

# RULES OF DIALOGUE



## SKILLS

Sharing

## LEARNING OUTCOME

Share personal stories and experiences with confidence in an honest and open manner to promote understanding.

## SKILLS OBJECTIVES

Participants are able to explain personal values, meanings, and the importance of their own experiences when engaging with individuals and groups from different cultures and backgrounds.

## DESCRIPTION

Participants co-create a common agreement for rules of dialogue to guide them in fostering a safe, brave, and inclusive dialogue environment for all participants.

## TIME

40 minutes

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

18 x 24 in. paper

Markers

Tape

Example Rules for Dialogue help sheet

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explain to participants that before engaging in a dialogue, it is important to establish a safe and brave space. Safe spaces are places of emotional and physical safety, brave spaces are where participants can say what they need to say and be responsible for how it might impact others.

2. Place participants in small groups of 3-4 and ask them to work on large pieces of paper to list keywords and phrases that describe what they need to have a safe and brave space for dialogue. For example, some people need people to be silent and pay attention when they speak, or others may need to feel they are not being judged or attacked if they share a controversial opinion.
3. Have participants tape their lists on the wall. Ask them to do a walk around the room to see what each group wrote.
4. Bring the whole class together to identify any common words and phrases and discuss how these might look different for people. For example: The term respect might mean making eye contact to some, but for others, it might mean paying attention to the speaker.
5. Work together to make one set of rules that support a safe space for dialogue in your class. If you need support, you can use the *Example Rules for Dialogue help sheet*. You might encourage participants to make a mural with these rules or you can record them on a large piece of paper and keep them hanging up for the class to see.

## REFLECTION:

*Before every dialogue, refer to the rules and update them periodically or when a new participant joins the group to keep them relevant.*

**WORKSHEET 1****EXAMPLE RULES FOR DIALOGUE**

1. Always listen carefully to what other people are saying.
2. Think before speaking.
3. Always try to be positive.
4. Only one person speaks at a time.
5. Raise your hand to be recognised if you want to say something.
6. No interruption when someone is speaking.
7. When you disagree with someone, make sure that you make a distinction between criticising someone's idea and the person themselves.
8. No laughing when a person is saying something (unless they are making a joke).
9. Encourage everyone to participate.
10. Always use 'I' statements – don't generalise.
11. Take other people's points of view seriously; they may find it difficult to accept things that are obvious to you.
12. Remember your body language and manners (don't get angry).
13. Use open-ended questions.
14. Be honest in what you say.
15. Speak positively of your own faith or points of view, rather than negatively about other people's.
16. Respect other people's views, even if you disagree.
17. Do not treat people here as a spokesperson for their faith.
18. Do not tell others what they believe, but will let them tell you.
19. Acknowledge similarities and differences between your positions.
20. Do not judge people here by what some people who share their perspective say or do.
21. Do not insist that people agree with your views.
22. Make every effort to get along with everyone regardless of their faith, gender, race or age.