

In this class we will often engage in civil discourse about topics that are of a mature and sensitive nature.

To have meaningful and productive civil discourse in this class, participants should take a **KINDER** approach.

Knowledge seeker

Inquire

Non-combative

Don't use labels

Empathetic

Respectful

When having civil discourse
Take a K.I.N.D.E.R. approach

- 1. Knowledge** - Strive to acquire knowledge, ultimately all knowledge means self-knowledge. Don't be afraid of new information, assimilation of ideas is a sign of maturity. Have an open-mind.
- 2. Inquire** – Inquire about ideas and policy. During civil discourse, try to ask more questions than you answer.
 - As compared to what? Or What are the alternatives?
 - At what cost? Or What are the trade-offs?
 - What is the evidence? Or What evidence do you have to support your position?
- 3. Non-Combative** - Nobody is asking you to change your position. You are simply trading ideas. Discussion is a dance, not a volleyball match. Allow for an environment where ideas can flow freely. In the free market of ideas, you will buy some ideas and not others.
- 4. Don't use label** - Avoid labeling people- “Labels separate men” – Bruce Lee
Work to keep it impersonal. During the discussion resist classifying something as right or wrong, moral or immoral, fair or unfair, etc. Value judgements quickly deteriorate the discussion. Instead, focus on the costs and benefits the decision, position, or policy.
- 5. Empathy**- Use your imagination to step into someone else's shoes, look through their eyes, and feel with their heart.
- 6. Respect**- Civil Discourse is about education, not intimidation. Don't try to force your idea. if your position is truly strong, it will be persuasive by itself. Work to find common ground, but be prepared to agree to disagree. **Racial slurs and other derogative language has no place in civil discourse and has no place in this class or this school.**