

Coping in the Classroom
after the Events of September 11, 2001
Preparing to Make Talk Work

September 25, 2001

There are no magical formulas for making talk work in the classroom after the tragic events of September 11 since talk occurs within a context and not in a vacuum.

Preparing for a difficult conversation begins with setting the stage. A faculty member may begin the class by saying something like "Before we get started, I would like to take a few minutes to ensure civility and respect during our class session." Below are some suggested guidelines for faculty to share with students before facilitating a classroom discussion. The respect groundrules can be used in any combination or order.

Respect Groundrules

- ▣ **No personal attacks**
- ▣ **Keep an open mind**
- ▣ **Raise your hand to speak**
- ▣ **One person speaks at a time**
- ▣ **Be brief**
- ▣ **Allow for "dumb" questions or statements**
- ▣ **Allow for "ouch"**

For CUNY DRC listservs and websites of NYC Dispute Resolution organizations, visit the CUNY DRC website at <http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/dispute>. A Breakfast Meeting for those interested in Dispute Resolution in NYC will be held on October 4 at 8 am at 899 Tenth Ave, Room 610. Please RSVP to dispute@jjay.cuny.edu or call 212-237-8692.

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