Courageous Conversations & Action Steps for Equitable Learning in Co-Taught Inclusive Classrooms

Elizabeth Stein
UDL Instructional Coach, Author

#UDL4SocialJustice  #CoTeachat
Why All Educators Need Moral Courage!

• Standing up for what you believe in – no matter what.

• Advocating for others regardless of the consequences for yourself.

• Doing what is “right” in the face of adversity.
Stay Engaged & Participate!

@ElizabethLStein  #UDL4Justice,
Aim: Choose one way you may begin to apply Courageous Conversations....

- Gather information and ideas
- Keep reading!

Influencer
- Collaborate with colleagues and start to expand perceptions through courageous conversations!

DOer

Innovator
- Generate, expand, & create new ways of advocating for students in inclusive classrooms!

Inspire a Call To ACTION!
The Narrative of Inclusion…

Along with many positive stories…

Unintentional Implicit Bias

Deficit Model Horror Stories
 WHY we need courageous conversations

Dear Teachers…

Left Out  Don’t Belong
Sad       Afraid
Anxious   Fake
Embarrassed Confused
Worried   Weak
Uncomfortable Invisible

What is your personal connection, experience, or story?
Through A Courageous Conversations Lens…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stay Engaged!</th>
<th>Experience Discomfort!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers reflect on their</td>
<td>Step out of comfort zones. What new ideas and ways of teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instructional design</td>
<td>could you apply? Silence egos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socially, emotionally,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intellectually, and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>morally.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak Your Truth!</td>
<td>Expect and Accept Non-Closure!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak with integrity and</td>
<td>Embrace the process! Hang out in uncertainty—and enjoy it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pragmatic honesty—don’t</td>
<td>Create space for student voice, choice, and flexibility!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>just say what you think</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others want to hear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate for your role</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and for students!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Students:
YOU Belong and are Empowered!

- Greet each and use eye contact and nonverbal cues to create sense of belonging for EACH.
- Provide choice and collaboration—Strengths-based focus!
- Keep goals visible and manageable with focus on PROCESS
- During wait time—have all students jotting ideas down on sticky note—all students purposefully active while waiting.

- Vary material (sketch notes, outlines, audio, visual, etc… during “lecture” or reading from text
- Include movement for actively perceiving material—station teaching
- Use iPads, Chromebooks with accessibility tools for support when reading texts

- Make students a part of goal-setting process
- Access to multi-media—actively researching--navigating
- Embed choice for methods of response to empower and scaffold
- Provide various levels of support—naturally within context
- Include strategies for self-monitoring for generalization and for true ownership of own learning process.
UDL and Courageous Conversations Frameworks Guides us to Know Better & DO Better!

Do the best you can until you know better.
Then when you know better, do better.

-Maya Angelou
Check-In through the four ways people deal with diversity...
Courageous Conversations
About Diversity

Say Something Protocol

Take a few minutes to experience the spark and feel of a courageous conversation....

1. Definition of diversity: Difference
2. Read through each question.
3. Say Something to people in your group.
4. Connect with the UDL Guidelines
Next Steps?

1. Read “Willing to be Disturbed” by Margaret Wheatley (see handouts)

2. Check out the Courageous Conversations Protocol (see handouts)

3. Consider a conversation you would like to get started—using the protocol—begin to MOVE THE VISION!
What’s Your Next Advocacy Step?

• Gather information and ideas
• Keep reading!

• Collaborate with colleagues and start to expand perceptions!

• Generate, expand, & create new ways of advocating for students in inclusive classrooms!

Inspire a Call To ACTION!
Resources

• **Why All Co-Teachers Must Have Moral Courage!**, Two Teachers in the Room, MiddleWeb

• Courageous Conversations Protocol (see handouts)

• “Willing to be Disturbed” Margaret Wheatley (see handouts)

• “**Co-Teachers! Are You willing to be Disturbed?**” : Two Teachers in the Room, MiddleWeb

• “**What the Kids Have to Say about Inclusion**”: Two Teachers in the Room, MiddleWeb
Resources

- **Courageous Conversations About Race** by Glenn Singleton
- **UDL Theory and Practice**, by Anne Meyer, David & David Gordon
- **Elevating Co-Teaching Through UDL**, by Elizabeth Stein
- **Two Teachers in the Room: Strategies for Co-Teaching Success**, by Elizabeth Stein
- **Elevating Co-Teaching through UDL webinar**, Elizabeth Stein, CAST
Thank YOU!

When we know better, we do better!