



# SPHERE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

BRING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUR DISTRICT

## SPHERE ON THE ROAD: BRING US TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Sphere wants to bring civil discourse, civics lessons, and scholar expertise to schools and communities across the country. **We will work with you** to create an event that aligns with your communities' goals and vision. Whether it's a 2-hour workshop, a half or day long program, or an afterschool PD, **contact us** and we can start working on your Sphere event at your school, in your district, or community.

## SAMPLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

### 2 HOUR WORKSHOP

#### Welcome/Refreshments

#### 1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Focus on civil discourse, student free speech, viewing through the lens of pressing issues and viewpoint diversity
- Possible local guest speaker or small panel discussion on free speech, methods of civil discourse, applying discourse to local community issue
- Audience participation: modeling a discussion while we act as teacher/facilitator and demonstrating discourse through the lens of a contentious issue

#### 2nd Hour:

- Collaborative group breakouts
- Putting it all together
- Developing a lesson plan implementing civil discourse based on local, state, or national issue

### HALF DAY EVENT

#### Welcome/Refreshments

#### 1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Focus on civil discourse, student free speech, viewing through the lens of pressing issues and viewpoint diversity
- Option to open with a Keynote presenter Address

#### 2nd Hour:

- Bringing Civil Discourse to your classroom by Sphere: focus on facilitating dialogue through the lens of pressing issues while considering viewpoint diversity

#### 3rd Hour:

- Collaborative group breakouts
- Putting it all together
- Developing a lesson plan implementing civil discourse based on local, state, or national issue

### FULL DAY EVENT

#### Welcome/Refreshments

#### 1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Welcome and Keynote speaker
- Focus on importance of free speech in the classroom, civil discourse, viewpoint diversity, and outline goals for the workshop

#### 2nd and 3rd Hours:

- Hands-on application building on key ideas and themes from keynote
- Bringing Civil Discourse to your classroom by Sphere: focus on facilitating dialogue through the lens of pressing issues while considering viewpoint diversity

#### 5th and 6th Hour Options:

- Guest speaker on free speech
- Lesson plan development breakouts
- Putting it all together

## Contact Sphere:

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## WE WANT TO MEET YOUR UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

The following is a list of suggestions to get the conversation started. Contact us today and let's start the conversation and design the most effective workshop for your professional learning community!

### TESTIMONIALS FROM DISTRICT LEADERS ON BRINGING SPHERE TO THEIR SCHOOLS

“Every member of the Sphere team made it their priority to ensure successful professional learning sessions in our district. The Sphere team collaborated regularly with me and other key members of our professional learning team before, during, and after.

Sphere's team approach established trust among not only our administrative team, but also our teachers, which cultivated an environment where professionals could engage in civil discourse and create actionable steps to implement in their classrooms. The content of the sessions was well-received by teachers, who left the sessions more engaged, inquisitive, and ready to talk about supporting the next generation of thinkers in public schools.”

—CURRICULUM DIRECTOR, NJ

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THEMES

- Developing civil discourse norms and practices for Free Speech in the classroom
- Framing the Question: Developing Prompts for Discourse
- Civil Discourse in the ELA classroom
- Building coalitions of stakeholders in favor of difficult conversations

### POSSIBLE TOPICS AND SUBJECTS

- Immigration, Criminal Justice Reform, Elections, and Election Reform
- The role of free speech in our democracy
- Who should decide?
  - i. Conflicts in Federalism
  - ii. School curriculum, content, testing
  - iii. Public health and health care
  - iv. Allocation of tax funds
  - v. Environmental issues
- SCOTUS: Exploring contentious issues through Supreme Court decisions
- Real World Economics in the classroom
- Is life really getting better? Exploring the idea of human progress and what drives it

### TESTIMONIALS FROM SPHERE SUMMIT ALUMNI

“...Sphere Summit has provided me with information and resources which I have utilized in several ways. I have shared the provided resources with the Director of Social Studies, and members of my faculty. I have used the concept of civil discourse to work with small student groups and as a tool for student conflict resolution. As an adjunct professor of school leadership courses, I have shared Sphere's resources with future administrators. I'm very interested in learning more about bringing Sphere on the road to my school.”

“I went into this with some bias and reservations, and I was absolutely blown away. Hearing intelligent and respectful discourse that represented a variety of opinions restored pride that had been lost from extremists sucking all the oxygen out of the room.”



**Sphere's Mission:** restore and rekindle the spirit of civil, constructive, and respectful discourse with a return to facts, analysis, and research as the vehicles for discussion and debate.