



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

**Creating Collaborative Civic Spaces
Module Series Overview**

Design of Module Series

This module explains the value of creating collaborative civic spaces in classrooms to enable effective communication and discourse among students. It is designed to empower social studies educators in establishing and maintaining effective classroom environments that foster meaningful civil discourse around current, contentious and controversial issues. These modules provide practical strategies and tools to help teachers create spaces where students can engage thoughtfully, respectfully, and critically with complex topics. Lessons created by Kentucky teachers that provide valuable insights and strategies for teachers looking to build dynamic spaces where civic engagement thrives are incorporated throughout this resource.

Compelling Question

The compelling question of the Creating Collaborative Civic Spaces is "How do I create collaborative civic spaces that support student collaboration and discourse?"

Supporting Questions

The supporting questions of this module series are:

- Why is it important for educators and students to create classrooms that are collaborative civic spaces?
- What do we do with variation?
- How do we engage student voice when building community in the classroom?
- What are current, contentious and controversial issues?
- Why should we engage in civil discussion about current, contentious and controversial issues?
- How do we engage in civil discussion?

Module One: Why is it important for educators and students to create classrooms that are collaborative civic spaces?

The Communicating Conclusions standards of the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies* require that students engage in democratic procedures to identify problems. This module explores what a collaborative civic spaces looks and sounds like. Educators will discover the importance of fostering civil discussion to establish and maintain collaborative civic spaces in their classrooms.

Module Two: What do we do with variation?

This module investigates evidence of variation and the effects of political polarization on social studies education. Educators will learn the role of variation in the *KAS for Social Studies* and how to engage with variation in their classroom. Examples based on lessons created by Kentucky teachers are provided for Kindergarten, Grade 7 and High School.

Module Three: How do we engage student voice when building community in the classroom?

A strong classroom community is necessary for students to engage in civil discussion, reach consensus when appropriate, and respect diverse opinions, which are required in the *KAS for Social Studies*. This module explores ways to engage student voice in building a collaborative classroom community

Module Four: How do we engage in civil discussion?

This module discusses the meaning of current, contentious and controversial issues. Additionally, a variety of resources that explain why students should engage in civil discussion about current, contentious and controversial issues are explored. Then, processes and strategies for how to engage in civil discussion are provided, including examples based lessons created by Kentucky teachers.