



Goal Setting with Civil Discourse

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The goal-setting notetaker provides a suggested framework for planning civil discourse goals. It includes guiding questions, ideas, and examples designed to support your process, all of which can be adapted to fit the unique needs and practices of your classroom or school. This notetaker is flexible and can be used independently by educators or administrators for classroom or schoolwide goals. It can also be used collaboratively with administrators or instructional leaders in observation cycles or to align strategies.

Goal-Setting Notetaker	
Identify an Area of Growth What civil discourse needs do you observe in your classroom or school? Or what is a problem you wish to solve?	
Goal Category What area of civil discourse do you want to focus on to address your need?	
Goal What goal can you set to address this area?	

Goal-Setting Notetaker

Target Outcome

What outcome(s) do you hope to see in your students' behavior or engagement as a result of this goal?

Action Steps

What can you implement, model, teach, or practice?

Resources Needed

Timeline

What are short- and long-term milestones?

Progress and Assessment Methods

What observations, reflections, or data can you collect or record to track progress?

Idea and Examples Bank

Goal Themes

- Build trust and openness, as shown in student engagement and responsiveness
- Strengthen active listening
- Employ a variety of discourse strategies (examples)
- Support students in accessing diverse viewpoints
- Student evaluation of sources as a foundation for discourse
- Implement student reflective practices
- Promote student leadership and student-led discourse
- Encourage respectful disagreement

Action Steps

- Implement student-developed discussion norms (example)
- Practice and demonstrate use of **sentence starters and frames**
- Pose open-ended questions that foster critical curiosity
- Try new **civil discourse strategies** or “**Civil Discourse Bingo**”
- Teach media literacy and source evaluation strategies
- Use journaling and other reflection and self-assessment tools with students
- Use other **content and tools** that align with fostering civil discourse

Timeline

- By a specific date
- Ongoing, with check-in dates
- Weekly discussions
- Monthly lessons
- Once per unit

Progress and Assessment Methods

- Student feedback and observation (example: **peer evaluation for the fishbowl discussion strategy**)
- Student goal setting with civil discourse (example)
- Self-assessment and reflection (example: “**How Civil Are YOU?**”)
- **Class Discussion Tally Grader**
- Rubric-based observations and assessments (example)
- Journaling