

Handout B: Classroom Commitment and Reflection

Directions: As we can see, when respect, trust, and other characteristics are absent within and between groups, violence and hatred are the result.

Step 1: To ensure that we meet our goals as a class as a cohesive group in a trusting and respectful environment, where all are valued, we will collaborate to create a “Classroom Commitment.” This commitment should include norms for interacting and discussion and expectations that we can all hold each other accountable for, and will help us discuss complex, difficult, and controversial topics in our class throughout the year.

- You may use images, words, or a combination
- Norms & expectations should be applicable to all in the room, and strive to make our classroom “group” stronger and more cohesive
- Consider not only daily norms, but also how to handle conflict within our classroom group

Step 2: Individually, reflect on what you observed, wondered, or learned from the events in Charlottesville. In this reflection you should discuss:

1. How you were feeling during the day’s lesson and/or as you watched the Charlottesville events unfold, including any questions or conclusions.
2. Which characteristics of strong groups and group members most resonate with your personal beliefs.
3. How you, individually, will contribute to the class commitment and as a member of the class “group,” how you will act towards their peers.

As this reflection serves in part to commit to our Classroom Commitment, you should sign your name at the bottom to hold yourself accountable.