

Culture of Belonging Update

NT2030 - Culture, Climate, Equity, Belonging and Civil Discourse
October 2024 Board of Education Meeting



Overview

1. Introduction
2. Civil Discourse and Critical Thinking - Social Studies in Partisan Times
3. Equity Liaisons
4. Staff Culture, Climate, Equity, and Belonging Council
5. Student and Staff Affinity Groups
6. Student Culture, Climate, Equity, and Belonging Council
7. PD Offerings
8. Conclusion



“respectful inquiry”

“multiple perspectives”

“open exchange of ideas”

“dignity, compassion,
and respect”

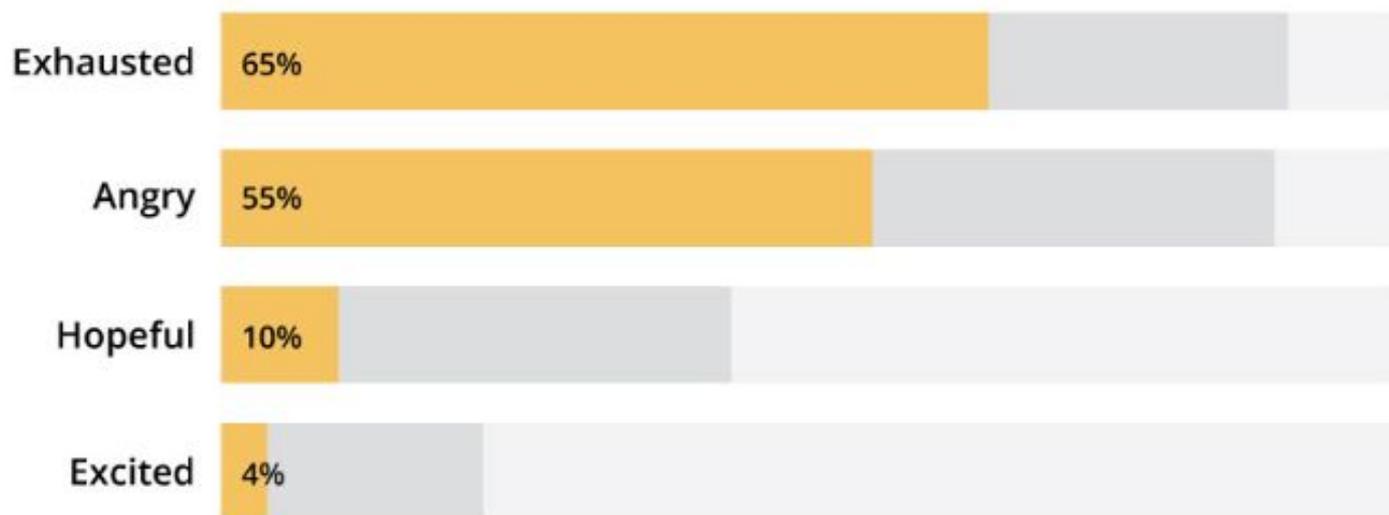
The logo of New Trier Township High School is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a building illustration. Above the shield, the text "NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL" is written. Below the shield, the Latin motto "PORTA NIGRA" is displayed. The entire shield is encircled by a laurel wreath.

Why is social studies education so important right now?

Fighting Over Politics is Tearing Us Apart

The % of Americans who "Always/Often" feel ____ when thinking about politics these days.

SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH 2023





The **Estimated** Proportion of
Republicans and Democrats
Holding Extreme Views

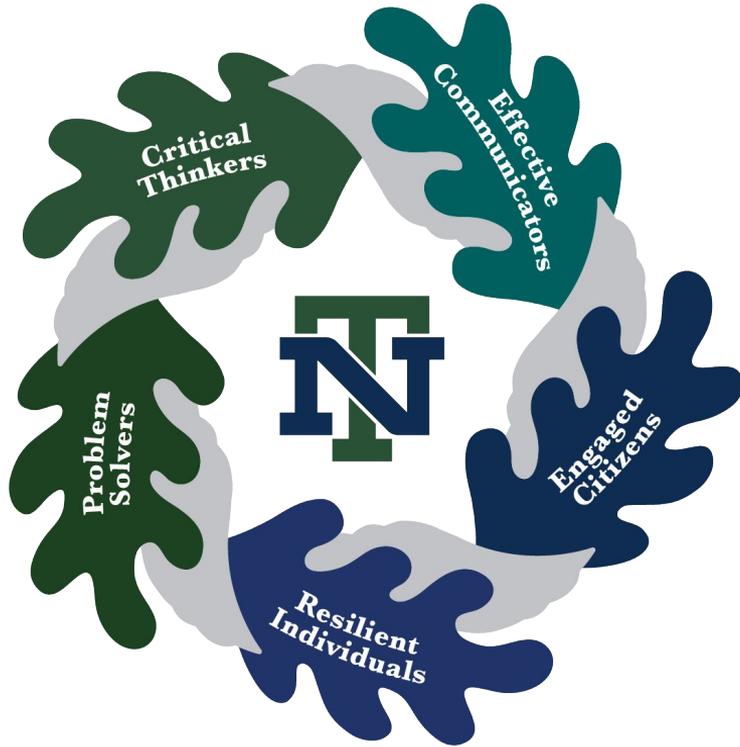


The **Actual** Proportion
Holding Extreme Views

Source: More in Common (2019)

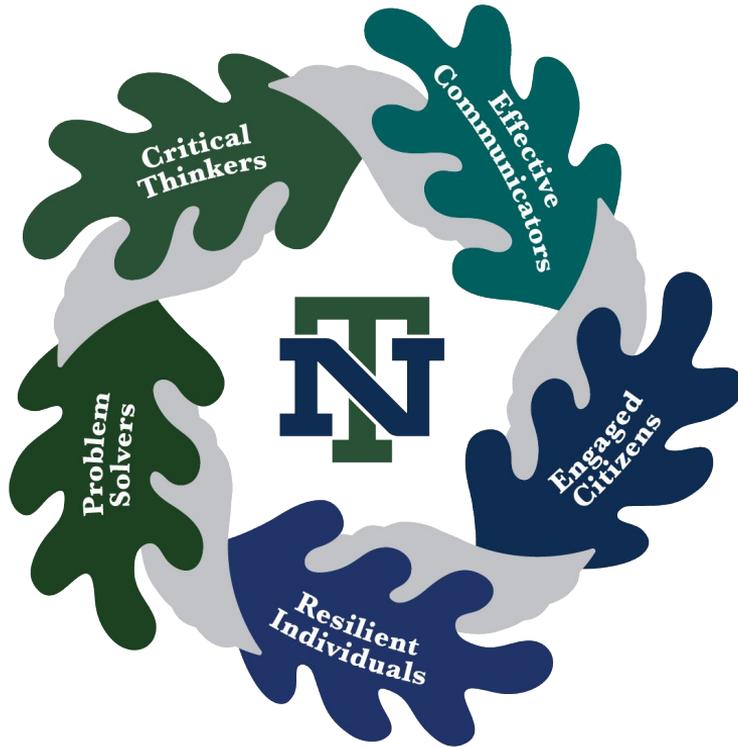
And also...

- State of Illinois civics mandate requires discussion of controversial issues
- The Civil Discourse and Critical Thinking statement adopted by the Board requires us to teach these skills
- Our Social Studies Department Philosophy is grounded in the development of good citizens (educating for a diverse democracy)



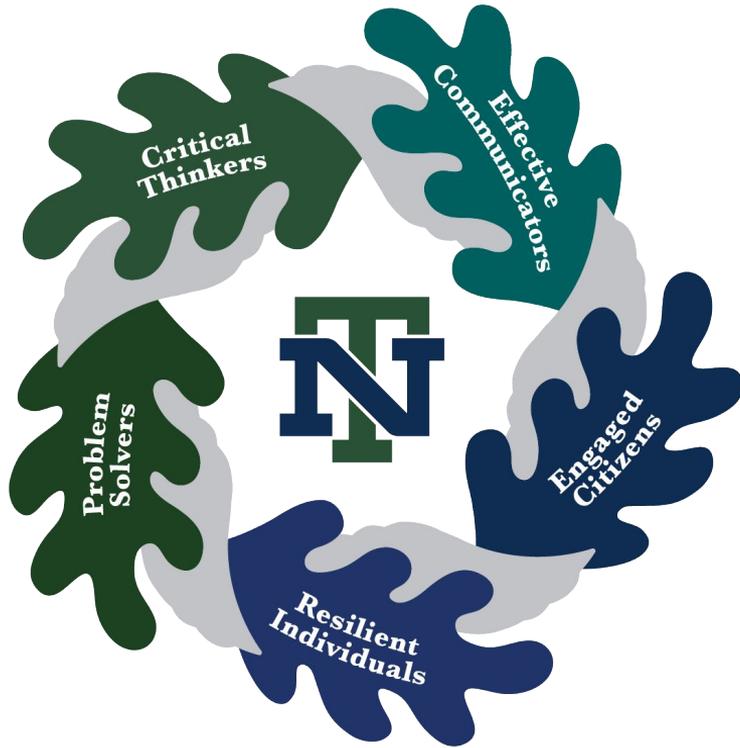
Social Studies teachers challenge students to develop their critical thinking skills by:

