

# OUR COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

This course is built around discussion, reflection, and learning with one another. Because our identities, experiences, and perspectives shape how we communicate, it is important to establish shared expectations for how we engage with one another. These community agreements exist to help us create a learning environment where people feel respected and supported.

## SPEAK FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

Share ideas using your own perspective rather than making claims about entire groups or assuming others' intentions. This helps keep dialogue grounded and reduces defensiveness.

“From my experience, I see this as...”

“I cannot speak for every \_\_\_ person, but right now I feel...”

## LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

Approach conversations with curiosity rather than trying to prove a point or respond immediately. Listening is an active practice that includes asking questions, paraphrasing, and sitting with uncertainty.

“Can you say more about what you mean by that?”

“Please correct me if I am wrong, but what I am hearing is \_\_\_.”

## KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Growth often comes from discomfort. Be willing to reflect on feedback and consider new viewpoints. We are all teachers and learners!

“I see where you are coming from.”

“Thank you for sharing, that makes me think of \_\_\_ in a new way.”

## MAKE SPACE

Be mindful of how much you are speaking relative to others. If you tend to speak often, practice stepping back. If you tend to stay quiet, challenge yourself to share your thoughts and ideas with the class.

“What do others think about \_\_\_?”

“Adding on to what \_\_\_ said, I think that \_\_\_”

These community agreements can be revised, and new ones can be added, over the course of the semester. We will revisit this agreement together throughout the semester so that if someone feels that an agreement is missing or no longer serving the community, they can propose a change through class discussion or by sending an email to me at [heidi.judd@colorado.edu](mailto:heidi.judd@colorado.edu) so that I can bring up suggestions anonymously.



This is the Canva version of the community agreements I will use in future classrooms. I will show this to my students as a starting point for discussion, and we will make changes as needed based on suggestions put forth during the class's dialogue on what should be included, altered, or added. The community agreements will also be posted on Canvas, and I can print these Canva fliers to distribute to students and/or use as images on my PowerPoint slides.

This is a living document, and it will be revisited throughout the semester to remind students of our community agreements and to make changes as necessary to serve the needs of the classroom community.