



SPHERE

Fostering Civil Discourse and Diverse Viewpoints for Every Classroom

Professional Development Videos

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This professional development video collection is designed to support discussions on how teachers can effectively facilitate civil discourse in the classroom. The featured teachers demonstrate these strategies through the lens of the Sphere content in the [Constitution and Law collection](#), working with high school students. However, the approaches showcased are adaptable to any subject area. The collection includes 9 videos in total.

Consider using general observations and reflections on teacher and student actions from the videos alongside discussion prompts. Below, 2 sample videos are highlighted as examples of how you may use the video resources to enhance staff learning through viewing and discussion.

General Warm-Up/Video Discussion Questions

- What effective strategies did you notice in the video(s)?
- How might you adapt these strategies for your own classroom?
- What indicators would help you determine their success with your students?

Video	Possible Staff Discussion Prompts
Kelly Class Part 1 (2:28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the potential benefits of using structured warm-ups like this one? How could this practice be adapted to other topics or subject areas? • What strategies did the teacher use to encourage critical thinking and participation? • If you were facilitating this warm-up, what would you change to meet the needs of your students? • How does connecting discussions to a universal theme like justice help lay groundwork for discourse? What other themes could be effective?
Serge Class Part 6 (6:37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strategies does the teacher use to encourage students to think critically and engage with complex ideas? • How effectively did the teacher encourage viewpoint diversity? What impact did this have on the depth of the conversation? • How could you use real examples or historical connections to make abstract topics clearer and more engaging for your students? How did this practice show in the video? • If you were leading this discussion, what would you adjust? Consider ways to support examining assumptions, articulating diverse viewpoints, or connecting to historical and philosophical contexts.

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