



Civil Discourse Elevator Pitch

Overview: Create an elevator pitch for civil discourse that can be shared with stakeholders.

Steps:

1. Define “civil discourse” in your own words in the first part of the table below.
2. Imagine a colleague, administrator, or guardian asks why you’re dedicating class time to civil discourse. What would you say?
3. Draft a 30-60 second “elevator pitch” that explains the value of civil discourse for your students and your classroom in the table below.
4. Draw on the evidence and ideas you’ve encountered in your work as an educator , but make it personal—what matters most to you about civil discourse as a practice for you and your students?

Define Civil Discourse	Why is civil discourse important? And why do you think it’s important for this class, specifically?

Why this works: We shouldn’t assume that everyone knows what civil discourse *is*, or why or how it might be used in a classroom. Articulating the importance of civil discourse early on in the school year creates a classroom culture of communication and is, itself, an act of civil discourse.

