

# Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Topics

Presented by

**The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

**March 1, 2020**



- **Meet Academic Content Standards**
    - **Utilize Primary Sources**
  - **Learn Innovative Teaching Strategies**
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9:30 a.m.      **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

10:00 a.m.      **Welcome & Introduction**

10:15 a.m.      **Introduction to the Great Debate**

The United States of America is an ongoing experiment in democracy. Can the American people develop a republic and sustain it on a grand scale? Can the United States balance the competing interests of its citizens in a peaceful way? Examine four sets of value tensions and how they interact with American history and civic life.

10:45 a.m.      **Break**

11:00 a.m.      **Meet a Person of the Past: James Lafayette**

James Lafayette, an enslaved Virginian from New Kent County, eventually won his freedom for his service during the American Revolution. Spend some time with him to learn about his contribution to the founding of our nation.

12:00 p.m.     **Lunch**

1:00 p.m.     **Teaching Sensitive & Controversial Topics**

Colonial Williamsburg staff presents and discusses controversial topics on a daily basis. An accurate depiction of our nation’s history requires that sensitive issues including slavery, cultural conflict, and women’s roles, must be included. We as educators are confronted with the challenge of addressing these subjects in an informative, non-confrontational, and sensitive manner. Share ideas, learn techniques, and discuss how to transfer these lessons to the classroom.

1:45 p.m.     **Break**

2:00 p.m.     **Enduring Themes throughout American History**

The debate over our American values has led individuals to agitate for change throughout our history. Analyze historical events and themes that have been a part of America’s history throughout the centuries. Evaluate how shifting toward a particular American value tends to alter the balance with its countervailing value.

3:00 p.m.     **Classroom Connections**

“What should we do? Highlight practical reasoning for better civil discourse.”

Jessica Winkelaar, Highview Middle School, New Brighton

How can we better prepare our students to engage in civil discourse? Highlight their reasoning! Join us to learn about the practical reasoning process and consider how this strategy could enhance classroom discourse. In our session, we will engage in practical reasoning using a dilemma case and identify the characteristics of practical reasoning, including imagination. Together we will discuss how practical reasoning can lead to better civil discourse in our classrooms.

4:00 p.m.     **Conclude**