

Resources to Support Staff and Students in Engaging in Civic Conversations

June 2024 (some materials subject to change)

[Association of Washington Student Leaders - Equity Resources](#)

This link includes hundreds of resources dedicated to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion for both students and staff alike, including responding to racist incidents and repairing harm in schools.

[WSSDA/WASA Equity in a Divided Community](#)

Linked here are leadership tips and talking points to help you support a positive vision of education, opportunity, and inclusion in your community. Reach out to [WSSDA](#) for more information about their spring 2024 regional meetings where they shared even more resources for engaging in political conversations with skill, competence, and civility. Here is an example: [Aspen Institute - Better Arguments Project](#)

[How K-12 Leaders Can Better Manage Divisive Curriculum and Culture War Debates](#)

Author Caitlynn Peetz interviews the Commissioner of Education in Colorado about how to lean into conversations with people you may disagree with to help build relationships and understanding.
Education Week, May 2024

[The Biggest Policy Challenges Schools Are Facing Right Now](#)

Author Larry Ferlazzo encourages educators to advocate for academic freedom and help students actively engage in discussions and initiatives that foster critical thinking and humility.
Education Week, April 2024

[Teaching Students to Talk Across Political Differences](#)

The authors highlight strategies to help deepen students' discussion skills because they believe schools are key in bridging communication divides in our society.
ASCD, April 2023

[Educating for a Diverse Democracy: The Chilling Role of Political Conflict in Blue, Purple, and Red Communities](#)

This research from UCLA in November 2022 says this is an “existential moment” for public schools as schools are under political attack. In the executive summary, the authors state: *“If we are to further our democracy, we see clear evidence that educational leaders, by emphasizing educational goals tied to a diverse democracy, can make a sizable difference. And, in addition, students, parents, and community members cannot be passive or wait for others to act. The problem with our current moment is not too much democracy, but too little. Public school governance, at its best, brings together diverse members of the community to forge a vision for a shared future — one that embraces the values of a diverse democracy. At this moment, what is needed is for a broad cross-section of the public to stand up for a diverse democracy.”*



[AWSL Equity Resources](#)
[AWSL Student Equity Guide](#)

James Layman, AWSL
james@awsleaders.org



[AWSP Equity Resources](#)
[AWSP Equity Guide](#)
[Equity-Centered Leadership Network](#)

Roz Thompson, AWSP
roz@awsp.org



[WASA Equity Resources](#)

Dan Steele, WASA
dsteele@wasa-oly.org



[Educational Equity Resources from WSSDA](#)

Marissa Rathbone, WSSDA
m.rathbone@wssda.org