- Creating supportive classrooms
- Using the skills of the discipline to break down complex issues
- Teaching discussion skills to listen/seek to understand other perspectives

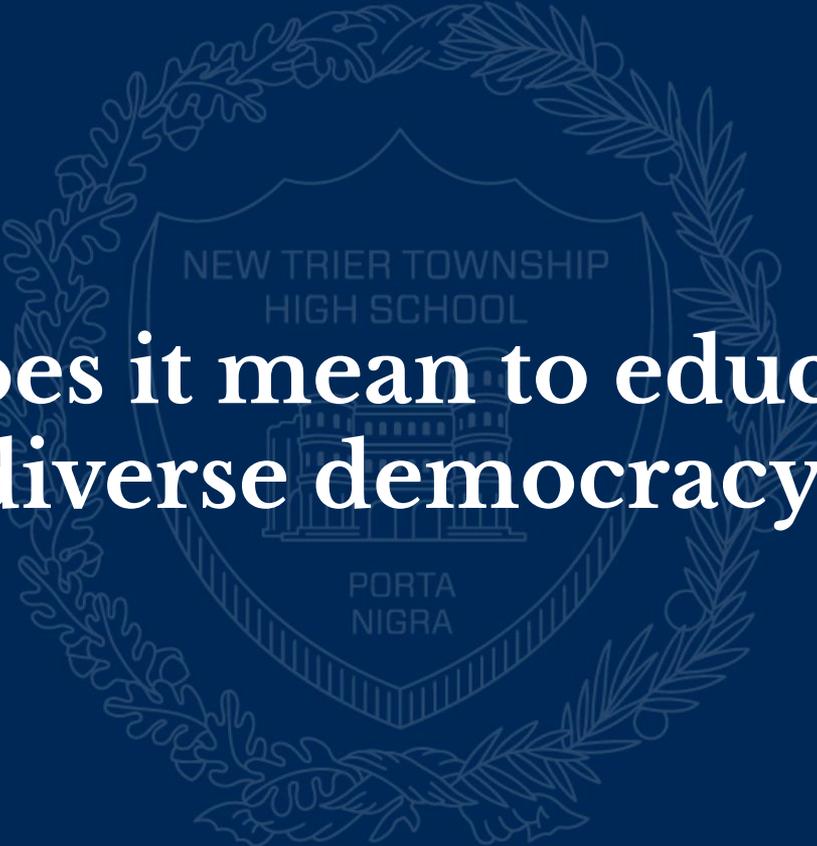


New Trier graduates enter the world with the skills to:

- Think critically about complex issues
- Engage in respectful conversations with others
- Work for change in their communities



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**What does it mean to educate for a
diverse democracy?**

Create the Conditions

for Civil Discourse

Relationships

Expectations

Standards and Structure

avoid
assume
prepare create
challenge
help use
normalize
make

Relationships

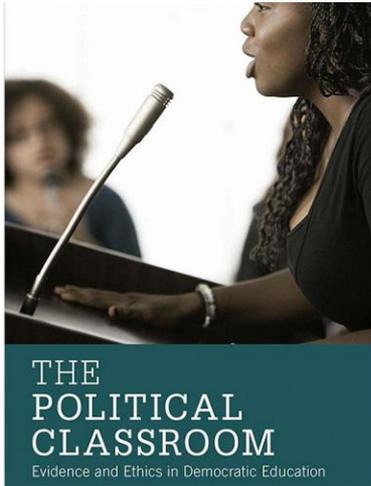
Expectations

Standards and Structure

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“A political classroom helps students develop their ability to collectively make decisions about how we ought to live.”

