



Open Inquiry, Viewpoint Diversity, and Constructive Disagreement: Resources for K-12 Educators

Heterodox Academy (HxA) is a group of nearly 4,000 educators, administrators, and graduate students who believe diverse viewpoints and open inquiry are critical to research and learning. The resources below are intended to provide K-12 educators with materials to create classrooms that welcome diverse people with diverse viewpoints and that equip learners with the habits of heart and mind to engage that diversity in open inquiry and constructive disagreement.

Conceptual Frameworks

- **The HxA Way.** A printable poster for your classroom, highlighting five useful values when embracing pluralism and constructive disagreement: Make your case with evidence, be intellectually charitable, be intellectually humble, be constructive, and be yourself.
- **Essential Heterodox Reading List.** The suggested articles introduce the curious reader to essential information about HxA and the social and ideological issues currently faced by students, teachers, and administrators. These readings aim to increase awareness about principles of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement. Please feel free to use these readings or the downloadable PDF with students, colleagues, and others in learning about heterodoxy.
- **Suggested Readings on Racism and Reform.** This list of suggested readings was submitted by members of the HxA Advisory Council. It approaches the historic moment we are in -- and the possibilities for change with regard to race, racism, policing and the criminal justice system, and everyday experiences of African American -- from diverse perspectives.
- **"The Coddling of the American Mind"** by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. This book shows how the problems in schools today have their origins in three ideas that have become increasingly woven into American childhood and education: "What doesn't kill you makes you weaker; always trust your feelings; and life is a battle between good people and evil people." A detailed summary of the book is available [here](#).
- **"Don't Label Me"** by Irshad Manji. This book shows how to do diversity without inflaming the culture wars and is a valuable tool in learning to create cultures in which viewpoint diversity is part of diversity itself. A classroom discussion guide is forthcoming and will be ready in Fall 2020.
- **"The Problem with Everything"** by Meghan Daum. This book tries to make sense of the current cultural and political landscape. In the process, Daum discusses identity politics, intersectionality, the gender wage gap, and generational divides. A classroom discussion guide will be available on the HxA website in mid-July. Daum was also a guest on our podcast, the episode can be found [here](#).

Classroom Resources

- **"All Minus One."** An illustrated book produced by HxA and based on John Stuart Mill's famous essay, *On Liberty*. This special edition brings Mill's work to life by making it accessible and relevant to modern readers. We offer it for free as a [downloadable pdf](#), [an audio reading](#), as well as a paperback [available for purchase](#). A classroom discussion guide is forthcoming and will be ready in Fall 2020.
- **Creating Connection.** This activity, based on experimental social psychological research, prepares students to take the interpersonal risks of sharing diverse viewpoints, admitting the limits of their own knowledge, or expressing genuine curiosity about the experiences and perspectives of others.
- **Writing Student Learning Outcomes.** This guide offers steps for using intentional curricular design to help students engage in open inquiry and constructive disagreement and to ensure courses, assignments, and class sessions advance critical outcomes.

- **OpenMind.** A psychology-based educational platform designed to depolarize campuses, companies, organizations, and communities. OpenMind helps people foster intellectual humility and mutual understanding, while equipping them with essential skills to engage constructively across differences.
- **How Do You See It?** This article by Debra Mashek teaches a valuable lesson on perspective taking in the classroom.
- **Virtual Free IC Classroom Session.** The goal of the Virtual FreeIC Classroom Session is to connect students from different classrooms in order to facilitate conversation, share ideas, and celebrate each others' differences. This is a step-by-step guide for teachers on how to set up a virtual FreeIC session with another classroom.
- **"Which One Doesn't Belong? A Shapes Book"** by Christopher Danielson. A special one for the math teachers out there, each page of this book contains a thoughtfully designed set of four shapes. Each of the shapes can be a correct answer to the question "Which one doesn't belong?" Because all their answers are right answers, students naturally shift their focus to justifications and arguments based on the shapes' geometric properties.

Resources for High School Students

- **Questions to Ask When Applying to College.** If you are a high school student who will be touring college campuses—and if you enjoy being with and learning from people who see the world differently than you do—here are seven questions to ask during campus visits to get a sense of whether a school values open inquiry and, in turn, has created the conditions necessary to prepare you for a diverse, challenging, and complex world.
- **10 Colleges Where You Won't Have to Walk on Eggshells.** These are schools—large and small, public and private—where multiple sources of information suggest that students will have better odds of developing the habits of heart and mind necessary to thrive in a world of complexity, nuance, and difference.
- **Bridge USA** – An organization for undergraduate students that champions ideological diversity, promotes a solution-oriented political culture, and teaches constructive engagement in order to develop a generation of political leaders that value empathy and common purpose. Share it with your college-bound students!

Get Involved

- HxA's membership is expanding to include K-12 educators, staff, and administrators. **[Sign up here to receive complete details](#)**
- **[Join the HxK-12 Community](#)** (HxA membership not required)
- **Help design and vet resources for K-12 educators;** we are always seeking to expand our [library of tools and resources](#), please contact events@heterodoxacademy.org with any valuable additions to this list or if you would like to help with developing or evaluating tools and resources.

Connect with HxA

- **[Learn more about HxA.](#)** This one-pager explains more about HxA and our work
- Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#)

Other Organizations to Know About

- **Interfaith Youth Core.** An organization working on campuses and in communities to create a world where people of different faiths, worldviews, and traditions can bridge differences and find common values to build a shared life together.
- **Let Grow.** An organization committed to countering the culture of overprotection by building understanding that viewing today's kids as physically and emotionally fragile is bad for their future.