

Expectations Brainstorm

Maroon Highlight	Class activity/engagement
<i>Italic</i>	For you to do or think about
Bold	For you to write down
Regular	For you to say
Grey Highlight	Section or subsection
Boxed	Summary

This activity asks students to practice firmly holding an intention (upholding one of their personal values) while remaining flexible in their expectations of how to resolve a situation that they are tolerating. The goal is for students to experience the creative problem solving that can occur when they take a step back from the exact solution that they want and instead consider the value that they want to uphold.

For instance, a new professor may be tolerating fearing that she may make the wrong decisions for her class. Her expectation may be to help students learn cool things about astronomy. However, her definition of “learning cool things about astronomy” may be restricted to learning the things that she thinks is cool is about astronomy or that she has decided her students in her class should know in order to pass the class. If she instead focuses on connecting to her excitement and thoughtfulness while supporting her students’ learning, then she leaves the door open for supporting her students in learning something cool about how societal factors can influence science history or maybe even learning that astronomy isn’t for them but science communication is!

This exercise also begins to introduce collaborative conflict management by engaging a partner to help students brainstorm more ways to uphold their value.

(1 min) Framing the problem (Individual) - Pick one thing that you’re tolerating to work on, and write it at the top of the worksheet in the grey box.

(1 min) Setting up the problem solving approach (Individual) - Now, pick one of your values to connect to while you work on finding ways to improve the situation. Connecting to this value is the intention that you’re setting.

(3 min) Problem solving: Being firm with intention and flexible with form (Individual) -
For the next 3 minutes, we’re going to brainstorm expectations! In other words, we’re going to brainstorm all the different ways that you can think of that will improve the situation that you’re tolerating in a way that upholds that value.

(5 min) Problem solving: Being firm with intention and flexible with form (Partners) -
Now we’re going to share with our partners the situation that we picked and the intention that we set. Then help each other brainstorm more ways to uphold your values while improving the situations that you are both tolerating. Everyone try to offer your partner at least 2 more suggestions that they haven’t thought of!

