

Activity 4: Responding Respectfully



Directions:

Emotions can flare the most when discussing topics with people with opposing views from our own.

(1) With a partner, you are going to complete the left side of the chart below with the topic assigned by your teacher. Work with your partner to determine how to discuss the topic respectfully with the prompts provided (left side of chart).

(2) Select a topic of your choice that could be misunderstood and complete the counterclaim sentence starters (right side of chart). Counterclaims are an argument offered in opposition to another argument. Example: After a bank sues a customer for an unpaid debt, the customer counterclaims (sues back) against the bank for fraud in gaining the debt.

(3) Share the counterclaims with another peer to practice conducting respectful conversations.

Teacher Provided Topic: _____	Your Topic: _____
Critics argue that ...	Critics argue that ...
While it might be true that ...	While it might be true that ...
Still, all in all ...	Still, all in all ...
Others might say that ...	Others might say that ...
but I argue ...	but I argue ...
A common argument against this position is ...	A common argument against this position is ...
but ...	but ...
It may be true ...	It may be true ...
but ...	but ...
It's easy to think ...	It's easy to think ...
but when you look at the facts ...	but when you look at the facts ...
It is often thought ...	It is often thought ...

How are these counterclaims effective in having a conversation about a topic that may be misunderstood?

Why is it important to be nonaggressive and nonconfrontational when discussing a misunderstood topic?