



Speaking Out – A Dialogue about Conflict & Community

Syllabus (4th Quarter)

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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.