

Group Work from Summer 2021 Montgomery College ELITE Series: **Social Justice: Creating an Inclusive Classroom**

Group #1: At MC we celebrate diverse cultures which includes for example: gender identity, various physical abilities, race, ethnicity, political viewpoints, age, socio economic status, learning strengths, cognitive and communication styles to name just a few. (By: Kelly Rudin, Laura Miller, Tonya Powell, Ji Yu, and Lena Choudhary)

Group #2: In this classroom, a non-judgmental environment, your instructor strives to maximize student engagement and opportunity. Each student will be treated with dignity and respect and encouraged to feel empowered to contribute to the class in the way they are most comfortable while still being held to academic standards in a reasonable way. (By: Erika Bucciantini, Joanne Frazier, Nancy Greenawald, Jennifer Lee, and Patience Mbulu)

Group #3: Welcome to Montgomery College where we are committed to inclusivity, diversity, equity and equality. We are together regardless of race, gender identity, religious beliefs, different abilities, experiences, backgrounds, age and economic status. These are essential to the mission of Montgomery College. We are fortunate to be part of this rich community with you. (By: Dawn Avery, Genevieve Carminati, Katherine Hubley, Patricia Robinson, and Inderroop Singh)

Group #4: We want to welcome you to a collaborative learning experience. In this classroom, we want everyone to SHARE their perspective voices which will allow us to learn with, from and about each other. As a team, we will be enriched, empowered and accountable to each other and our success. (By: Angela Ingram, Jane Smith, Deborah Sewell, Kate Snyder, and Sabrina Bielefeldt)

Group #5: This class is inclusive. That means we will respect each other as equals. We will be kind to each other and listen to each other so that everyone feels safe in our learning environment. Everyone's input in the space will be considered. Participants in this class are encouraged to share pronouns and names by which they wish to be addressed. We will collaborate on decisions about how we address each other and refer to ourselves. Everyone comes to this classroom with different backgrounds and life experiences. An inclusive classroom celebrates these differences. Our aim is to be universal in the modes of learning in this class. Please communicate your needs as often as you like. (By: Greg Wahl, Pauline White, Mark Santangelo, Candice Mott, and Kirubel Assegid)

Group #6: This is a safe space, a community of learners, this class belongs to you. Share with us what you prefer to be called and any gender pronouns you prefer. We are intentional to meet the needs of diverse learners. We represent various backgrounds, life experiences, and belief systems. Our differences are celebrated as our strengths. (By: Xiaofang Huang, Teresa Peachey, Stanley Smith, and Zeporia Smith)

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Group #7: At Montgomery College, we strive to create an environment that cultivates inclusivity and connection for a group that represents the diversity of our community. All demographics (gender, race, age, culture, religion, language) will be represented to create an environment that encourages learning. We believe our diversity is a strength that enhances the educational experience for everyone. We will advocate for the needs of all students to promote a positive learning environment for all. (By: Heather Levine, Teresa Lew, Keith McKelphin, Howard Feinstein, and Nelson Ginebra-Azar)

Group #8: Welcome to _____ [insert course title]! All belong here. An underlying goal of our work this semester will be to get to know one another, learn interests and passions, and provide a safe space for open conversations. This course is designed to allow every student a voice, to feel heard and respected, to recognize their value as a scholar regardless of background or experience. Your words, your ideas are important. And, as the semester persists, your continued engagement is encouraged by asking questions, sharing feedback, and expressing what is helping or hindering your learning. All belong here. (By: Behrouz Meyssami, Matthew Decker, Jason Youngkin, and Grace Graham)

Group #9: All students from all walks of life are welcomed and encouraged to participate in our class in whatever way is most comfortable. Each of your thoughts concerns or suggestions to ensure your learning are important and worth the time to address. Your diverse backgrounds and differences such as gender, ethnicity, culture, age, identification, identity, etc. are valued because they provide a basis for an enhanced learning experience for everyone. (By: Alzira Ruano, Colette Broussard, Essie Taylor, and Tiffany Copeland)

