



Speaking Out – A Dialogue about Conflict & Community

Syllabus (3rd & 4th Quarter)

3rd Quarter

Speaking Out – A Dialogue about Conflict & Community will give you the opportunity to explore your ideas about the world, share your thoughts, learn from others, and develop strong reading, writing, critical thinking and listening skills through participation in Socratic Seminar discussion classes. You will practice the art of listening using daily exercises, civil discourse protocols, and short-interview projects.

4th Quarter

After learning, practicing and demonstrating basic skills in listening, you will begin to learn how to interview and effectively engage community members about the difficult topics of violence, war, and peace. This class will culminate in an exhibition of the ideas and values generated from our classroom discussions and interviews.

Goals for the class:

- ✓ Practice active, compassionate listening to understand different perspectives.
- ✓ Understand the difference between dialogue and debate.
- ✓ Learn and practice the basic strategies of dialogue through listening, discussion, writing, and reflection.
- ✓ Read poetry, articles, and personal narratives for understanding, meaning and significance to the world.
- ✓ Work together with others toward a common understanding of important issues.

Expectations for the class:

- ✓ Listen to others.
- ✓ Respect everyone.
- ✓ Actively engage in dialogue.
- ✓ Come to class prepared to listen, learn, share, and reflect.
- ✓ Always contribute your best thinking.

Structure and Grading for the class:

Your grade in this class will be based on a variety of things including: participation in Socratic Seminar, thoughtful writing about the ideas and issues discussed in class, active listening to the perspectives of others, and striving to improve your contribution to all dialogue sessions. At the end of the quarter you will turn in a portfolio of your written work, reflections, brainstorming and notes. We will decide grades based upon your self-evaluation and reflection, our observation, and the written exercises found in your portfolio.



Speaking Out – A Dialogue about Conflict & Community

Syllabus (4th Quarter)

4th Quarter

During this quarter, you will deepen your understanding of how conflict, violence and war impact individuals and the community. You will work with a partner to interview war veterans, peace activists and other members of the community to learn about different perspectives and values. After interviewing each person, you will write a brief, biographical sketch of his/her experience and values. The goal is to accurately document the stories of the people you interview.

Goals for the class:

- Prepare effective, meaningful questions for interviews about sensitive subjects.
- Ask follow-up questions during an interview to deepen the conversation.
- Interview war veterans, soldiers, peace activists and others about their experiences.
- Understand the complexity of war from different perspectives.
- Develop a better understanding of your own perspective on the issues we explore by working with **Write Around Portland**.
- Publish an **Anthology of Voices about Conflict & Community**.
- Present the anthology to the community through a public reading and fundraiser.

Behavior Expectations for the class:

- Come to class prepared to listen, learn, share, and reflect.
- Attempt all tasks; if you don't understand, ask for help immediately.
- Think positively and use your individual strengths.
- Listen to others when they speak.
- Respect everyone by listening, sharing ideas, staying focused, and working hard.

Structure and Grading for the class:

This quarter your grade will be based upon your contribution to the class project. This includes participation in daily activities, written reflections, classroom discussion, and interviews with community members. We will decide grades based upon your self-evaluation and reflection, our observation, and the written exercises found in your portfolio.