

# YOUTH ENGAGE!

## *A Curriculum for Civil Discourse*

Approximately one-third of all 6th-10th graders in the United States have been involved in bullying, whether as the bully, the target, or both, according to the Indiana Youth Institute. Research suggests that an underlying lack of social and communication skills may lead youth to act uncivilly.

Youth Engage! is an interactive process that fosters civil discourse among youth in grades 5-12.

Youth Engage! curriculum can be implemented in a variety of settings, including in-school and after-school, youth development programs, and faith-based groups. The curriculum goals are as follows:

- Learn and engage in basic civil discourse
- Develop skills to discuss controversial topics
- Learn and share different perspectives
- Learn how to build consensus
- Develop empathy and demonstrate kindness
- Develop skills to positively deal with confrontation

While there are five units, the curriculum activities may expand to many hours and days of programming, depending on the size of the group and age of participants. Facilitators may decide on shorter or longer sessions.

Each Unit also contains **Icebreakers + Reflection Activities** to help participants process the content and provide feedback to the facilitators. **Homework Assignments** for each unit are optional and at the discretion of facilitators.

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