

Sample “Civility contract”
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Classroom Community Compact

DRAFT

Our primary commitment is to learn from the instructors, from each other, from the materials and from our work. We acknowledge differences amongst us in values, interests and experiences. We will assume that people are always doing the best they can, both to learn the material and to behave in socially productive ways. By sharing our views openly, listening respectfully, and responding critically to ideas, we will all learn.

We commit to:

1. Follow conventions of good classroom manners;
2. Learn the names of all of our classmates, and use them in conversation;
3. Listen respectfully to each other;
4. Respond critically to ideas aired in the classroom;
5. Refrain from personal insults, profanity and other communication-stoppers;
6. Recognize and tolerate different levels of understanding of complex social and cultural issues;
7. Issue “gentle reminders” when these guidelines are breached.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Note: It is useful to present this ‘contract’ in draft form for discussion and revision during the first or second class meeting. Ask students to elaborate on what terms like “good classroom manners” mean to them. Solicit revisions and additions, then reprint in final form for signature.