



Braver Angels

For College Instructors: Assigning 1:1 Conversations to Students

College instructors have assigned Braver Angels 1:1 Conversations to students as a class assignment with highly beneficial results. Diane McMahon of Allegany College in Maryland in rural Cumberland said, “This was a fantastic experience for so many of my students.” Students report they gained important, new perspectives from people who were of different political views, races, ages or geography than themselves, and enjoyed their conversations.

How To

Contact us first at 1-1@braverangels.org before assigning 1:1 Conversations if you wish us to do the pairing. We at Braver Angels need to coordinate when students sign up, and across what differences, in order for us to be able to effectively pair them with students from other schools and with non-student Braver Angels members.

Have students sign up about a month in advance of when you want them to start their two conversations to give you or us time for pairing, as well as an opportunity to find times for conversation that fit in both their schedules. Ask them to double check the information they enter during sign-up, so that they provide accurate student emails and phone numbers. The assignment should generally be mandatory to ensure that a wide variety of students sign up. If a student tells you in advance that they simply won’t have time to complete it due to myriad other demands on their time, give them a substitute assignment. Otherwise, it’s not fair to a conversation partner who is unable to connect with them. Also, please have a substitute assignment available for anyone who does not wish to participate in a Braver Angels 1:1 Conversation, for whatever reason.

Sample curriculum

Here is a sample curriculum for a course containing a Braver Angels 1:1 Conversations assignment from Mark Urista of Linn Benton Community College in Albany, OR. There are, of course, numerous ways to incorporate 1:1 Conversations into a class.

During the first month of this instructor’s asynchronous class, students complete the free, online learning program—containing eight lessons--called [Perspectives](#). It is offered by the Constructive Dialogue Institute (formerly known as Open Minds), begun in 2017 by Jonathan Haidt and Caroline Mehl.

They then complete their two 1:1 Braver Angels Conversations, and write a paper.

Students who registered for this assignment will be assigned a conversation partner via email by Braver Angels. After completing your two required conversations with this person, you'll need to submit a 3-4 page paper on Canvas that does the following:

1) Identify the person you conversed with and the type of conversation you had.

- [Red/Blue](#)
- [Conversation About Race, Ethnicity and Culture](#)
- [Rural/Urban](#)
- [Conversation Across Generations](#)
- [Golden Rule Conversation](#)

2) Describe what you and your partner discussed for each question (provide concrete details).

- [Red/Blue](#)
- [Conversation About Race, Ethnicity and Culture](#)
- [Rural/Urban](#)
- [Conversation Across Generations](#)
- [Golden Rule Conversation](#)

3) Directly cite content from Perspectives and explain how it connects to what you and your partner discussed for each question.

Your paper should be double-spaced, with 12 point, Times New Roman or Arial font, and one inch margins. Papers that are poorly organized or that have weak support will not earn full credit.