Activities

Analyzing Behaviors - Explore troubling behaviors in this individual, small-group, then larger group brainstorming activity.

Alligator River Story - Small groups read story and then seek consensus about characters’ behavior. Debrief as a class.

In the Mind of the Beholder - Debrief cultural scenarios about alternate perceptions of actions.

Life History - Students reflect on the impact their life experiences have had on them.

Story Circles - Prompt students to introduce themselves by describing their background using three words/phrases.

Telling Our Stories of Change - A great end of semester activity! Finish out the semester by pairing students to share their stories of change.

Word Association, with worksheet - Students write first thoughts/reactions when they hear certain words/phrases, then unpack these initial thoughts.

Assignments

FYE Challenge Groups: Semester-long assignment and presentation to inspire engagement with community beyond the classroom.

Supper Club: Semester-long assignment and reflections, with “getting to know you” or “deep” conversation prompts

Lesson Plans

Discussing Dialoguing, with quotes handout: Skill-building for productive dialoguing.

Silent Interview: Facilitated exploration of assumptions and bias.

Translating Translation, with reading: Assign students reading prior to class; use essay to create conversation around language, identity, and perception.

"Wrinkles" in the Timeline - Students should come to class prepared to individually and collectively reflect on the formative experiences they have had in their lives to date.

You can find all of these write-ups at fye.uconn.edu/lesson-plans-and-activities/
Question Starters: Facilitating Meaningful Dialogue

What are some of your initial reactions to ____?

What surprised you about ____?

How does ____ make you feel?

Why do you think ____ made you feel ____?

What is your understanding of ____? How do you know ____?

What reasons would you give for ____?

Why do you think ____? Can you describe how ____?

How might this relate to ____?

How did you decide to ____? Can you tell me how you ____?

What do you see as being most significant about ____?

What connection do you see between ____ and ____?

Can you think of another instance when ____?

What might happen if ____?

What is the same/different about ____?

How does the rest of the class feel about ____?

What themes/trends do you notice?

Why do you think these trends are showing up?

What is missing from this conversation?

In what ways has your initial impression of ____ evolved?

What other questions should we be asking?

How might this conversation relate to your lives outside of this space?