



Master of Educational Technology Program



Developing Brave Space

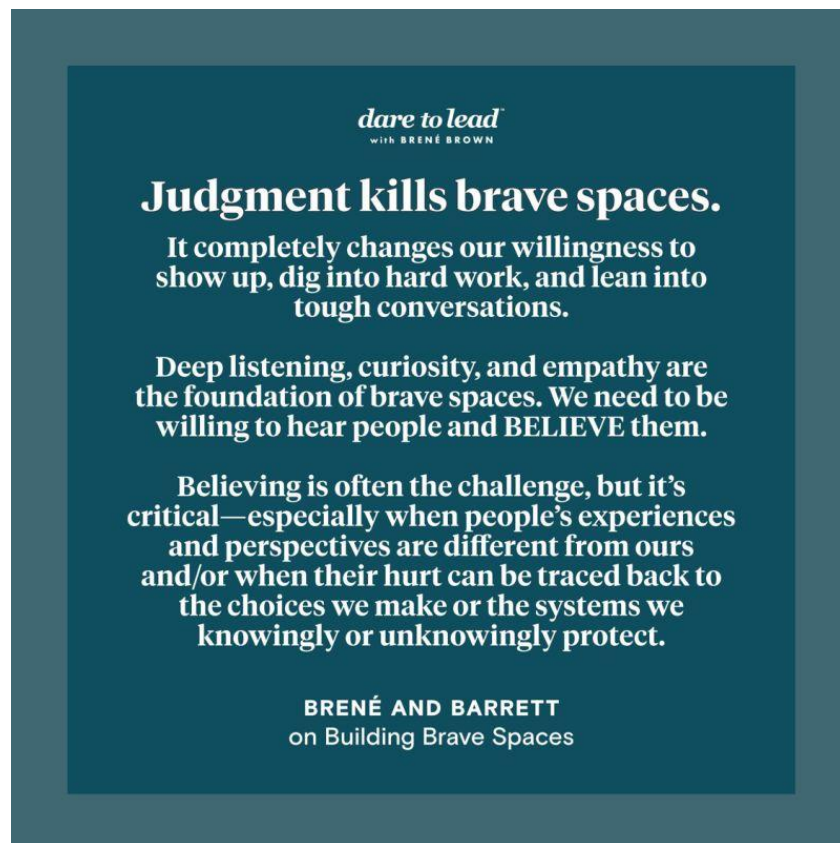
Fostering Environments for Critical Thinking, Discomfort, and Growth

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Inclusive Makerspace Provocations

Overview of the provocation

In this provocation you will **explore** what it means to create a *brave space*. This includes an environment that promotes honest, yet challenging conversations challenging binary thinking about real-world issues. Unlike “safe spaces”, a brave space acknowledges that there is discomfort involved in dialogue and conversation. Within this provocation, engage in critical thinking and develop a mind map or vision board of what needs to be included within a brave space. Be sure to consider inclusivity, equity, and the importance of diverse perspectives.



Materials and Resources Required

Items you may want to use:

- **Basic Materials:** Large Paper, markers, sticky notes, poster board, glue, scissors, misc. art supplies.
- **Art Supplies:** Modelling clay, paint, fabric, and recyclable material for building a vision board.
- **Optional Technology:** Tablets, and laptops for brainstorming and sketching, VR headsets for virtual space design, and mind map creation. ([Cooogle](#), [Miro](#), [Mural](#), [Lucidchart](#), [Noda VR](#))
- **Key Readings, and Videos:** Articles and videos on designing brave spaces and binary thinking. See additional information, for links to readings and videos.

Inclusive Maker Provocation Instructions

1. **Introduction to Brave Spaces:** Using the resources above as background information, explore how you can begin to design a brave space in your classroom, or workspace. Focus on the analysis on the differences between a *safe space* and a *brave space*. Compare and contrast the differences between these two types of spaces.
2. **Set Intentions:** Reflect on your own workspace or classroom. Which characteristics do you feel your space has or does not have? Write down some of your individual intentions for developing a brave space within your own context.
3. **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm components that are essential for developing brave spaces. Be sure to focus on inclusivity and respect for diverse perspectives and voices. This can be done through the creation of a mind map, or a vision board.

