

Controversy with Civility



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BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Overview

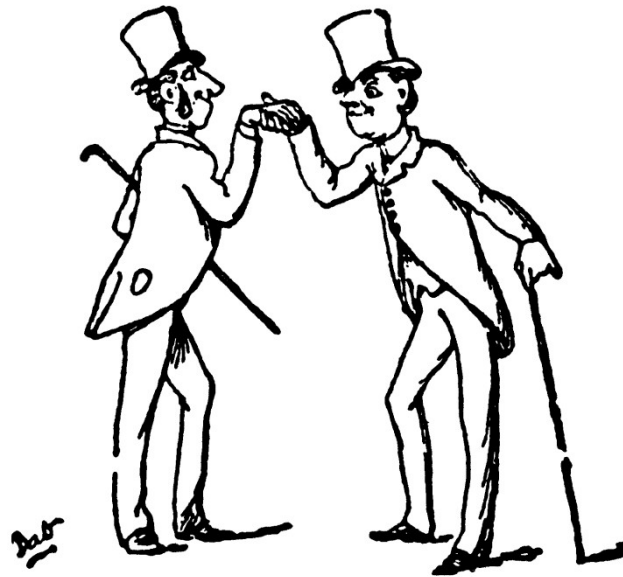


- **Goals**
 - Define controversy and civility
 - Explore different situations that you may face
 - Learn techniques for staying civil while still disagreeing

- What is “controversy?”



- What is civility?



- What is controversy with civility?



Scenario 1 – Campus



- You're a member of the Community Service club and you are part of a team charged with planning the upcoming MLK Day of Service. One member of the team wants to do a project in inner-city Camden, because she feels it's important to work with communities of color on MLK Day. Another member of the team is worried that turnout will be low if the potential volunteers (i.e. other students) have a bad perception of Camden and she thinks the overall number of volunteers is important to the success of the event.

Scenario 2 – Community



- You volunteer in an after-school program. Governor Christie has proposed to cut funding for all after-school programs and the teacher you work with invites you to a rally to oppose the cuts. You agree with the teacher that the budget cuts are wrong, but your campus advisor cautions you not to politicize the volunteer program and asks that you not participate.

Scenario 3 – National Scene



- Occupy or Tea Party? Election 2012? You are home for Thanksgiving Dinner and through casual conversation you realize that you and Aunt Sally have completely different views on current events. How do you engage in civil discourse at a family gathering without ruining the meal for everyone else?

Solutions



- Anticipate controversies and plan to manage them effectively
- Seek common ground
- Deliberate, don't debate
- Show respect to get respect
- Learn when to walk away
- Take the moral high ground
- Be sensitive to power dynamics and the context of the situation