-McAvoy, Hess, 2013



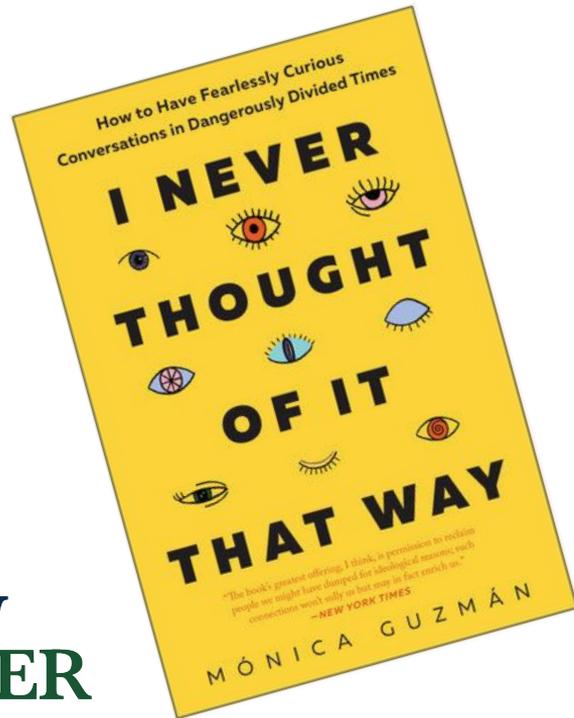
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Relationships

Expectations

Standards and Structure

We share values...we may
differ on relative
importance.



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Relationships

Expectations

Standards and Structure

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Relationships

Expectations

Standards and Structure

THE DISCUSSION PROJECT

Learn to Discuss • Discuss to Learn



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Relationships

Expectations

Standards and Structure

Professional Development Offerings



**Omer M.
Mozaffar**
Loyola University
Chicago



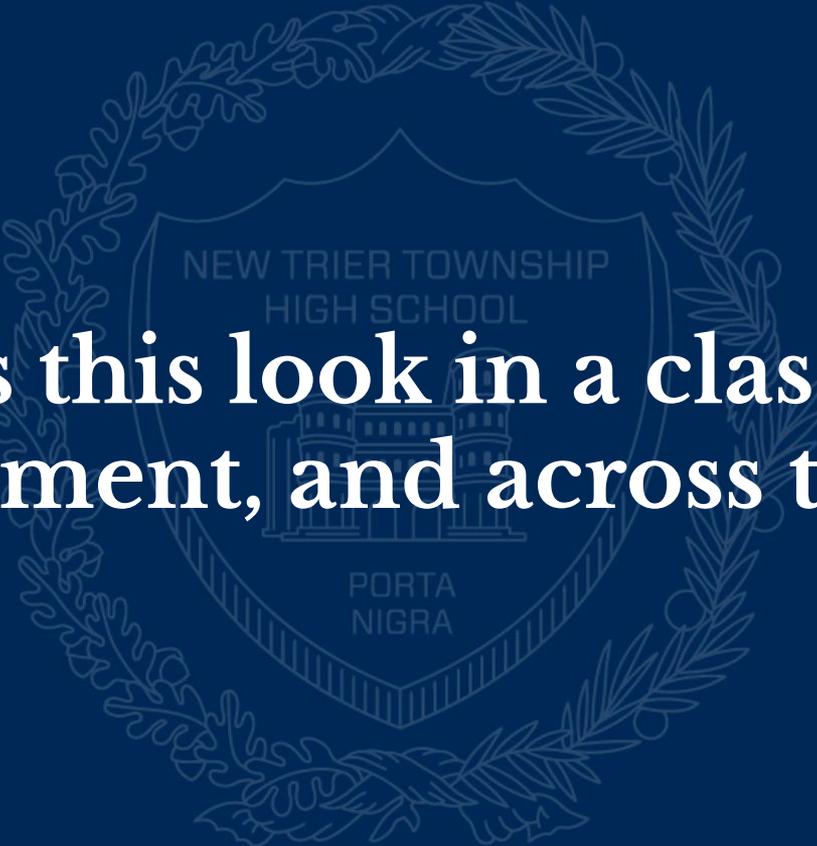
Daniel Greene
Northwestern
University



Paula McAvoy
North Carolina
State University



**Danny M.
Cohen**
Northwestern
University

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How does this look in a classroom, in the department, and across the school?

classroom

Civic Values Activity

Courage Doing something you think is important, even if it's scary or hard 	Safety Protecting yourself and others from fear and physical harm 	Equality Treating people the same no matter who they are 	Freedom Advocating for people's ability to think, speak, or act the way they want 	Tradition Doing things the way they have been done for a long time 	Curiosity Asking questions and looking for ways to improve your understanding and learn new things 
Authenticity Understanding yourself and being true to who you are 	Courtesy Being polite and acting respectfully towards others 	Nature Taking actions to improve and protect the environment 	Liberty Trying to remove restrictions that limit people's choices 	Patriotism Supporting and loving your country and the people who live in it 	Spirituality Making choices guided by a belief in a higher power, a religious text or religious leader 
Friendship Building connections with others and being willing to support them 	Fairness Making sure everyone follows the same rules and receives the same opportunities 	Justice Basing your choices and actions on your understanding of what is right 	Humbleness Being willing to put others first and being open to being wrong 	Happiness Creating opportunities for yourself and others to experience positive emotions 	Success Working hard to accomplish your goals and be recognized for your accomplishments 
Family Loving and caring for the people that you share a life and history with 	Self-Reliance Independently solving your own problems and following your own ideas 	Generosity Sharing what you have with others 	Beauty Surrounding yourself and others with things that are nice to look at, listen to, or feel 	Perseverance Continuing to try to complete a task, even after encountering resistance or failure 	Dependability Being reliable and following through on things you promise to do 
Inclusiveness Doing things to help everyone feel like they belong 	Peace Preventing violence and fixing problems without fighting 	Truth Being honest in your communication and personal interactions 	Diversity Getting perspectives from lots of different people with different backgrounds and experiences 	Privacy Keeping some things to yourself, and respecting others when they want to do the same 	Wealth Pursuing financial success, for yourself or others 

