Confronting Controversy in the Classroom: How Not to Avoid the Hard Stuff

Sarah Briggs & Rebecca Wray
What is the absolute worst thing that could happen if you allow controversial conversations in your classroom?

Take a moment to think about the question above.

Turn to your neighbor and share your answer.
He must be very ignorant for he answers every question he is asked.

Voltaire
slow thinking

- Structured conversations
- Document thinking
- Reflect on thinking
- Non reactionary dialogue
Where is the limit in science technology?

- Around the room you will find concentric circles with a topic and accompanying data.
- In the first circle write what you have observed in the data.

- When time is called rotate to the next station.
- In the next circle write what questions do you have about the data and/or the other students observations.
- Rotate again and write in the area surrounding the circles what big ideas have been observed.
Concentric Circles

Where is the limit in science technology?

- Nazi medical experiments: pros and cons
- Right to life: what do you have the rights to and why
- Animal and Human Cloning
silent seminar

Without talking, on the butcher paper, write how this image makes you feel. You must connect all of your thoughts to another thought.
silent seminar
Think back to the first question

What ways can you brainstorm to stop that worst case scenario from happening?

Questions?
contact us

Sarah Briggs
spbriggs@gaston.k12.nc.us

Rebecca Wray
rmwray@gaston.k12.nc.us
Don’t forget to register for this session!

Form URL

Session Code

thank you!

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See, Think, Wonder

Keep it short
Talking points only
Keep it consistent
Vary layout to communicate the difference in ideas