

COP Agenda and Notes
Utilizing Best Practices in Discourse to Discuss Difficult Topics

COP Outcomes:

- Identify tools that can be used to create safe spaces to discuss difficult topics.
- Identify open versus settled issues.
- Analyze components of high-quality conversations around difficult topics.
- Reflect on how to promote positive discourse in your own classroom.

COP Overview:

Topic	Links	Notes
COP Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome to Utilizing Best Practices in Discourse to Discuss Difficult Topics 	
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening Reflection ● Why Discuss Difficult Topics? ● Is the Discussion of Difficult Topics New? Read through this document ● What is the Role of Social Studies? ● A Framework for Reflective Practice- https://teachingcontroversies.com/framework/ 	<p>When I think about facilitating discussions on difficult topics in the classroom, I feel _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>because _____</p> <p>_____.</p>
Creating a Safe and Reflective Classroom Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Core Tenets- Critical Practices for Anti-Bias Education ● Types of Discourse ● Connection to Standards and Current Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the role of the social studies teacher in teaching and helping students deal with difficult issues? ● What actions do you see the teachers taking to set the stage for discussions about difficult issues?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflection and Additional Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you do so that your students feel a sense of belonging in the classroom? ● How do you plan for both the expected and unexpected in your classroom? <p>I used to think</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>about building a safe classroom community, but now I think</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Open vs. Settled Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are Open and Settled Issues? ● Connection to Your Standards and Practice 	
Components of High-Quality Discussions about Difficult Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perspective ● Why are High-Quality Discussions Important? ● What Do High-Quality Discussions Look Like? ● Safely In – Safely Out - the document 	
Application in Your Own Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning for a Discussion on a Difficult Topic- Discussion Norms ● Pick the Right Kind of Discourse and Strategy ● Practice First! ● Assigning Students “Sides”? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How will you handle “unrelated” questions about a contentious topic that is asked at an inopportune time? ● What happens if a student asks a topic you (as the teacher) aren’t familiar with?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategy- Human Barometer ● Strategy- Big Paper Talk ● Strategy- Structured Academic Controversy ● Crafting a Discussion Prompt ● Don't Forget to Debrief and Reflect ● What If Something Goes Wrong? ● Communicate with Parents and Families 	
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reflection ● Additional Classroom Resources ● Bibliography ● Online PD Modules 	<p>When I think about navigating difficult conversations in the classroom I used to think</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>but now I know</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>so I will</p> <hr/> <hr/>