



# QUESTIONS FOR DIVISIVE ISSUES



## SAMPLES

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### **PURPOSE:**

To offer examples of questions used in classroom dialogues on divisive and polarizing issues.

### **TOPIC:**

Designing Questions

### **NOTES ON THIS RESOURCE:**

These are some well-vetted dialogue questions for a few hot-button topics. Remember that all questions are suited to their purpose so choose and adjust according to your own purposes.



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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## **Dialogue on Gender Expectations on Campus**

- Talk about a gender expectation or a stereotype of your gender that makes it easier for you to be who you really are on campus.
- Talk about a gender expectation or stereotype of your gender that makes it harder for you to be who you really are on campus.
- Share an experience of your gender on campus that highlights something you would want to address, change, or explore further.

## **Dialogue on Experiencing Racial / Ethnic Differences**

- What life experience has most significantly taught you about encounters across racial/ethnic difference?
- Share an experience that you've had when you became aware that race, ethnicity, or bias about another core identity was a significant factor in your work and/or personal life.
- Share an experience you have had with people of different races or ethnicities that left you feeling hopeful for you and this campus or higher educational community?
- Share an experience that left you feeling there was still work to do.
- What is a place you see a need or an opportunity for this campus or higher educational community to further relationships across differences of race or ethnicity?
- What are resources in your community that could address that need or opportunity?

## **Dialogue on Guns and Gun Violence**

- Could you tell us about a life experience that has shaped your beliefs about firearms and firearm issues?
- When you think about the proper role of firearms in communities, what's at the heart of the matter for you? What do you most care about?
- Most people, within their overall conviction and values commitments on issues like this, have some areas of less certainty or places where they feel pulled in different directions, whether by competing values, feelings or relationships with others. Could you speak about places where this might be true for you on this issue?

## **Dialogue on Electoral Politics or a Specific Political Issue**

- What has your relationship been to [the issue]?
- What is at the heart of your political beliefs on this issue? Can you share one story from your own lived experience that has led you to those beliefs?
- In what ways have you felt out of step with the party or groups you generally support? In what ways do those groups not fully reflect what's important to you?