



SPHERE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

BRING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUR DISTRICT

SPHERE ON THE ROAD: BRING US TO YOUR SCHOOL!

Sphere wants to bring civil discourse strategies to your school through engaging professional development with scholars and content to implement in your classrooms! **We will work with you** to create an event that aligns with your goals and vision. **Contact us** and we will start working on your Sphere event at your school, in your district, or community.

SAMPLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

2 HOUR WORKSHOP

1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Focus on civil discourse, student free speech, and viewpoint diversity
- Outline pedagogical strategies to implement civil discourse including building a toolkit for fostering and managing conversations
- Audience participation: modeling discourse through the lens of complex issues; tabletop scenarios: managing challenging conversations

2nd Hour:

- Collaborative group breakouts
- Topic or subject deep dive
- Developing a lesson plan implementing civil discourse based on local, state, or national issue
- Putting it all together

HALF DAY EVENT

1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Focus on civil discourse, student free speech, and viewpoint diversity
- Option to open with a plenary address

2nd Hour:

- Outline pedagogical strategies to implement civil discourse including building a toolkit for fostering and managing conversations
- Audience participation: modeling discourse through the lens of complex issues; tabletop scenarios: managing challenging conversations

3rd Hour:

- Content or topic specific presentation
- Collaborative group breakouts, lesson plan development
- Putting it all together

FULL DAY EVENT

1st Hour Options:

What is Civil Discourse and why does it matter?

- Welcome and optional plenary address
- Focus on civil discourse, student free speech, and viewpoint diversity

2nd and 3rd Hours:

- Pedagogy, implementation of civil discourse strategies, and building a toolkit for fostering and managing conversations, especially in unrehearsed moments or when things go awry
- Audience participation: modeling discourse through the lens of complex issues; tabletop scenarios: managing challenging situations and contentious conversations

5th and 6th Hour Options:

- Content or topic specific presentation
- Collaborative group breakouts, lesson plan development
- Putting it all together

Contact Sphere:

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WE WANT TO MEET YOUR UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

The following is a list of suggestions to get the conversation started. Contact us today and let's start the conversation and design the most effective workshop for your professional learning community!

TESTIMONIAL FROM DISTRICT LEADER ON BRINGING SPHERE TO THEIR SCHOOLS

“Every member of the Sphere team made it their priority to ensure successful professional learning sessions in our district. The Sphere team collaborated regularly with me and other key members of our professional learning team before, during, and after.

Sphere's team approach established trust among not only our administrative team, but also our teachers, which cultivated an environment where professionals could engage in civil discourse and create actionable steps to implement in their classrooms. The content of the sessions was well-received by teachers, who left the sessions more engaged, inquisitive, and ready to talk about supporting the next generation of thinkers in public schools.”

—CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THEMES

- Developing civil discourse norms and practices for free speech in the classroom
- Framing the Question: Developing Prompts for Discourse
- Civil Discourse in the ELA classroom
- Building coalitions of stakeholders in favor of difficult conversations
- Civil Discourse Toolkit for Middle School Teachers

POSSIBLE TOPICS AND SUBJECTS

- The role of free speech in our democracy
- Who should decide?
 - i. Conflicts in Federalism
 - ii. School curriculum, content, testing
 - iii. Public health and health care
 - iv. Allocation of tax funds
 - v. Environmental issues
- Immigration, Criminal Justice Reform, Elections, Civil Rights, and Election and Voting
- SCOTUS: Exploring contentious issues through Supreme Court decisions
- Real World Economics in the classroom
- Is life really getting better? Exploring the idea of human progress and what drives it

TESTIMONIALS FROM SPHERE SUMMIT ALUMNI

“Quite possibly the single most significant staff development opportunity in my 25 years of teaching high school.”

“My students have benefited because they've been able to have conversation they wouldn't normally have in their safe bubble.”

“I want to thank you for your presentation on Sphere at the Social Studies department head meeting. Your program is just what is needed at this time in education.”

“I appreciate how excellent this PD was! The presenters were very realistic and had concrete ideas about how to approach civil conversations in the classroom. They did a fantastic job guiding us to realizations and gave us concrete ways to start. Absolutely excellent.”



Sphere's Mission: Restore, rekindle, and advance the spirit of civil, constructive, and respectful discourse with a return to facts, analysis, and research as vehicles for discussion and debate.