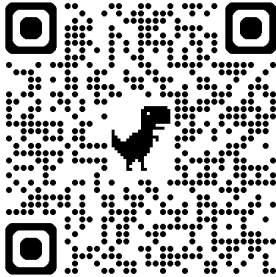
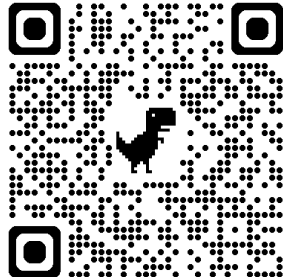
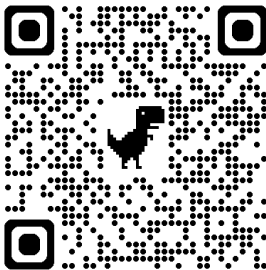
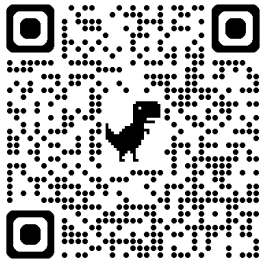
Critical Questions for Consideration

Provide any questions that will prompt and probe your learners' thinking to extend their understanding of the content and the process in which they navigate to complete the provocation.

- What does it mean to have a brave space opposed to a safe space?
- How can you ensure that all voices, especially marginalized ones, are heard in a brave space?
- How do you plan to balance trauma informed teaching practices, to ensure that you consider the emotional safety of people as well as fostering an environment for challenging conversations?
- As a facilitator of these spaces how do you plan to address, make visible, and unpack your own personal biases?
- How can a brave space encourage action, taking transformative dialogue to meaningful change?

Background/ Additional Information

The following resources provide additional background information on the creation of brave spaces. Use these resources to assist you in the completion of your comparison of brave spaces vs. safe spaces, and the mind map creation of brave spaces.

Video: What's the difference between a Brave Space and a Safe Space?	Video: From Safe Spaces to Brave Spaces	Podcast: The Trap of Binary Thinking
		
Video: Brave Spaces	Article: Principles for "Brave Spaces"	
		

Inclusivity Focus

This provocation focuses heavily on culturally responsive pedagogy. The inclusion of key principles of culturally responsive pedagogy including, cultural awareness, inclusive curriculum, building positive relationships with students, student-centered approaches to learning, involving community, and critically examining our own inherent biases as educators underpin the creation of this provocation (Ewart, n.d.).

The provocation opens the door to utilize the [liberatory design framework](#) (National Equity Project, 2021). The provocation utilizes the framework, that can lead to a further maker challenge.

- **Notice:** The center of the framework encourages us as designers to be critically conscious of our own biases, the power dynamics, and systems at play when thinking about developing brave spaces.
- **Reflect:** Reflect on our own design intentions, how do our design intentions impact us individually, interpersonally, institutionally, and systemically.
- **Empathize:** The focus of a brave space is to design a space that encourages openness, conversation, active listening. This needs to be developed from a place of love, respect, and curiosity.
- **Define:** Think about how we can bring different perspectives together in this space in meaningful, and respectful ways.
- **Inquire:** Inquire is focused around finding more information for us to better define the challenge and provide a clearer direction for prototyping.
- **Imagine:** Brainstorm ideas on how to make the space that address the creation of a brave space.

Utilization of both culturally responsive pedagogy and the liberatory design framework allows for deeper exploration, critical thinking, and leads towards action of actualizing the design and creation of brave spaces that is reflective of diverse perspectives, and individual needs, resulting in transformative opportunities for dialogue and critical thought.

No Tech, Low Tech, High Tech Options

This provocation allows for all learnings to engage in this provocation.

No-Tech

Learners can utilize the craft supplies, magazines, and other print resources to develop their own vision board defining what brave spaces can look like. Learners can also utilize paper and pencil to brainstorm and map what their intentions are and outline the essential components for building online spaces.

Low-Tech

Users can utilize tools such as Cooogle, Miro, Mural, or Lucidchart to map out their mind map. Users could also utilize tools such as Canva, or Adobe Express to develop digital vision boards of their brave spaces.

High-Tech

Users could utilize tools such as Noda VR utilizing virtual reality to create a mind map of their components of brave spaces. Users could also utilize virtual reality to create spaces that embody what a safe space could look like.

Extension

- Develop a guide for the those who want to begin to create and faciliate a brave space. This could include certain tools, such as conflict resolutions strategies, or conversation prompts.
- Prototype your brave space. Utilizing either no-tech, low-tech, or high-tech tools. Take this learning to the next level. Design your brave space.
- Discuss the creation of the brave space with your students, or colleagues, report back on this experience. What feedback was given? How can the brave space be improved based upon this feedback?

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