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Foster civil classroom behavior

Facilitating civil behavior in the classroom creates a respectful learning environment where all students feel valued and safe to contribute. This foundation of mutual respect supports deeper collaboration, critical thinking, and a stronger sense of community, which are essential for effective learning.

Practices that facilitate civil classroom behavior that faculty might want to incorporate include:

1. Establishing shared norms and expectations for speaking up, and letting others speak–in both classroom and online environments.

2. Ensuring that all students have the opportunity to contribute and feel safe to voice wrong answers.

3. Implementing clear processes for assigning and switching roles on teams and with group projects.

4. Reminding students that mistakes are an expected, valuable part of the learning process.

5. Being explicit about what students are and are not expected to know, so that students who are more knowledgeable or are showing off don't intimidate others.

6. Modeling civil behavior by treating all students with respect.

7. Communicating policies for reporting and addressing problematic behavior.