



# ENGAGING IN BOLD, INCLUSIVE CONVERSATIONS® WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

**Begin with self- and other-understanding, learning, and self-reflecting before beginning conversations, and supporting youth in doing the same.**

**Assess youth readiness for conversations, with attention to age-appropriate vocabulary and examples.**

**Practice reciprocal learning and center youth experiences, asking for their input and ideas.**

**Delve deep into difference in conversations. Challenge the stigma around acknowledging difference by celebrating similarities and differences, and discussing polarization and different perspectives.**

**Use trauma-informed practices, asking children and youth first how they feel about a topic.**

**Teach about historical inequities and their connections to present-day inequities.**

**Leverage multicultural literature and media for learning about, normalizing, and celebrating difference.**

**Teach empathy and perspective-taking: “What do you think it would feel like to be in that situation?”**

**Teach digital literacy and critical thinking skills, challenging youth to consider multiple perspectives and identify media bias.**

**Use strength-based perspectives, avoiding generalizations and negative framing about groups of people. Emphasize agency and power alongside structural challenges.**

**If a child says something hurtful, respond with curiosity. “Let’s talk about that for a minute. What made you say that?” Listen, then respond, and add context.**

**Introduce a distinction between intent and impact.**