classroom

How to Have Fearlessly Curious
Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times

I NEVER



THOUGHT



OF IT



THAT WAY

"The book's greatest offering, I think, is permission to reclaim
people we might have dumped for ideological reasons; such
connections won't sully us but may in fact enrich us."

—NEW YORK TIMES

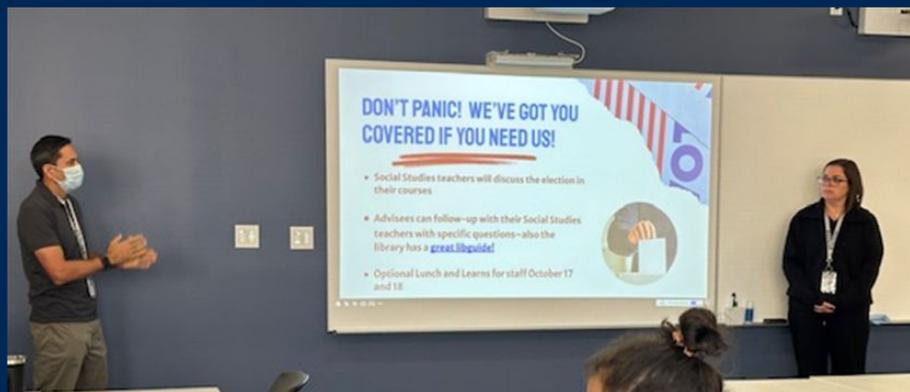
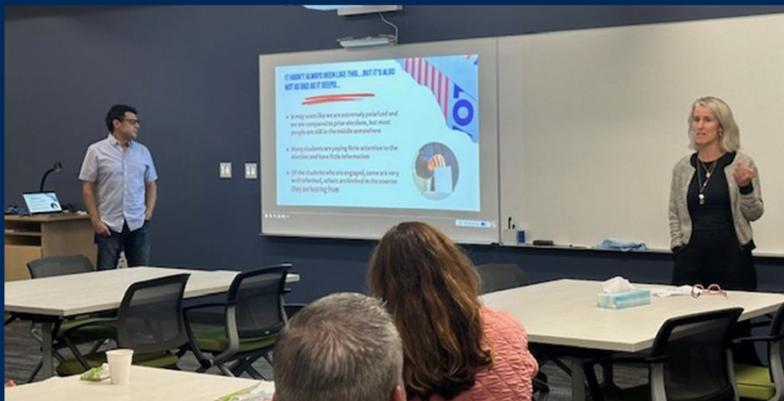
MÓNICA GUZMÁN

“Seeing each other’s
values goes a long way
towards helping us
make sense of each
other.”

adviser room

2024 ELECTION

Tools for supporting
advisers and advisees



learning collaboratives

Dynamic Discussions



Promoting Critical Thinking & Active Listening
through Civil Discourse

Schoolwide

New Trier High School Library

Library / LibGuides / Election Guide 2024 / Home

Election Guide 2024: Home

[Home](#)[Candidates & Parties](#)[270 To Win](#)[Fact Check the News](#)[Get Involved](#)[Project: Campaign Strategy](#)

Election Guide 2024



VOTE

Where Do YOU Stand?



Where do YOU stand on the issues? Explore the [Stand With . . .](#) website and take the quiz!

Equity Liaisons



Kristan Kenney



Alex Zilka

**Staff Culture, Climate, Equity,
& Belonging Council**



Student and Staff Affinity Groups



Student Culture, Climate, Equity, & Belonging Council



2024-2025 Professional Development & Professional Learning

New Trier High School

Curriculum & Instruction | Instructional Technology



2024-2025 PD / PL CATALOG

PD Offerings

Questions

