

Four Ways to Start Building a Culture of Dialogue

Research-backed approaches for your campus.



1. Build Cross-Ideological Partnerships

What works:

- Engage respected faculty and staff across perspectives
- Include varied disciplines—arts, humanities, sciences
- Create formal roles like Civic Fellows or Faculty Ambassadors

Why It Matters:

Shared vision across differences builds scalable, lasting impact.

2. Conduct a Needs Assessment

What works:

- Gather community input via surveys, focus groups, interviews
- Analyze existing demographic and behavioral data
- Identify service and policy gaps
- Prioritize needs by urgency and impact

Why It Matters:

A data-driven foundation reveals true needs and sharpens strategy.

3. Review Your Campus Expression Policies

What works:

- Use policies as education tools, not just rulebooks
- Clarify rights and expectations
- Coach students to plan outcomes and consequences
- Use updates to spark dialogue

Why It Matters:

Good policy can prompt awareness, clarity, and conversation.

4. Form a Constructive Response Team

Choose a model that fits your campus culture:

- Policy Enforcement Model: Clear protocols, structure, consistency
- Facilitation Model: Staff-led engagement, coaching, and feedback loops

Why It Matters:

Your response team is your campus culture in action. How they show up signals your values.



Which of these paths could jumpstart your culture-building efforts?

Get More Information

Download the full report:

<https://constructivedialogue.org/building-cultures-of-constructive-dialogue/>

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