

Sample Community Agreement

Supplement to: Silva, J. M. (2026). Teaching social change: The Practical Activism Assignment. In S. Plous (Ed.), *Action teaching: Creating a better world through transformative education: A practical guide with award-winning examples*. American Psychological Association.

Note: This sample community agreement is based on previous student agreements.

We, the undersigned, pledge to uphold this agreement. If a member of our class breaks it, we will work with that person to address the issue and will seek the input of Professor Silva. Specifically, we pledge to respect the following guidelines for group conduct:

1. Speak for yourself and not for others.
2. Raise your hand when you want to speak. If you have spoken more than once, let someone else speak before you speak again.
3. Recognize that we bring our full selves into this room, including identities such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, and so on. Identities are not separate from privilege. If a class member calls out your privilege, do not react—hear them out.
4. Do less calling out and more calling in. If you aren't sure how to do this, seek the advice of others. It's important to use encouraging words when inviting classmates into a discussion. Words like "I hear you" and "What are your thoughts?" go a long way.
5. Value the lived experience of others, and feel free to share your own experiences.
6. When speaking, try to avoid negative assumptions about other people.
7. We agree to use dialogue and consensus for all class decisions. If we find that this approach is not working or that an intractable conflict arises, we will meet with Professor Silva to discuss alternatives.
8. Each aspect of this project must be inclusive. We will make space for those who prefer their role to be "behind the scenes" or are not comfortable for any reason. Nobody needs to disclose why they have a preference concerning their role.
9. We will end each work session with an anonymous "exit ticket" in which each person will list one positive thing from the day and one thing that we can improve. Group leaders will then summarize this feedback at our next meeting.