

Facilitator's Guide: Civil Discourse Self-Reflection – Suggested Discussion Questions
Instructions: *Circle the frequency of each behavior as it applies to you when you are with peers.*

Important: The facilitator should start the conversation by having students quickly list their pet peeves in other people's behavior during a contentious conversation. Make a list of what annoys the participants and gets in the way of understanding each other. The list can get the conversation started. **Questions in red are prompts for the discussion leaders. Use two to draw the students into a discussion.**

1. I take an active role in creating a welcoming environment for differing opinions.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

What do you do and say?

2. I give my peers eye contact and my full attention when they speak, even when I disagree.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

How does it feel when you're making an important point and people are checking their devices?

3. I can't control others' behavior or opinions, so I focus on my own actions and civility.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

What does that mean? How does it look?

4. I speak respectfully to people with whom I disagree, even if they disrespect me.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

How do you manage yourself when you want to lash out?

5. I ask clarifying questions.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

Give examples of clarifying questions.

6. I am careful not to take over a conversation by talking longer than others

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

How do you monitor yourself when you get on a roll?

7. When I get excited, I interrupt the speaker. I'm not trying to be rude; I'm trying to be heard.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

What can you do when you want to jump in, but no one pauses long enough for you to do so?

8. I have side conversations when someone else has the floor.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

What's it like for you when people talk to each other when you're making a point?

9. When peers disagree, I find common ground and call attention to areas of agreement.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

What are some things you say in order to do that?

10. I roll my eyes or make subtle faces when I disagree with someone's opinion.

• Very Frequently • Frequently • Occasionally • Rarely • Never

How is non-verbal communication used to shut down or encourage the person who is speaking?