

# Facilitating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom

a step-by-step guide

1



## Pause

Take a pause... Have students write a minute paper/journal about what they're feeling or questions the discussion raises for them

2



## Normalize

Normalize the importance of challenging conversations and remind students of class norms (acknowledge space for diurnal reasoning and encourage shame-free and judgement-free discussion)

3



## Reframe

Reframe the conversation to focus on principles, rather than people, and encourage discussion without over-personalization

4



## Summarize

Summarize and synthesize main points

5



## Encourage

Encourage students to continue to self-educate and seek out additional information and/or support if needed

**Note: avoid having a student speak on behalf of their identity group and be mindful that certain topics can trigger past trauma**



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