
- The main theme being addressed

- The related course readings

THE DRILL

- Read the text(s)
- Think about the theme
- Meet with your team
- Think about the theme some more
- Plan how to approach the discussion and generate some discussion questions. This might include an outline for yourselves of relevant sub-topics to address to cover the whole picture.
- *Optional:* Meet with me at least 24 hours in advance to go over your plan.
- Come to class ready to talk for 20-30 minutes—or more! (Everyone else should do this, too!)
- Write a short reflection (<1 pg.) on the experience and submit it no later than 36 hours after the day you lead.

GRADING

The grade here will be based on things like your composure and confidence, how well you work as a group, the thoughtfulness of your questions, how systematically you approach the issue, how well you integrate course texts, how charitable you are in presenting and interpreting material, how well you support any controversial claims, what outside research you bring to the discussion, how well any outside research is sourced (i.e., scholarly sources, reliable news outlets and polling organizations, etc.), and how polished any supporting materials are.