

JOIN THE FALL DSN GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY COHORT

Current and Controversial Issue Discussions



WHEN
January 10- February 25, 2022

Enhance your classroom practice with this 5-week microcredential course hosted on Free for Teachers Canvas. Explore strategies and resources to create a classroom climate in which there are equitable opportunities for ALL students to engage in current and controversial issue discussions across the disciplines.

15 FREE PD Hours from DuPage ROE

Space is limited.

Spots will be allocated to represent the diverse regions and disciplinary content areas in the DSN.

For more information, including a course syllabus, visit the Guardians of Democracy site

Apply by completing this Google Form no later than December 15th, 2021



Illinois
Democracy
Schools

Quotes from past DSN cohort participants

DSN Math teacher: When I think about engaging students in current and controversial issue discussions in the classroom, I used to think that this did not fit into my curriculum and it was other courses responsibility to facilitate controversial discussions because of the content that was taught in those courses, but now I think it is every teacher's responsibility to engage students in current and controversial issue discussions - and this certainly doesn't leave out mathematics. There are so many controversial topics surrounding, mathematics, computer science and the STEM field. For students to see themselves as mathematicians, they must be engaging in these conversations.

DSN Art teacher: When I think about engaging students in current and controversial issue discussions in the classroom, I used to think, "Ugh, this is going to be a dud!" Now I think I can do this!

DSN Spanish teacher: When I think about engaging students in current and controversial issue discussions in the classroom, I used to think that I didn't know enough and that I wasn't ready, but now I think there are strategies to overcome my fears and that discussion takes practice and requires risk. However, the applications of good strategies allow for good civil dialogue and good learning to happen. The more I try it, the better facilitator I'll become.

DSN English teacher: When I think about engaging students in current and controversial issue discussions in the classroom, I used to think that parents would disagree with that idea, but now I think that it is truly important for students to get exposure to these conversations. Moreover, students of color especially need to learn the ways in which they are oppressed and to develop the language and knowledge to be able to fight against it. Having these discussions will empower students to do so.

DSN Social Studies teacher: When I think about engaging students in current and controversial issue discussions in the classroom, I used to think these conversations only lived in social studies, but now I think they can fit into any curriculum.