

Brave Space





What is my role in creating and participating in a brave space for myself and others?

Ancestor Acknowledgement

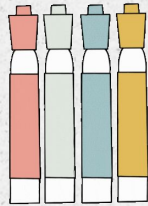
James Baldwin

Baldwin, an African American writer and social critic, who fearlessly navigated the turbulent waters of race, sexuality, and class in America, challenging us to confront these difficult issues head-on. Baldwin's open discussions about these difficult subjects, particularly in a time when such topics were often avoided or ignored, exemplify the concept of a brave space.

“Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
- James Baldwin



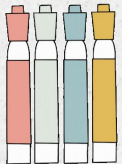
Write about a time when you didn't feel welcome. It could have happened at school, outside of school, during a sports game, etc. How did it make you feel?



On your Whiteboard

Answer the following questions:

- What do I need to feel safe?
What do others need to do?
- What do I need to participate?





Respond on the Padlet

BRAVE SPACE

“What is a brave space?”

Think about it in terms of what “brave” means and what “space” means.

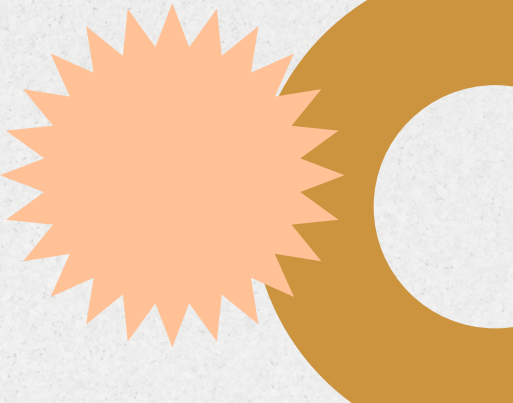
Respond on the Padlet

BRAVE SPACE

“What is a brave space?”

Add a visual that you think embodies a brave space.

Adapted from Anti-Defamation League



10 things to pay attention to when creating, and participating in, a

Brave Space

1. Welcome multiple viewpoints.

Be open to hearing and understanding new ideas and perspectives. Speak from your own experience by using “I statements.” Ask questions to understand the sources of disagreements.

2. Own your intentions and your impacts.

Respect each other’s experiences and feelings by taking responsibility for the impact of your words. On the other side, if you have a strong reaction to something, let the group know. Be open to dialogue.

3. Work to recognize your privileges.

Use this space to recognize and investigate your privileges (for example: class, gender, sexual orientation, ability). Honor the different experiences we all bring to this space.

4. Take risks.

Lean into discomfort. We are all in process. Challenge yourself to contribute even if it is not perfectly formulated.

5. Make space.

Share speaking time and try to speak after others who have not spoken. Take space if you sometimes hold back and don’t participate as much as others.

6. Notice and name group dynamics in the moment.

We are all responsible for this space. Be aware of how others are responding or not responding. Ask for a “time out” or dialogue if needed.

7. Actively listen.

Use your energy to listen to what is said before thinking about how to respond. Notice when defensiveness and denial arise.

8. Challenge with care.

Find ways to respectfully challenge others and be open to challenges of your own views. Think about how to question ideas without personal attacks.

9. Commit to confidentiality.

Share the message, not the messenger.

10. Break it down.

Use simple language and background information when necessary. Ask for clarification if needed.

Is there anything you think should be added?



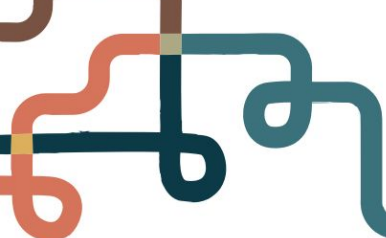
Adapted from Anti-Defamation League

PLEDGE

Use the sentence frame to pledge how you will contribute to a Brave Space in our class. You can pick one of the “Stop/Start/Continue” or you can do all three. Write your pledge on the Padlet.

In order to create and participate in a brave space for my classmates, and for myself I need to (Stop/Start/ Continue) doing _____.





Untitled Poem
by *Beth Strano*



There is no such thing as a “safe space” –

We exist in the real world.

We all carry scars and have caused wounds.

This space

seeks to turn down the volume of the world outside,

and amplify voices that have to fight to be heard
elsewhere,

This space will not be perfect.

It will not always be what we wish it to be


But

It will be our space together,

and we will work on it side by side.

Let's read this poem

Facing History & Ourselves,
“Untitled Poem by *Beth Strano*,”
last updated April 22, 2022.



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Facing History & Ourselves, “Untitled Poem by Beth Strano,” last updated April 22, 2022.

TASK

Overview: You will turn this poem into visual art to hang outside our classroom door as a reminder that our classroom is a Brave Space.

1. On the poem handout emphasize words or lines that connect with you the most
2. Illustrate and beautify the poem. Go back to slide 8 for more context about what a Brave Space is and the Padlet for visual inspiration if you need it.

