

Session 5: Challenges in Classroom Discussion — 2 - 2:50pm

Dilemma Dialogue Protocol

Each group will be assigned a scenario to discuss. Please take note of which group you are in. Detailed protocol instructions are on the reverse side of this page.

SCENARIO #1 — Unintended Racism

Students are assigned to small groups as part of a protocol related to the discussion question 'should Canada allow more immigrants to move to this country?' You overhear one student comment that "refugees have better health care when they come to Canada than regular Canadians and it's not fair." A second student replies, "Really? Well I don't think that's fair either." You know that one of the students in the group came to Canada from Pakistan through a refugee program. He doesn't respond to the comments.

SCENARIO #2 — Disinformation

During a class discussion of current events, a student comments that, "There's no real proof anyone died in residential schools." This statement seems to capture the attention of a number of students in the class. Asked where she got the information, the student replies "I saw it on Reddit."

SCENARIO #3 — Social Media Influence

One day a male student comments that women have no place in the workforce, and that they belong at home, taking care of their husbands. At first it seems like parody of bygone values, but the student seems serious. Further inquiry reveals he's been watching videos of Andrew Tate — a violent and misogynistic influencer whose videos were viewed 11.6 billion times before he was banned from TikTok. The student adds there's "nothing wrong with being sexist." A female student takes him to task, things escalate quickly, and the class becomes chaotic.

Dilemma Dialogue Instructions

1. Assign a timekeeper (person travelled from farthest away) and a group note-taker (volunteer).
2. Read the dilemma scenario provided. Take a few minutes to individually jot down any initial thoughts you have about the prompt (including questions you have). **(3 minutes)**
3. Take turns responding to the prompt: each group member takes 1 minute (max) to share their initial thoughts. **(5 minutes)**
4. Explore the scenario as a group. Focus on understanding the situation and factors at play. **(7 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

- What is/are the issue(s)?
 - Why might this situation be of concern?
 - Who is being affected and how?
 - What context is important to consider?
5. What action(s) might the teacher take? **(5 minutes)**