
INTER-GROUP DIALOGUE (IGD) “HOT TOPIC” FACULTY RESPONSE GUIDE

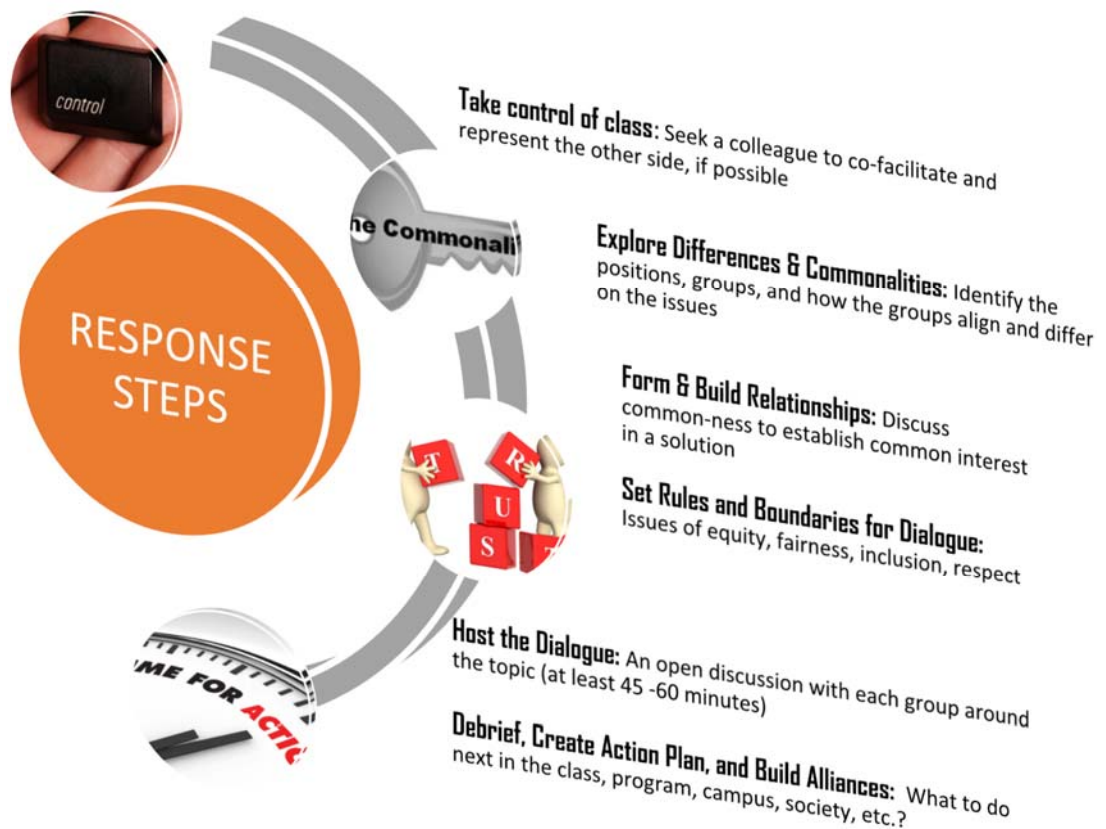
IUPUI IGD Community of Practice

Faculty members are tasked with responsibility for creating safe spaces for students. In these classroom spaces students grapple with real-world discrepancies in beliefs, ideologies, values, and or opinions. In responding to these discrepancies, safe environments for dialogue foster better outcomes and relationships. Dialogue emphasizes setting aside time for relationship formation, boundary setting, discussing and co-creating rules (and using those rules during dialogue), practicing listening and communication skills, and planning for change together. Offering opportunities for dialogue with student constituencies can result in outcomes of a) relationships across differences, b) increased awareness to promote understanding, c) support and challenge of risk-taking with safety nets, and d) knowledge in interpersonal communication (*listening, speaking honestly and openly, encouraging shared meaning*).

RESPONSE GUIDE

This response guide offers six steps to apply when planning and responding to hot topics in your classroom. A hot topic is any issue which seems to divide your students on the stances they take toward the stated issue. Hot topics can be planned or can erupt/evolve from trends in news, societal factors, or classroom discussions. Consider applying the IGD response guide if and when you must respond.

Hot Topic Response Steps



- I. Take Control of the Class – (Seek a colleague to co-facilitate and represent the other side, if possible)
- I. Form and Build Relationships (Discuss common-ness to establish common interest in a solution)
- II. Explore Differences & Commonalities (Identify the positions, groups, and how the groups align and differ on the issues)
- III. Set Rules and Boundaries for Dialogue (Issues of equity, fairness, inclusion, respect)
For example:
 - a. Let one group talk within a timeframe; repeat with the other group.
 - b. While one group is talking, the other side listens quietly (some non-verbal signals can be used but limited)
 - c. Only after one group finishes can the other group share what they heard, felt, understood, or saw. (Goal is to foster appropriate disagreement and conflict)
 - d. When anyone is sharing, members should refrain from judgement in any form (positive or negative).
 - e. If a response hits a trigger (diminishes feelings, reinforces stereotypes, or threatens/attacks) use predefined rules for response (for example Say “ouch!”).
 - f. Identify predefined appropriate response(s) when students are triggered: leave, avoid, silence, ignore, deflect, or give in.
- IV. Host the Dialogue (at least 45 -60 minutes)
- V. Debrief, Create Action Plan, and Build Alliances (what to do next in the class, program, campus, society, etc.?)