

## Dispositions of Democracy

### FOUNDATIONAL SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL IMAGINATION DISPOSITIONS AND CAPACITIES

- relationship building, community-building and community-sustaining behaviors
- empathic listening, through tools like “free listening” and “clarifying questions”, non-violent communication
- curiosity and openness to difference, through guided inquiry approaches
- social imagination (the capacity to enter into perspectives different from theirs in time, place, ideology, personal history . . . ), e.g. through **drama in education strategies**
- celebrating and naming the wisdom of uncertainty, of being categorically tentative in one’s positions
- understanding of one’s own personal history and its value and limitations, one’s cognitive biases and allegiances; and the value and limitations of other perspectives – including tools for understanding the manipulative power of social media
- capacity for civic discourse and dialogue: developing tools like mirroring, uptake, procedural feedback and feedforward

### ACADEMIC DISPOSITIONS AND CAPACITIES

- Cultivating News literacy/identifying and interrogating information pollution
- evaluating and justifying information sources and data in ways that fit disciplinary standards
- understanding and valuing the “constitution of knowledge”, i.e. time-honored disciplinary processes for developing and verifying knowledge, through rule-governed ways of establishing, cross-checking and revising understandings in social networks
- questioning: self-questioning, after listening/reading, on the factual/interpretive/critical-evaluative levels
  - honoring different perspectives if grounded in reflective experience, justified data and reasoning
  - cultivating mindfulness and mindsight, metacognition
  - reframing problems into possibilities, complaints into commitments, topics into new angles

reframing argument from winning and compelling to learning and deepening understanding (moving Toulmin to Rogerian argument)