



**LET'S TALK -
HOW TO BUILD YOUR CAMPUS CAPACITY FOR DIALOGUE
ABOUT DIFFICULT SOCIAL ISSUES**

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PUBLIC AGENDA



About Public Agenda

**Let's build a democracy that
works for everyone**



Why Do We Need Campus Dialogues?

National polarization between different political perspectives has been growing for the past 25 years

Protesting on college campuses is at a record high since the 1960s

- **Higher Education Institute Survey found over 25% of students participated in a protest, rally, or boycott in 2017, the highest level since 1967**



Why Do We Need Campus Dialogues?

Students' support of First Amendment rights is growing more complicated...

- **60% of students either don't think the First Amendment protects hate speech or aren't sure**
- **Student support of *all* types of speech is declining – 78% in 2016, 70% in 2017**
- **51% of students agreed it was acceptable to disrupt controversial speakers' talks on campus, and 19% agreed violence was ok**
- **61% of students felt campus climates prevent some people from expressing their views because others might find them offensive**



Why Do We Need Campus Dialogues?

Higher education is experiencing increasing pressure to balance speech on campuses

- **President Trump issued an executive order in March 2019 mandating that higher education institutions uphold free speech or risk losing grant funding**

Higher education is spending huge amounts of money to maintain safety when controversial speakers come to campus

- **In 2017, University of Florida spent \$500,000 on security to accommodate white nationalist Richard Spencer**



As Higher Education Leaders, You Have the Power to...

- **Create safer, more productive ways to talk about the issues**
- **Uphold the academy as a beacon of democracy dialogue across differences**
- **Show how diverse stakeholders can work together to make change**
- **Reframe narratives about higher education**



Examples of How Dialogue Can Help



Examples of How Dialogue Can Help



SHAWANGUNK ⚡
(Lefevre)

PEREGRINE ⚡
(Hasbrouck)

ASHOKAN ⚡
(Crispell)

MOHONK ⚡
(Dubois)



The Quality Conversations Project



Research



Technology



Capacity-Building



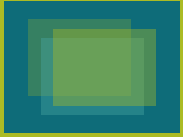
Dialogue



Materials



Action-Planning/Follow Up



Campus Time Machine

Time Machine:

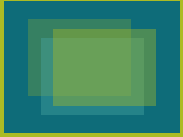
You have just been given a gift of a time machine to go one year into the past.

What strategies will you take?

What role could dialogue play in your planning?

What is your overall plan of action?





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