



SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement Fall 2024

Developing an Interdisciplinary Framework for Civic Discourse

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Goals of this Work

1. Work towards developing an assessment framework for civic discourse that can be applied across all disciplines.
 - This framework will draw from multiple cultural perspectives on dialogue across disagreement, including those from industry, other belief systems, and historical traditions.
2. Explore possible ways in which AI can support that work.



Defining Civic Discourse Broadly

- Our students' college experience gives them transformative opportunities to engage across difference at all levels. This is one way of conceptualizing the process through which that occurs:
 1. An environment for conversation is created, and that conversation is situated within a particular context, discipline, or goal.
 2. Conflicts will emerge from multiple perspectives and be explored.
 3. There will be movement from conversation to action: so what/what next?
- This is one way to define civic discourse broadly, which helps us see the many ways in which we are already engaged in this as a core part of our mission.



Thoughts to Consider and Discuss on Your Campus

The following prompts can help bring together a range of stakeholders in conversation about what civic discourse means to them.

1. *What might an assessment of civic discourse look like in your discipline, field, or campus area?*
2. *How do your students learn to engage across difference and move to action as a result of that process?*
3. *Where and in what ways are you already teaching these skills and how are they framed in your discipline, field, or campus area?*



Goals for a Civic Discourse Framework

The following represent inclusive goals for an interdisciplinary civic discourse framework:

- **Explore** how the principles of civic discourse apply across different student populations, disciplines, and career goals.
- **Identify** the value of collective problem-solving and navigating disagreement as key workforce skills, particularly in tech and trades programs.
- **Reflect** on the role that civic discourse plays in good citizenship and community service to highlight its broader value as a tool for personal growth.



A Sample Framework for the Trades

1. Representation and Equity

- *Are diverse team members included in decision-making processes, such as safety meetings, labor discussions, or project planning, ensuring that everyone has a say?*

2. Process

- *Are there clear processes in place for workplace discussions, such as regular safety briefings or job site problem-solving meetings, where respect for diverse views is maintained?*

3. Effectiveness

- *Do conversations result in actionable solutions, such as revised safety protocols, efficient job coordination, or improved working conditions?*

4. Sustainability

- *Are there regular opportunities for feedback and reflection in place, such as post-project reviews or ongoing worker-manager dialogues to address long-term concerns?*



Civic Discourse & AI

AI has the potential to help us develop and apply civic discourse outcomes in our courses and disciplines in a number of ways:

1. *Synthesizing content that applies civic discourse to your subject and/or discipline.*
2. *Suggesting personalized, interactive, and adaptive content, including case studies and scenarios.*
3. *Suggesting assessment rubrics that can be applied across a range of subjects and disciplines.*



For further examples and AI-supported applications that can support an interdisciplinary civic discourse framework, particularly for tech and trades programs, please reach out!

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