Group #10: Valuing Our Scholars: SCHOLARS - Safe, Happy, Open, Learner, Accessible, Respect (By: Tara Tetrault, Carol Holness, Anna Deadrick, and Theron Coleman)

Group #11: Welcome to our class! This is a learning experience for everyone. We will learn together. I as the instructor and the scholars such as your self can feel free to share their opinion regarding sensitive topics. We will learn from each other in a safe and comfortable environment where mistakes are OK and learning environments. Different point of views are welcome. Discussion and debates will support you to develop intellectually. (By: Miriam Simon, Zenobia Garrison, Ladan Rahnema, Abdul Khan, and Anas Askar)

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Group #12: Montgomery College is a welcoming institution that is privileged and proud to represent more than 135 countries, students of all ages and backgrounds. As a community, we are committed to diversity, inclusion, and equity in education. At Montgomery College, we aspire to be JEDIs in our treatment of students, committed to:

- Justice
- Equity
- Diversity
- Inclusion

In the classrooms,

- justice and equity mean we treat each other with respect, appropriate treatment to others, show up and create space for others
- diversity is considered in course design, development and student engagement. Included are race, ethnicity and national origins, gender, gender identity, sexuality, socio-economic class, age, religion, and disability.
- Inclusion is acknowledgement and welcoming cultural differences and similarities in gender, race, religion, ethnic

(By: O.L. Jefferson, Hannah Weiser, John Wright, Emma O'Neal, and Carl Pavetto)

Group #13: We are a community of learners from different backgrounds and experiences. Each of us brings a variety of skills and perspectives to share with our learning community. As your instructor, in addition to sharing my subject with you, I will learn from you, and you will also learn from each other. In doing so, we will create an environment of mutual respect for other's identities, cultures, and ideas. (By: Carolyn McAllister, Jill Kronstadt, Josiane Elkorm, Alison Napier, and Judy Kelly)

Group #14: MC prioritizes inclusivity and diversity. We design our curriculum to include different kinds of activities and different ways of learning. We are always available for you. We encourage you to collaborate with us, to be proactive and talk with us. We provide a wide range of resources. We want you to feel safe, and comfortable and to learn and feel respected. (By: Victor Provost, Serena Gould, Alice Cisternino, Chrismond Mason, and Deb Taylor)

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Group #15: In this learning environment, I will do my very best to provide a safe atmosphere where everyone feels values for every aspect of themselves. These include your voice, interests, cultures, and values. You are Self advocacy is important and it is welcomed. You can be assured that you will be seen and heard. (By: Rebecca Portis, Jessica Desalu, Eman Shurbaji, Kate Kretz, and Joanne Carl)

Group #16: We will strive to be respectful of the dignity of all and their diverse identities, cultures and experiences. We will endeavor to be respectful of diversity generally. We encourage students to take risks. There are no wrong questions. Interested in everyone's voice and we want all to feel heard. The classroom should be a safe space and I will try to provide a space that is respectful to all. However, please be free to correct us and to be your own best "advocate." (By: Shalawn Childs, Lincoln Cobbins, Gadis Effendi, Neda Nikoobakht, and Kristopher Kohler)

Group #17: Welcome to class. This class has been designed with universal inclusivity in mind. We are inclusive and want to be equal to all people and be sure we all have equal access to resources. That means our class will be a safe space for all of us. Learning one another's names is paramount to promoting inclusivity, so please remind us of who you are, what you'd like to be called, and which pronouns you prefer. The class will be inclusive of those with disabilities, and those who have them and may not know. We aspire to make this change and the MC community including professors and students can and should contribute to the goal of creating a respectful, inclusive learning environment. Differences are celebrated here. (By: Tamar Levey, Denise Dewhurst, Graciela Semidey, and Chris De Lorenzo)